

QUAESTIONES BARTHOLOMAEI 4.23-29; 52-56
(translation adapted from Elliott, *The Apocryphal New Testament*)

[Jesus raises Beliar/Satan/the devil from hell in order to display him to his disciples, prostrates him, and has Bartholomew stand on his neck while interrogating him ...]

23. And Bartholomew said to him: 'Tell me who you are and what is your name.' And he said to him: 'Lighten up on me a little, and I will tell you who I am and how I came here, and what my work is and what my power is.'

24. And he eased up on him and said to him: 'Say all that you have done and all that you will do.'

25. And Beliar answered and said: 'If you would know my name, at first I was called Satanael, which means "a messenger of God," but when I rejected the image of God my name became Satanias; i.e., an angel that keeps hell (Tartarus).'

26. And again Bartholomew said to him: 'Reveal to me all things and hide nothing from me.'

27. And he said to him: 'I swear to you by the power of the glory of God that even if I would hide anything I cannot, for he who would convict me is near. For if I were able I would have destroyed you like one of those who were before you.'

28-29. For indeed I was formed the first angel; for when God made the heavens, He took a handful of fire and formed me first, Michael second, Gabriel third, Uriel fourth, Raphael fifth, Nathanael sixth, and other angels of whom I cannot tell the names. For they are the rod-bearers of God, and they smite me with their rods and pursue me seven times in the night and seven times in the day, and leave me not at all and break in pieces all my power. These are the angels of vengeance who stand before the throne of God: these are the angels that were first formed.'

[Satan then provides a very detailed description of the angels subsequently created by God. Then Bartholomew seeks to dismiss him ...]

52. But the devil said: 'Permit me, and I will tell you how I was cast down into this place and how the Lord made humanity.'

53. I was going to and fro in the world, and God said to Michael: "Bring me a dirt-clod from the four corners of the earth, and water from out of the four rivers of paradise." And when Michael brought them, God formed Adam in the regions of the east, and shaped the clod which was shapeless, and stretched sinews and veins upon it and established it with joints; and he showed him reverence for his own sake because he was the image of God. Michael also worshiped him.

54. And when I returned from the ends of the earth, Michael said: "Worship the image of God which He has made according to His likeness." But I said: "I am fire of fire, I was the first angel formed! Shall I worship dirt and matter?"

55. Michael said: "Worship, lest God become angry with you." But I said to him: "God will not be angry with me; but (should that happen) I shall set my throne over against His throne, and I will be like He is." Then God became angry with me and cast me down, having commanded the windows of heaven to be opened.

56. And when I was cast down, He also asked the six hundred that were under me if they would worship, but they said: "Just as we have seen the first angel do, neither will we worship him who is inferior to ourselves." Then the six hundred were also cast down by Him with me.'

[Satan then leads Adam and Eve astray as payback for his own demotion ...].