The Fall of Lucifer and His End





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Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and Satan is primarily over

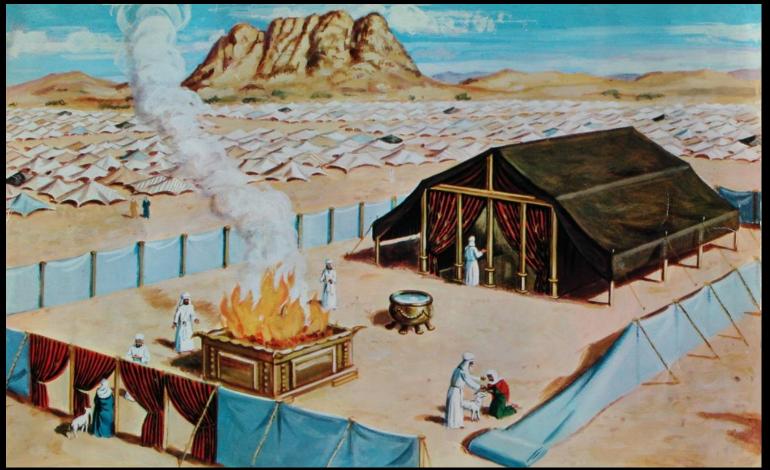
"WORSHIP"

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark Sanctuary





And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Water: De-hydration

Check if you're dehydrated

Dehydration occurs when you use or lose more fluid than you take in, and your body doesn't have enough water and other fluids to carry out its normal functions. If you don't replace lost fluids, you will eventually get dehydrated.

Symptoms of dehydration in adults and children include:

feeling thirsty, dark yellow & strong-smelling urine, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, feeling tired, a dry mouth, lips & eyes, urinating little & fewer than 4 times a day, etc...

<u>Dehydration can happen more easily if you have:</u> diabetes, vomiting or diarrhoea, been in the sun too long (heatstroke), drunk too much alcohol, sweated too much after exercising, a high temperature of 38C or more, been taking medicines that make you void more (diuretics), etc...

How you can reduce the risk of dehydration:

Drink fluids when you feel any dehydration symptoms. If hard to drink if sick take small sips & gradually drink more. Use a spoon to make it easier for child to swallow the fluids. Should drink enough during the day: urine pale clear colour. Drink when there's a higher risk of dehydrating. For example, if you're vomiting, sweating or you have diarrhoea.

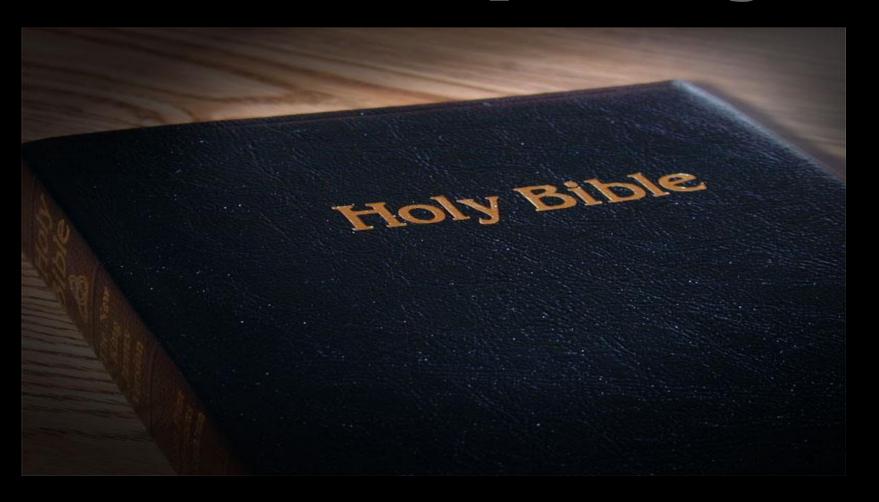
Adverse Effects of Dehydration

% Loss	Severity	<u>Symptoms</u>
1-2	Mild	Thirst, fatigue, weakness, loss of appetite
3-4	Moderate	Impaired performance, dry
		mouth, urine reduction,
		impatience, apathy
5-6	Moderate	Headache, irritability, sleepiness, increased respiration
7-10	Severe	Dizziness, muscle spasm, imbalance, delirium, collapse.
20%	Fatal	unconscientiousness, death

Increased Risk For:

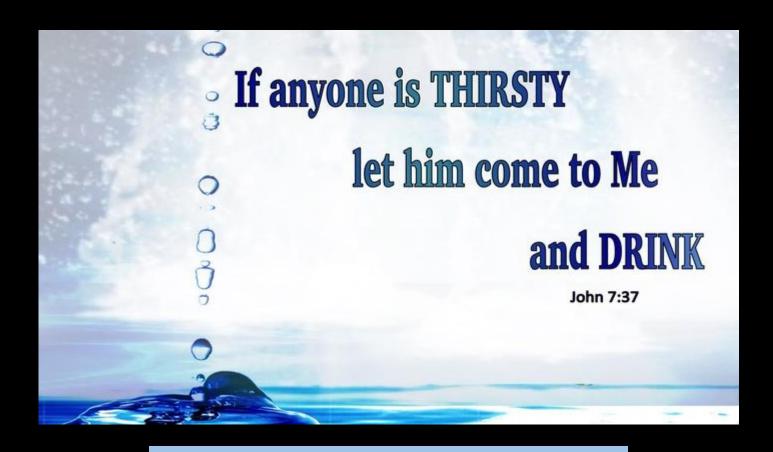
 Urinary tract infection & stones, constipation, hypertension, heart disease, kidney dysfunction, hyperglycemia, and possibly colon and bladder cancer and bronchopulmonary disorders

Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?





Yes we Can!



John 4:13-14



The Fall of Lucifer and His End



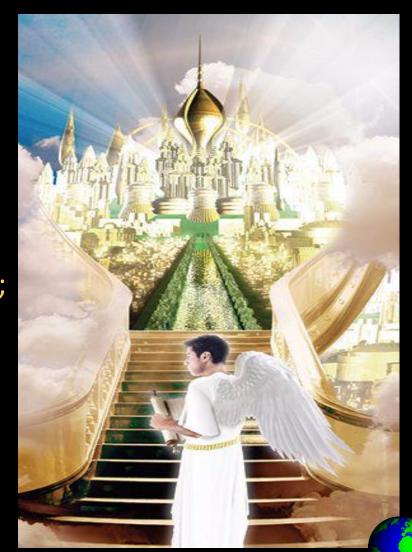


Introduction

To many minds the origin of sin and the reason for its existence are a source of great perplexity. They see the work of evil, with its terrible results of woe and desolation, and they question how all this can exist under the sovereignty of God who is infinite in wisdom, in power, and in love. Here is a mystery of which they find no explanation. And in their uncertainty and doubt they are blinded to truths plainly revealed in God's word and essential to salvation.

Some, in their inquiries concerning the existence of sin, endeavour to search into that which God has never revealed; hence they find no solution of their difficulties; and such as are actuated by a disposition to doubt and cavil seize upon this as an excuse for rejecting the words of Holy Writ.

Others, however, fail of a satisfactory understanding of the great problem of evil, from the fact that tradition and misinterpretation have obscured the teaching of the Bible concerning the character of God, the nature of His government, and the principles of His dealing with sin. GC 492.1

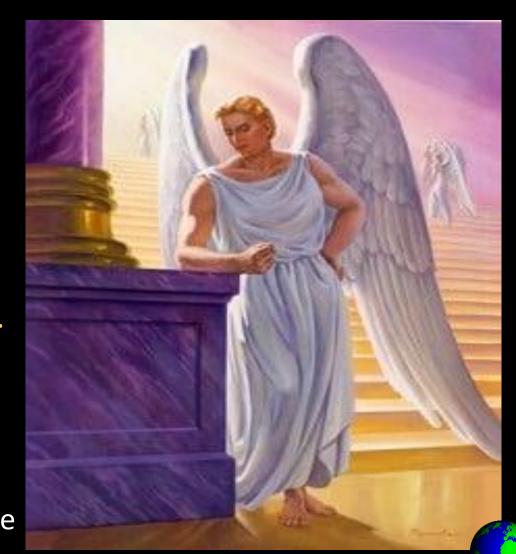


Introduction (cont'd)

It is impossible to explain the origin of sin so as to give a reason for its existence. Yet enough may be understood concerning both the origin and the final disposition of sin to make fully manifest the justice and benevolence of God in all His dealings with evil.

Nothing is more plainly taught in Scripture than that God was in no wise responsible for the entrance of sin; that there was no arbitrary withdrawal of divine grace, no deficiency in the divine government, that gave occasion for the uprising of rebellion. Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin.

Our only definition of sin is that given in the word of God; it is "the transgression of the law;" (1 John 3:4) it is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government. GC 492.2

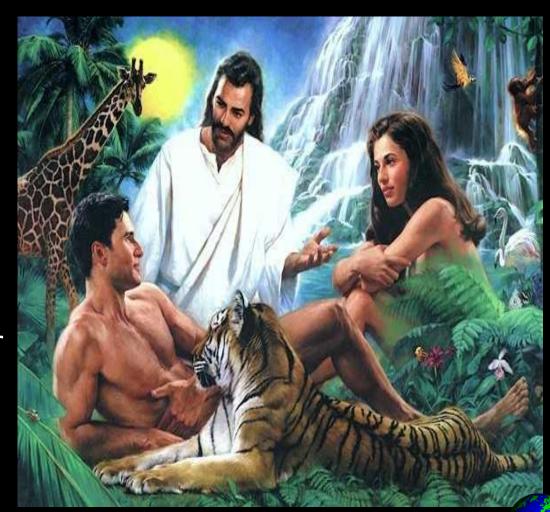


Introduction (cont'd)

Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator's will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial. Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.

By Christ the Father wrought in the creation of all heavenly beings. "By Him were all things created, that are in heaven, ... whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers" (Colossians 1:16); and to Christ, equally with the Father, all heaven gave allegiance. GC 493.1

Hebrew for Lucifer = "<u>light-bearer</u>"- Strong's Concordance H1966



A Cosmic View of the Controversy

The Bible portrays a cosmic battle between good and evil, God and Satan. Understanding this controversy, which has involved the entire universe, helps answer the question Why did Jesus come to this planet?

Mystery of mysteries, the conflict between good and evil began in heaven. How could sin possibly originate in a perfect environment?

Angels, beings of a higher order than humans (Psalms 8:5), were created to enjoy intimate fellowship with God (Revelation 1:1; 3:5; 5:11). Of superior strength, and obedient to God's Word (Psalms 103:20), they function as servants or "ministering spirits" (Hebrews 1:14). Though generally invisible, at times they appear in human form (Genesis 18, 19; Hebrews 13:2). It was through one of these angelic beings that sin was introduced to the universe.



FROM THE ANOINTED TO THE EVIL ONE

Ezekiel 28:12-17 - points to the fall of Lucifer from "anointed cherub" to God's adversary and answers the questions below regarding this event:

- 1. How did the anointed cherub come into being? (vs. 15).
- 2. What was his responsibility? (vs. 14).
- 3. Where was his dwelling place? (vs. 14).
- 4. What was his original character? (vs. 15).
- 5. What was he filled with within? (vs. 16).
- 6. What was the iniquity found in him? (vss. 16, 17).



When Did Satan's Fall Occur?

There is also a question asked by many. Did Satan's apostasy and expulsion from heaven take place before our world was created? The Bible does not reveal much on this, but sufficient is stated to enable us to get an answer.

The duration of man's primeval state of innocency was evidently very brief, for in Genesis 5:3 we read, that "Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son . . . and called his name Seth." Of the birth of this child we read that Eve "bare a son, and called his name Seth: For God, said she, hath appointed me another seed instead of Abel, whom Cain slew" (Genesis 4:25).

Two things stand out clearly:

- 1. Adam was 130 years when Seth was born.
- 2. Seth was born after Cain had slain Abel.

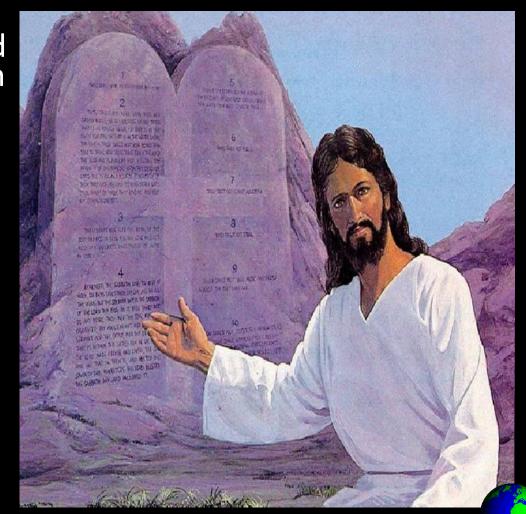




When Did Satan's Fall Occur? (cont'd)

The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all created beings depended upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness. God desires from all His creatures the service of love—homage that springs from an intelligent appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced allegiance, and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service. But there was one that chose to pervert this freedom. GC 493.2

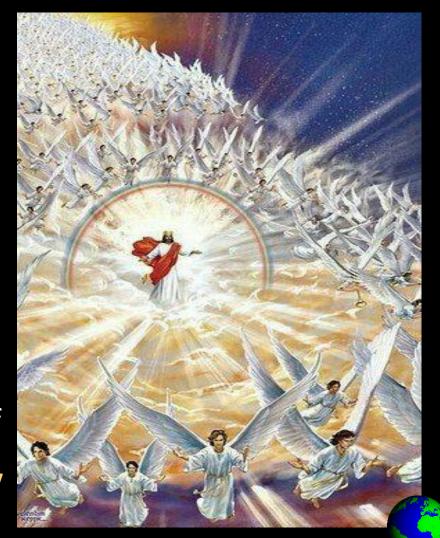
Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honoured of God and who stood highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven. Before his fall, Lucifer was first of the covering cherubs, holy and undefiled. GC 493.3



The Origin of the Controversy

The Scripture indicates that when Lucifer rebelled against the government of God he led with him about one third of the angels (Revelation 12:4). As a result these rebels were all expelled from heaven. Just when this occurred in relation to the history of our planet is not revealed in Scripture, although the real cause of sin is clearly stated in such passages as <u>Isaiah 14:12-15</u> and <u>Ezekiel 28:12-19</u>.

Using the kings of Tyre and Babylon as figurative descriptions for Lucifer, Scripture illuminates how this cosmic controversy began. "Lucifer, son of the morning," the anointed covering cherub, resided in the presence of God (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:14). Scripture says, "You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty....You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you" (Ezekiel 28:12, 15).



The Origin of the Controversy (cont'd)

Although sin's rise is inexplicable and unjustifiable, its roots can be traced to <u>Lucifer's pride:</u>

"'Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour'" (Ezekiel 28:17).

Lucifer refused to be content with the exalted position his Creator had given him. In selfishness he coveted equality with God Himself:

"You have said in your heart; "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will be like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:12-14).

But though he desired God's position, he did not want His character. He grasped for God's authority but not His love. Lucifer's rebellion against God's government was the first step in his transformation into Satan, "the adversary."



The Origin of the Controversy (cont'd)

Lucifer's covert actions blinded many angels to God's love. The resulting discontent and disloyalty to God's government grew until one third of the angelic host joined him in rebellion (Revelation 12:4). The tranquillity of God's kingdom was shattered and "war broke out in heaven" (Revelation 12:7).

The celestial warfare issued in Satan, depicted as the great dragon, the ancient serpent, and the devil, being "cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him" (Revelation 12:9).





The Origin of the Controversy (cont'd)

Satan was once an honoured angel in heaven, next to Christ. . . . But when God said to His Son, "Let us make man in our image," Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he was filled with envy, jealousy, and hatred. He desired to receive the highest honours in heaven next to God. Until this time all heaven had been in order, harmony, and perfect subjection to the government of God.—Early Writings, p. 145.

Satan commenced to insinuate his dissatisfied feelings to other angels, and a number agreed to aid him in his rebellion.—

Spiritual Gifts, vol. 3, p. 36.



Lucifer's Fall from Glory

All heaven had rejoiced to reflect the Creator's glory and to show forth His praise. And while God was thus honoured, all had been peace and gladness. But a note of discord now marred the celestial harmonies. The service and exaltation of self, contrary to the Creator's plan, awakened forebodings of evil in minds to whom God's glory was supreme. The heavenly councils pleaded with Lucifer. The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law.

God Himself had established the order of heaven; and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonour his Maker, and bring ruin upon himself. But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance. Lucifer allowed jealousy of Christ to prevail, and he became the more determined. GC 494.2



Lucifer's Fall from Glory (cont'd)

Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy. The high honours conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God and called forth no gratitude to the Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and reverenced by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged Sovereign of heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the counsels of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. "Why," questioned this mighty angel, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He thus honoured above Lucifer?" GC 495.1



Lucifer's Deception of the Angels

Leaving his place in the immediate presence of God, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. Working with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealing his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God, he endeavored to excite dissatisfaction concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that they imposed an unnecessary restraint. Since their natures were holy, he urged that the angels should obey the dictates of their own will. He sought to create sympathy for himself by representing that God had dealt unjustly with him in bestowing supreme honour upon Christ. He claimed that in aspiring to greater power and honour he was not aiming at self-exaltation, but was seeking to secure liberty for all the inhabitants of heaven, that by this means they might attain to a higher state of existence. GC 495.2



God's Grace, Mercy & Justice - LOVE

God, in His great mercy, bore long with **Lucifer.** He was not immediately degraded from his exalted station when he first indulged the spirit of discontent, nor even when he began to present his false claims before the loyal angels. Long was he retained in heaven. Again and again he was offered pardon, on condition of repentance and submission. Such efforts as only infinite love and wisdom could devise, were made to convince him of his error, and restore him to the path of rectitude. The Great Controversy, pp. 495, 496.



Lucifer's Diabolic Intentions

God in His wisdom permitted Satan to carry forward his work, until the spirit of disaffection ripened into active revolt. It was necessary for his plans to be fully developed, that their true nature and tendency might be seen by all. Lucifer, as the anointed cherub, had been highly exalted; he was greatly loved by the heavenly beings, and his influence over them was strong. God's government included not only the inhabitants of heaven, but of all the worlds that He had created; and Satan thought that if he could carry the angels of heaven with him in rebellion, he could carry also the other worlds. He had artfully presented his side of the question, employing sophistry and fraud to secure his objects. His power to deceive was very great, and by disguising himself in a cloak of falsehood he had gained an advantage. Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character or see to what his work was leading. GC 497.1



Lucifer's Diabolic Intentions (cont'd)

Satan had been so highly honoured, and all his acts were so clothed with mystery, that it was difficult to disclose to the angels the true nature of his work. Until fully developed, sin would not appear the evil thing it was. Heretofore it had had no place in the universe of God, and holy beings had no conception of its nature and malignity. They could not discern the terrible consequences that would result from setting aside the divine law. Satan had, at first, concealed his work under a specious profession of loyalty to God. He claimed to be seeking to promote the honour of God, the stability of His government, and the good of all the inhabitants of heaven. While instilling discontent into the minds of the angels under him, he had artfully made it appear that he was seeking to remove dissatisfaction. When he urged that changes be made in the order and laws of God's government, it was under the pretence that these were necessary in order to preserve harmony in heaven. GC 497.2



God's Love and His Law

Even when it was decided that he could no longer remain in heaven, Infinite Wisdom did not destroy Satan. Since the service of love can alone be acceptable to God, the allegiance of His creatures must rest upon a conviction of His justice and benevolence. The inhabitants of heaven and of other worlds, being unprepared to comprehend the nature or consequences of sin, could not then have seen the justice and mercy of God in the destruction of Satan. Had he been immediately blotted from existence, they would have served God from fear rather than from lové. The influence of the deceiver would not have been fully destroyed, nor would the spirit of rebellion have been utterly eradicated. Evil must be permitted to come to maturity. For the good of the entire universe through ceaseless ages Satan must more fully develop his principles, that his charges against the divine government might be seen in their true light by all created beings, that the justice and mercy of God and the immutability of His law might forever be placed beyond all question. GC 498.3



Lucifer's Rebellion a Lesson - Universe

Satan's rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages, a perpetual testimony to the nature and terrible results of sin. The working out of Satan's rule, its effects upon both men and angels, would show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority. It would testify that with the existence of God's government and His law is bound up the well-being of all the creatures He has made. Thus the history of this terrible experiment of rebellion was to be a perpetual safeguard to all holy intelligences, to prevent them from being deceived as to the nature of transgression, to save them from committing sin and suffering its punishments. GC 499.1



Lucifer's Claims against God

To the very close of the controversy in heaven the great usurper continued to justify himself. When it was announced that with all his sympathizers he must be expelled from the abodes of bliss, then the rebel leader boldly avowed his contempt for the Creator's law.

He reiterated his claim that angels needed no control, but should be left to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right. He denounced the divine statutes as a restriction of their liberty and declared that it was his purpose to secure the abolition of law; that, freed from this restraint, the hosts of heaven might enter upon a more exalted, more glorious state of existence. GC 499.2



Lucifer and his Angels blame Jesus

With one accord, Satan and his host threw the blame of their rebellion wholly upon Christ, declaring that if they had not been reproved, they would never have rebelled.

Thus stubborn and defiant in their disloyalty, seeking vainly to overthrow the government of God, yet blasphemously claiming to be themselves the innocent victims of oppressive power, the arch rebel and all his sympathizers were at last banished from heaven. GC 499.3



God's Grace was to Reinstate Lucifer

God would preserve the order of the heavens, and had Lucifer been willing to return to his allegiance, humble and obedient, he would have been re-established in his office as covering cherub. But as he stubbornly justified his course, and maintained that he had no need of repentance, it became necessary for the Lord of heaven to vindicate His justice and the honour of His throne; and Satan and all who sympathized with him were cast out. —The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 4, pp. 319, 320.



Remaining 2/3rd Angels moan the fall

This break in relationships must have brought sad and far-reaching reactions among the heavenly host. Love is always deeply wounded when relationships are strained, and all true love is of God. On this point we read:

Angels in heaven mourned the fate of those who had been their companions in happiness and bliss. Their loss was felt in heaven. — The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, p. 23.



God's Purpose for Creation did not Stop

The rebellion, however, did not change God's purpose concerning the creation of this world.

After the earth was created, and the beasts upon it, the Father and Son carried out their purpose, which was designed before the fall of Satan, to make man in their own image. — The Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, p. 24.

The rebel angel, however, was now more determined than ever to thwart the purposes of God. So he concentrated his efforts upon newly created man.

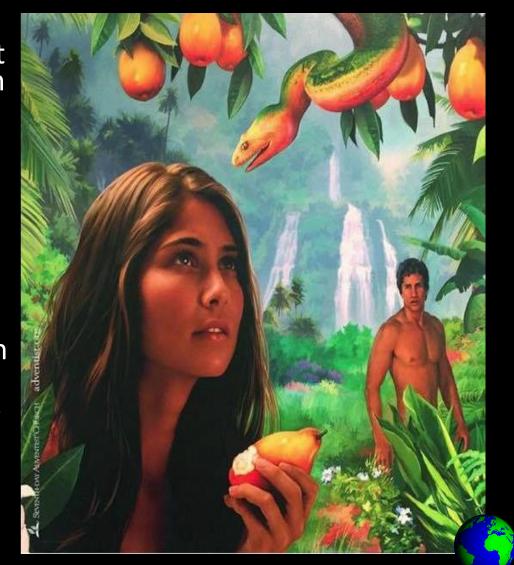
Lucifer desired to be first in *heaven*. Thus he introduced sin into the universe. Entering the Garden of Eden after his expulsion from heaven, he succeeded in deceiving our first parents. —ELLEN G. WHITE in *The Signs of the Times*, June 10, 1903.



How Did Human Beings Become Involved

Upon his expulsion from heaven, Satan spread his rebellion to our earth. Disguised as a speaking serpent and using the same arguments that had led to his own downfall, he effectively undermined Adam and Eve's trust in their Creator (Genesis 3:5). Satan aroused in Eve discontent regarding her assigned position. Infatuated by the prospect of equality with God, she believed the tempter's word—and doubted God's. Disobeying God's command, she ate the fruit and influenced her husband to do the same. In believing the serpent's word over that of their Creator they betrayed their trust in and loyalty to God. Tragically, the seeds of the controversy that had begun in heaven took root in Planet Earth (see Genesis 3).

In seducing our first parents to sin, Satan ingeniously wrested from them their dominion over the earth. Now claiming to be the "prince of this world," Satan challenged God, His government, and the peace of the whole universe from his new headquarters, Planet Earth.



The Impact on the Human Race

The effects of the struggle between Christ and Satan soon became apparent as the sin distorted the image of God in humanity. Though God offered His covenant of grace to the human race through Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15), their first child, Cain, murdered his brother (Genesis 4:8). Wickedness continued to multiply until in sorrow God had to say of man "that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5).

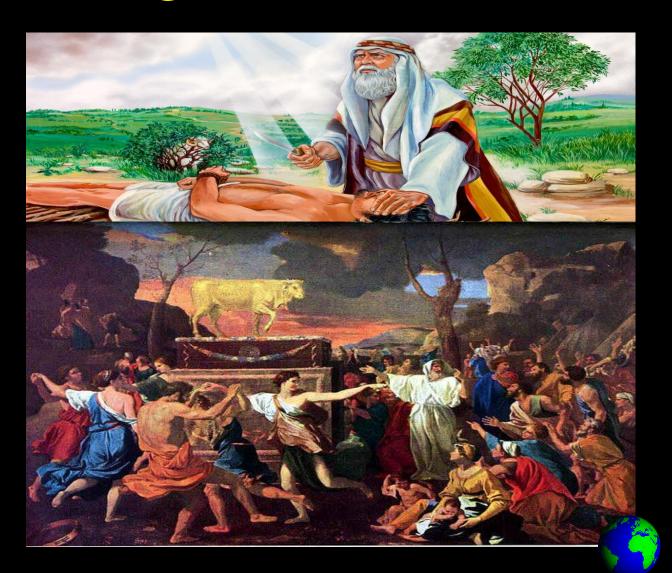
God used a great flood to cleanse the world of its unrepentant inhabitants and give the human race a new start (Genesis 7:17-20). But before long the descendants of faithful Noah departed from God's covenant. Although God had promised never again to destroy the entire earth with a flood, they blatantly concretized their distrust of Him by erecting the tower of Babel in an attempt to reach heaven and thus have a means of escape from any ensuing flood. This time God quashed man's rebellion by confounding his universal language (Genesis 9:1, 11; 11).



Lucifer/Satan deceives the generations

Sometime later, with the world in near total apostasy, **God extended His covenant to Abraham**. Through Abraham, God planned to bless all nations of the world (**Genesis 12:1-3**; 22:15-18).

However, the successive generations of Abraham's descendants proved faithless to God's gracious covenant. Entrapped in sin, they aided Satan in achieving his objective in the great controversy by crucifying the Author and Surety of the covenant, Jesus Christ.

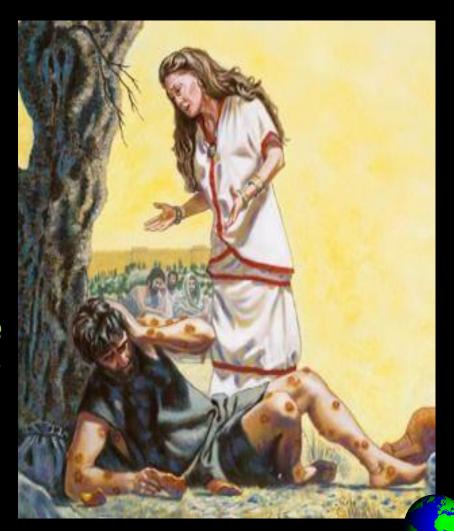


Earth: the Theatre of the Universe

The account in the book of Job of a cosmic convocation involving representatives from various parts of the universe gives additional insight into the great controversy. The account begins, "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan, 'From where do you come?' So Satan answered the Lord and said, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it'" (Job 1:6, 7; 2:1-7).

Then the Lord, in effect, said, "Satan, look at Job. He faithfully obeys My law. He is perfect!" (see Job 1:8).

When Satan countered, "Yes, but he's perfect only because it pays to serve You. Don't You protect him?" Christ responded by permitting Satan to test Job in any way short of taking his life (see Job 1:9-2:7).



The Cosmic Issue

In our lawless age absolutes are neutralized, dishonesty is praised, bribery is a way of life, adultery is rampant, and agreements, both international and personal, lie shattered. It is our privilege to look beyond our desperate world to a caring, omnipotent God. This larger view reveals to us the importance of our Saviour's atonement, which is bringing this universal controversy to an end.

• What is the pivotal issue in this life and death struggle?



The majority of professed Christians today seperate the law and the gospel, and yet Revelation 14:12 brings the Law & Gospel together. The saints Living in the last days according to Revelation 14 are those who are both keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus Christ.

God's Government and Law

God's moral law is just as essential to the existence of His universe as are the physical laws that hold it together and keep it functioning. Sin is "the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4), or "lawlessness" as the Greek word anomia indicates. Lawlessness issues from a rejection of God and His government.

Rather than admitting responsibility for the lawlessness in the world, Satan lays the blame on God. He says God's law, which he alleges is arbitrary, infringes on individual freedom. Furthermore, he charges, since it is impossible to obey it, that law works against the best interests of created beings. Through this constant and insidious undermining of the law, Satan attempts to overthrow God's government and even God Himself.



Satan still Inspires Rebellion on Earth

The same spirit that prompted rebellion in heaven still inspires rebellion on earth. Satan has continued with men the same policy which he pursued with the angels. His spirit now reigns in the children of disobedience. Like him they seek to break down the restraints of the law of God and promise men liberty through transgression of its precepts. Reproof of sin still arouses the spirit of hatred and resistance. When God's messages of warning are brought home to the conscience, Satan leads men to justify themselves and to seek the sympathy of others in their course of sin. Instead of correcting their errors, they excite indignation against the reprover, as if he were the sole cause of difficulty. From the days of righteous Abel to our own time such is the spirit which has been displayed toward those who dare to condemn sin. GC 500.1



Same Deception as he did in Heaven

By the same misrepresentation of the character of God as he had practiced in heaven, causing Him to be regarded as severe and tyrannical, Satan induced man to sin. And having succeeded thus far, he declared that God's unjust restrictions had led to man's fall, as they had led to his own rebellion. GC 500.2

But the Eternal One Himself proclaims His character: "The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty." Exodus 34:6, 7. GC 500.3



God's Love Revealed at the Cross

In the banishment of Satan from heaven, God declared His justice and maintained the honour of His throne. But when man had sinned through yielding to the deceptions of this apostate spirit, God gave an evidence of His love by yielding up His onlybegotten Son to die for the fallen race. In the atonement the character of God is revealed. The mighty argument of the cross demonstrates to the whole universe that the course of sin which Lucifer had chosen was in no wise chargeable upon the government of God. GC 500.4



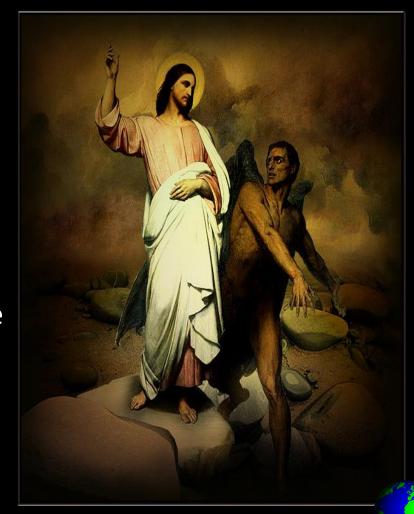
Christ and the Issue of Obedience – 1st Temptation: Self-preservation (Lust of Flesh)

The temptations Christ faced during His earthly ministry revealed the seriousness of the controversy over obedience and surrender to God's will. In meeting those temptations, which prepared Him to be "a merciful and faithful High Priest" (Hebrews 2:17), He met in single combat a deadly foe.

In the wilderness after Christ fasted forty days, Satan tempted Him to change stones to bread to prove He really was the Son of God (Matthew 4:3-4; Deuteronomy 8:3).

As Satan had tempted Eve to doubt God's word in Eden (Genesis 3:1-7), so now he tried to cause Christ to doubt the validity of what God had said at His baptism: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17).

Had Christ taken matters into His own hands, creating bread out of stones to prove His divine sonship, He would have, like Eve, revealed a lack of trust in God. His mission would have ended in failure.



Christ and the Issue of Obedience – 2nd Temptation: Self-elevation (Pride of Life)

In the second temptation, Satan was nudging Jesus' ego. Cast Yourself down from the pinnacle of the temple and prove Your absolute confidence in God, he was saying.

He quoted <u>Psalms 91:11</u> and the promise that God will send His angels to His rescue. The temptation was to entice Jesus to exalt Himself and show presumptuous faith and trust in God's gracious protection while wilfully being reckless or endangering Himself.

Those who genuinely love God would not be presumptuous but will depend entirely on the Word of God (see <u>Deuteronomy 6:16</u>).



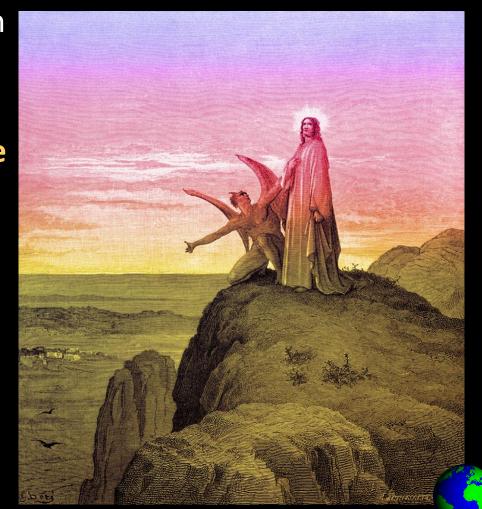
Christ and the Issue of Obedience – 3rd Temptation: Self-sufficiency (Lust of Eyes)

In another attempt to defeat Christ, Satan gave Him a panoramic view of the kingdoms of the world, promising, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." (Matthew 4:9).

He implied that by doing so Christ could regain the world thus completing His mission without enduring the agony of Calvary.

Without a moment's hesitation, and in absolute loyalty to God, Jesus commanded, "Away with you, Satan!" Then, using Scripture, the most effective weapon in the great controversy, He said, "Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." (Matthew 4:10; Deuteronomy 6:13).

His words ended the battle. Though retaining His total dependence on the Father, Christ had defeated Satan.

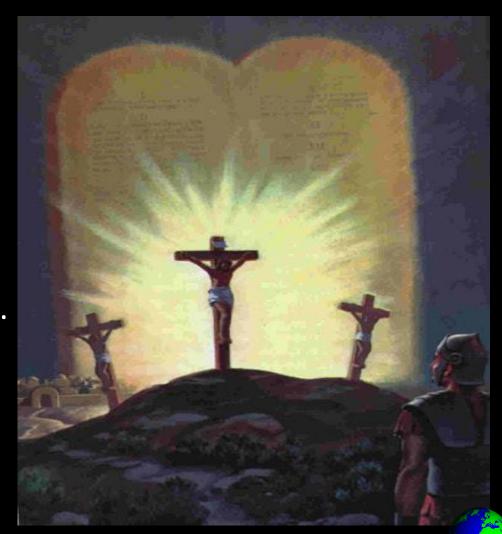


Showdown at Calvary

This cosmic controversy comes into its clearest focus at Calvary. Satan intensified his efforts to abort Jesus' mission as the time approached for it to close.

Satan was especially successful in using the religious leaders of the time, whose jealousy over Christ's popularity caused such trouble that He had to end His public ministry (John 11:45-54).

Through betrayal by one of His own disciples and perjured testimony, Jesus was arrested, tried, condemned to death (Matthew 26:63, 64; John 19:7). In absolute obedience to His Father's will, Jesus remained faithful until death.



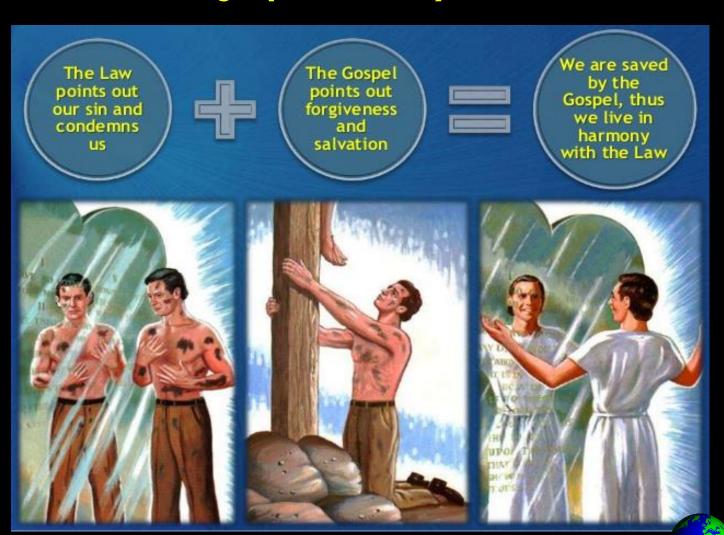
Showdown at Calvary (cont'd)

The benefits of both Christ's life and His death reach beyond the limited world of the human race.

Speaking of the cross, Christ said, "Now the prince of this world [Satan] will be driven out" (John 12:31); "the prince of this world now stands condemned" (John 16:11).

The cosmic controversy came to its climax at the cross.

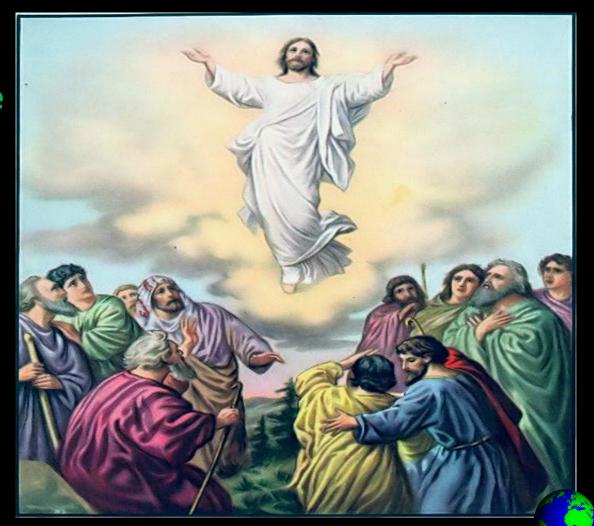
The love and faithful obedience Christ demonstrated there in the face of Satan's cruelty undermined Satan's position, assuring his ultimate downfall.



Jesus ascends to Heaven

When the great sacrifice had been consummated, Christ ascended on high, refusing the adoration of angels until He had presented the request: "I will that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am." John 17:24.

Then with inexpressible love and power came forth the answer from the Father's throne: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." <u>Hebrews 1:6</u>. Not a stain rested upon Jesus. His humiliation ended, His sacrifice completed, there was given unto Him a name that is above every name. GC 501.3



Satan is Completely Exposed

Now the guilt of Satan stood forth without excuse. He had revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer.

It was seen that the very same spirit with which he ruled the children of men, who were under his power, he would have manifested had he been permitted to control the inhabitants of heaven.

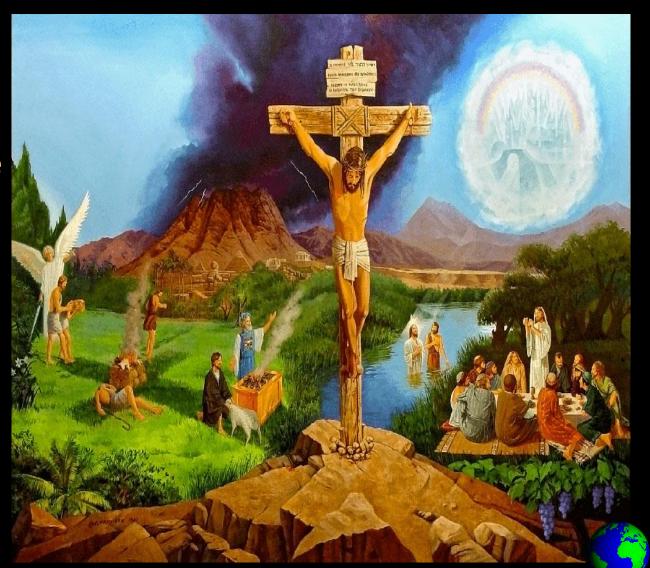
He had claimed that the transgression of God's law would bring liberty and exaltation; but it was seen to result in bondage and degradation. GC 502.1

The Temptation of Jesus		
Genesis 3:6	1 John 2:16	Mark 1:12-13
The First Adam		The Second Adam
The tree was good for food	Lust of the flesh	Command these stones to become bread
It was pleasant to the eyes	Lust of the eyes	The Devil showed him all the kingdoms
Desirable to make one wise	Pride of life	Throw yourself down from here

Satan Exposed & Jesus Exalted

Satan's lying charges against the divine character and government appeared in their true light. He had accused God of seeking merely the exaltation of Himself in requiring submission and obedience from His creatures, and had declared that, while the Creator exacted self-denial from all others, He Himself practiced no self-denial and made no sacrifice.

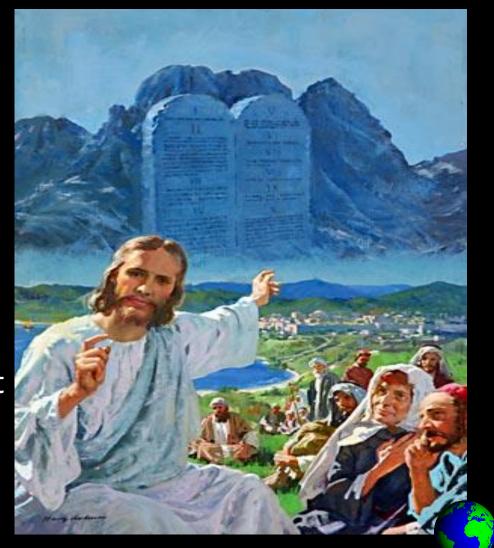
Now it was seen that for the salvation of a fallen and sinful race, the Ruler of the universe had made the greatest sacrifice which love could make; for "God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. It was seen, also, that while Lucifer had opened the door for the entrance of sin by his desire for honour and supremacy, Christ had, in order to destroy sin, humbled Himself and become obedient unto death. GC 502.2



Controversy About Truth as It Is in Jesus

But it was not merely to accomplish the redemption of man that Christ came to the earth to suffer and to die. He came to "magnify the law" and to "make it honourable." Not alone that the inhabitants of this world might regard the law as it should be regarded; but it was to demonstrate to all the worlds of the universe that God's law is unchangeable.

Could its claims have been set aside, then the Son of God need not have yielded up His life to atone for its transgression. The death of Christ proves it immutable. And the sacrifice to which infinite love impelled the Father and the Son, that sinners might be redeemed, demonstrates to all the universe—what nothing less than this plan of atonement could have sufficed to do—that justice and mercy are the foundation of the law and government of God. GC 503.1

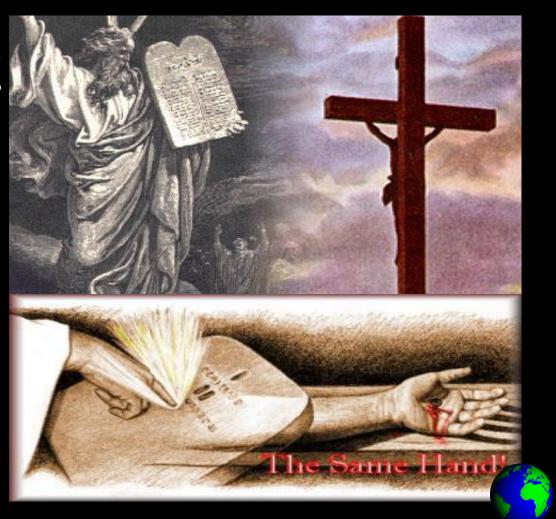


Controversy About Truth as It Is in Jesus (cont'd)

Today the great controversy raging furiously around Christ's authority involves not only His law, but His word—the Scriptures. Approaches to the interpretation of the Bible have been developed that allow little or no room for divine revelation.

Scripture is treated as if it were no different from any other ancient document and analysed with the same critical methodology.

A growing number of Christians, including theologians, no longer view the Scriptures as the Word of God, the infallible revelation of His will. Consequently, they have come to question the Biblical view of the person of Jesus Christ; His nature, virgin birth, miracles, and resurrection are widely debated.



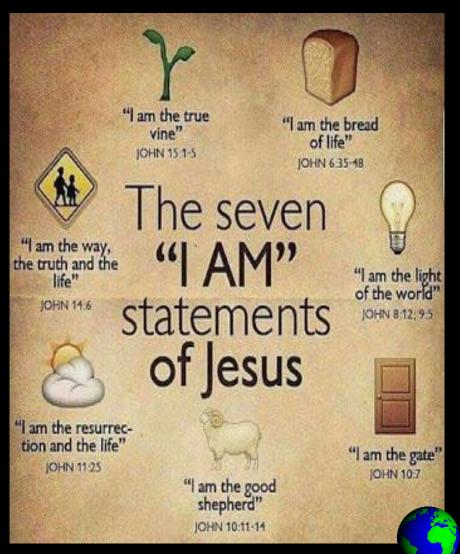
The Most Crucial Question

When Christ asked, "'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" the disciples replied, "'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets" (Matthew 16:13, 14). In other words, most of His contemporaries considered Him as a mere man. Scripture continues the account: Jesus asked His twelve, 'But who do you say that I am?'

"And Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'

"Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven'" (Matthew 16:15-17).

Today everyone faces the same question Christ asked His disciples. One's answer to this life-and-death question depends on one's faith in the testimony of God's Word.



The Centre of Bible Doctrines

Christ is the focus of the Scriptures

God invites us to comprehend the truth as it is in Jesus (Ephesians 4:21), for He is the truth (John 14:5). One of Satan's strategies in the cosmic conflict is to convince people that they can understand truth apart from Jesus. So several centres of truth have been proposed, either individually or in combination:

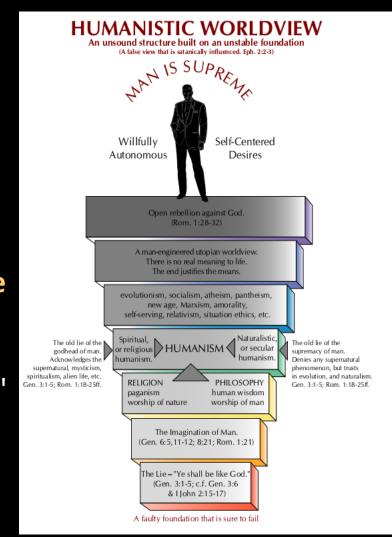
- (1) Man.
- (2) Nature.
- (3) Scriptures.
- (4) The church.

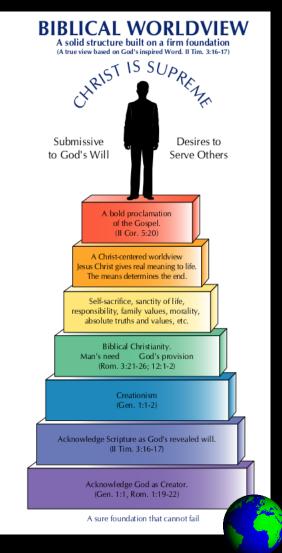


The Centre of Bible Doctrines

While these all have their part in revealing truth, Scripture presents Christ as the Creator of each of the above, and transcending each. They all find real meaning only in the One from whom they come. Divorcing Bible doctrines from Him leads to a misunderstanding regarding "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

It suits both the nature and the purpose of the antichrist to suggest other centres of truth than Christ. (In the original Greek, antichrist may mean not only "against" Christ but "in the place of" Christ.) By substituting some other centre than Christ in the church's doctrines, Satan achieves his goal of directing attention away from the One who is the only hope of humanity.



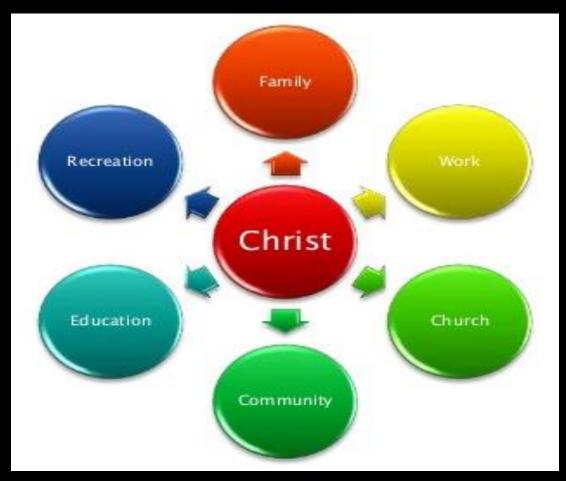


The Function of Christian Theology

The cosmic view unveils Satan's attempt to remove Christ from His rightful place, both in the universe and in truth. Theology, by definition a study of God and His relationship with His creatures, must unfold all doctrines in the light of Christ.

The mandate of Christian theology is to inspire confidence in the authority of the Word of God and to replace all other suggested centres of truth with Christ. When it does so, true Christian theology serves the church well, for it goes to the root of the cosmic controversy, exposes it, and meets it with the only incontrovertible argument—Christ as revealed in the Scriptures.

From this perspective God can use theology as an effective instrument for aiding humanity in opposing Satan's effort on earth.





The Significance of the Doctrine

The doctrine of the great controversy reveals the tremendous battle that affects every person born in the world—that, in fact, touches every corner of the universe.

Scripture says, "We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12).



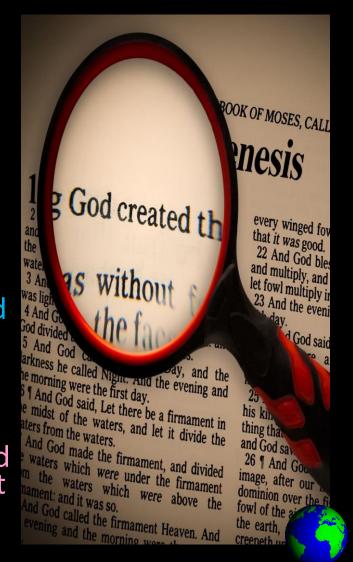


The Doctrine Produces a Constant State of Watchfulness

An understanding of this doctrine convicts one of the need to combat evil. Success is possible only through dependence on Jesus Christ, the Captain of the hosts, the One "strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle" (Psalms 24:8).

As Paul said, accepting Christ's survival strategy entails taking up "the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:13-18).

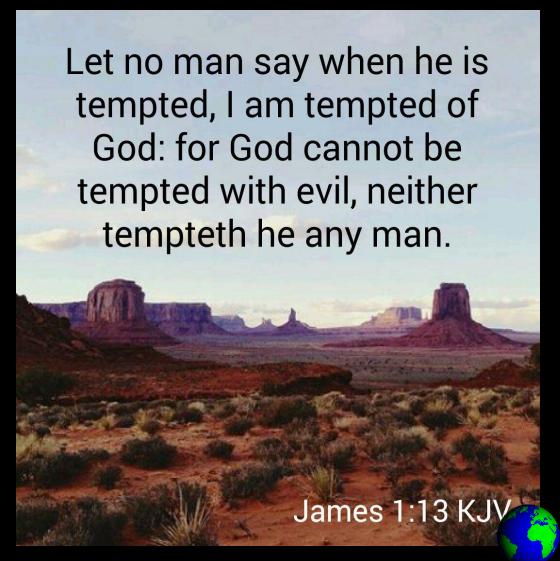
What a privilege for true Christians to live a life that is characterized by patience and faithfulness, a readiness at all times for the conflict (Revelation 14:2), manifesting a constant dependence upon One who has made us "more than conquerors" (Romans 8:37).



It Explains the Mystery of Suffering

Evil did not originate with God. He who "loved righteousness and hated lawlessness" (Hebrews 1:9) is not to blame for the world's misery. Satan, a fallen angel, is responsible for cruelty and suffering. We can better understand robberies, murders, funerals, crimes, and accidents—however heart breaking—when we see them in the framework of the great controversy.

The cross testifies to both the destructiveness of sin and the depths of God's love for sinners. Thus the great controversy theme teaches us to hate sin and to love the sinner.



It Displays Christ's Present Loving Concern for the World

Upon His return to heaven, Christ did not leave His people orphans. In great compassion He provided us with every possible aid in the battle against evil. The Holy Spirit was commissioned to "fill in" for Christ to be our constant companion until Christ would return (John 14:16; Matthew 28:20).

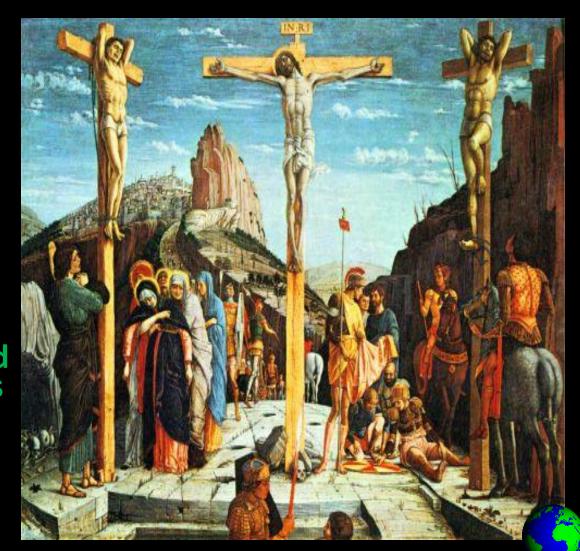
The angels were also commissioned to be involved in His saving work (Hebrews 1:14). Our victory is assured. We can have hope and courage as we face the future, because our Master is in control. Our lips can utter praises for His saving work.



It Reveals the Cosmic Significance of the Cross

The whole universe will have become witnesses to the nature and results of sin. And its utter extermination, which in the beginning would have brought fear to angels and dishonour to God, will now vindicate His love and establish His honour before the universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law. Never will evil again be manifest. Says the word of God: "Affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:9.

The law of God, which Satan has reproached as the yoke of bondage, will be honoured as the law of liberty. A tested and proved creation will never again be turned from allegiance to Him whose character has been fully manifested before them as fathomless love and infinite wisdom. GC 504.1



The changing faces of Satan

3rd century AD - Pagan demons

For the first several hundred years of Christianity, there was little need to depict the devil in religious art.

Christians believed rival pagan gods like the Egyptian Bes and the Greek Pan were, in fact, demons, responsible for wars, disease and other human and natural disasters. Hundreds of years later, when the devil arrived in Western artwork, some depictions feature these gods' physical attributes – such as Bes's facial hair and Pan's goat legs. – bbc.co.uk



c.1260 - Medieval devil

In the middle ages, a more recognisable portrait of the devil emerged.

It was a time of immense hardship, made worse by the outbreak of the black death, which killed millions across Europe. With the church seemingly unable to protect its followers from the disease, depictions of Satan focussed on the gruesome horrors of hell, reflecting the mood of the time and reminding believers to refrain from sin. In this mural in Florence, he oversees the grotesque torture of sinners.



- bbc.co.uk

c.1535 - Devilish propaganda

There is a long tradition of associating the devil with the enemies of Christianity inside & outside the church.

When the church split during the Reformation, both Catholics and Protestants accused each other of being influenced by the devil. Propaganda used playful and grotesque imagery to show this corruption at work. This leaflet shows the devil playing the head of a monk, implying that the Catholic Church was an instrument of Satan. — bbc.co.uk



c.1500 - 1600 - Spells and seduction

In the early modern period, people were put on trial accused of making pacts with the devil and practising witchcraft.

Satan was often depicted as a seducer, with women considered particularly vulnerable to his villainy. Images depict women in sexual cahoots with the devil, tapping into a tradition which decried women as the weaker sex, more likely to sin as they were governed by their carnal desires. If Satan could corrupt women's bodies, he threatened a community's safety, sanctity and even fertility. — bbc.co



c.1600-1800 - An enlightened devil

Enlightenment writers and thinkers reinterpreted the devil's story to fit the political preoccupations of their age.

John Milton drew a psychologically complex portrait of Lucifer in his poem, Paradise Lost, which tells the story of Satan's fall from grace. While earlier religious texts examined Satan's motivations to condemn him, Milton's Satan is an attractive and sympathetic figure, embodying the rebellious sentiments of 17th-century Republicanism. For some Enlightenment and Romantic artists, he was a noble rebel locked in a fight against God's tyrannical authority. — bbc.co.uk



c.1900-2000 - Political animal

With science to explain death, disease and natural disasters, the devil came under threat. How would Satan fit into a secular world? – bbc.co.uk

An urban and sophisticated devil took centre stage. Following a long tradition of identifying him with political and religious enemies, the devil was used to illustrate political opposition in caricature and satire. But the devil also became a byword for sinful indulgence in a commercial world – used to sell cars, confectionery and other luxury items.



The Devil and Witches

Early witches were people who practiced witchcraft, using magic spells and calling upon spirits for help or to bring about change. Most witches were thought to be pagans doing the Devil's work, inspiring the iconic Halloween figure and wart-nosed women huddling over a cauldron of boiling liquid to hag-faced, cackling beings riding through the sky on brooms wearing pointy hats.

The Bible in the book of 1 Samuel, written between 931-721 B.C tells the story of when King Saul sought the Witch of Endor to summon the dead prophet Samuel's spirit to help him defeat the Philistine army.

Other Old Testament verses condemn witches, such as Exodus 22:18, which says, "thou shalt not suffer a witch to live."



The Devil in Modern Times

Not all religions shun the Devil, though.

People of the <u>Church of Satan, known</u> <u>as Satanists</u>, don't worship the Devil, but embrace him as a symbol of atheism, pride and liberty, among other things. Another type of Satanists, theistic Satanists, worship the Devil as a deity. They may practice Satanic rituals or even make Satanic pacts.

- There's no shortage of Hollywood films featuring the Devil.
- Spirit Mediums thrive today.



The Devil in Other Religions

- In <u>Islam</u>, the devil is known as Shaytan.
- In <u>Buddhism</u>, Maara is the demon that tempted Buddha.
- In Hinduism, Kali is the demon.

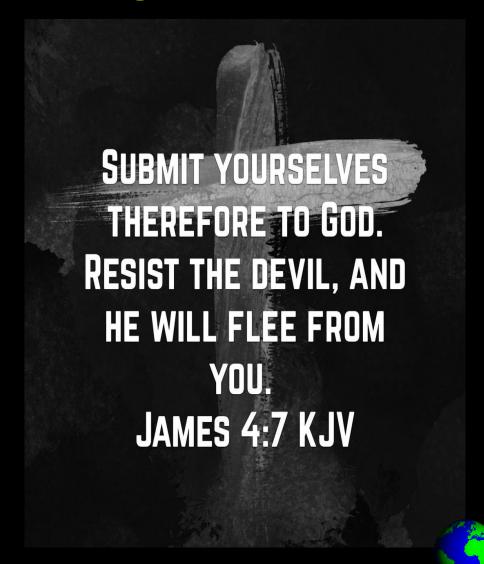
In people of almost any religion or even in those who don't follow a religion, the Devil is almost always synonymous with fear, punishment, negativity and immorality.





Primer on Satan's Strategies

- 1. Satan lies, and is the father of lies John 8:44
- 2. He blinds the minds of unbelievers 2 Corinthians 4:4
- 3. He masquerades in costumes of light and righteousness 2 Corinthians 11:13-15
- 4. Satan does signs and wonders 2 Thessalonians 2:9
- 5. Satan tempts people to sin Matthew 4:1-11
- 6. Satan plucks the word of God out of people's hearts and chokes faith Mark 4:1-9
- 7. Satan causes some sickness and disease Luke 13:16
- 8. Satan is a murderer John 8:44
- 9. Satan fights against the plans of missionaries 1 Thessalonians 2:17-18
- **10. Satan accuses Christians before God** Revelation 12:10



Satan Will Not Win

1 John 3:8: The Son of God appeared to destroy the works of the devil.

Hebrews 2:14: Christ came that through death He destroys the devil.

<u>Colossians 2:15</u>: God disarmed the principalities and powers.

Mark 3:27: No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods.

Revelation 20:10: The devil . . . [will be] thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone . . . And be destroyed.





What is it for us Today?

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. — 1 John 3:8.

Satan has been a murderer and a liar from the beginning. - John 8:44.

Where did Satan come from? Satan was once an angel in heaven. - Revelation 12:7-9.

Why did God create Satan? Satan was not created sinful. He was created perfect and chosen to be closest to God out of all the angels. - Ezekiel 28:14.



JESUS

Came to

destroy the

works of

the devil

1 John 3:8



What is it for us Today? (cont'd)

Pride led to Satan's fall. - Ezekiel 28:17

Satan: Lucifer before he sinned, wanted to be equal with God. - Isaiah 14:12-14.

Satan wants to be worshiped as the ruler of this earth. - Matthew 4:8-9.

In contrast to Satan's pride and self-exaltation, what spirit did Jesus have? - Philippians 2:5-8.

Satan's angels are waging a war against God and His people. - Ephesians 6:11-12.

Is the devil in charge of hell? No, hell was made to destroy the devil. - Matthew 25:41.

Is the devil in hell? Satan lives on earth—not underground in hell. - Job 1: 6-7.



What is it for us Today? (cont'd)

Satan can appear as a beautiful angel of light. He is not a grotesque figure with horns. - 2 Corinthians 11:14

Satan spends his time inflicting his anger against the human race. - Revelation 12:12

The devil is our enemy. - 1
Peter 5:8

How can I overcome the devil? - Revelation 12:11

Satan is a defeated enemy. - 1 John 4:4



The Final Analysis For the Universe

In the final execution of the judgment it will be seen that no cause for sin exists.

When the Judge of all the earth shall demand of Satan, "Why hast thou rebelled against Me, and robbed Me of the subjects of My kingdom?" the originator of evil can render no excuse.

Every mouth will be stopped, and all the hosts of rebellion will be speechless. GC 503.2





2020 Prophetic Overview - Results of Sin

World under control during pandemic:

- People afraid to meet family/friends
- Social media controlling/censoring.
- People sacrificing freedom for security
- Rapid push for vaccination of all as passports so to say.
- Travel, shopping & movements restricted.

Social instability:

- Anger, Riots, protests. Tensions, etc...
- Massive surge of gun sales in USA.
- Increase in depression, divorce, drug use, domestic violence, schools closures, suicides, etc..





Economic Uncertainties:

- Closing of business, losing jobs, dip in stock markets, dependence on the government financially, etc...
- Fear and greed took over from time to time.

Natural Disasters:

- Miles of forests on fires in USA, Europe, Australia, etc...
- World over Hurricanes, flooding, tornados, typhoons, etc...
- Heat waves in USA, Europe, Russia, etc...
- Earthquakes in diverse places.





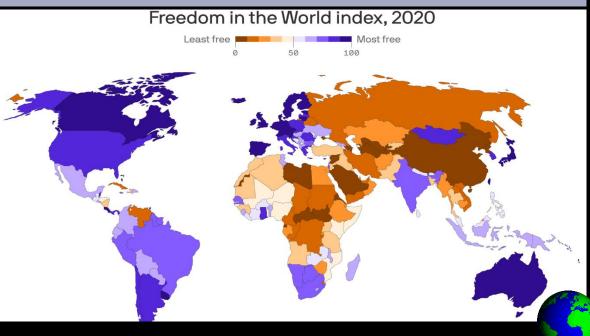
Polarised Politics:

- Make up of the supreme court 7 Roman Catholics + 2 Jews (No Protestants).
- Politicians today very supportive of the Papacy.
- The Election fiasco of the US polarization.

Erosion of Religious Freedom:

- Global shutdown of public worship whilst gambling, strip clubs, casinos, sporting events, restaurants remain open.
- Churches fined if opened.
- Government determining what is appropriate and inappropriate worship.
- Missionary activities came to standstill.





Amplified Papal Agenda:

- Global companies/corporations/giants meeting with pope for guidance from time to time.
- Release of Fratelli tutti 3rd October 2020
- Countdown TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) and agenda 2030 cutting greenhouse gases - 10th October 2020.
- Global compact on Education: the world a village and needs to be educated - 15th October 2020.
- Green Sabbath & Climate change movements backed by Papacy – Sabbath (Sunday) Rest.
- Vatican publishes guide to assist Bishops in promoting Christian unity – 4th December 2020.
- Inclusive Capitalism 27 Leaders meet with pope Francis – 8th December 2020.



Gospel Proclamation:

- Churches impacted financially due to church closures.
- An all time high of people being interested in Bible prophesy.
- Online evangelism has exploded.
- All who know need to share that Jesus is coming imminently. — Matthew 24:14.
- Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

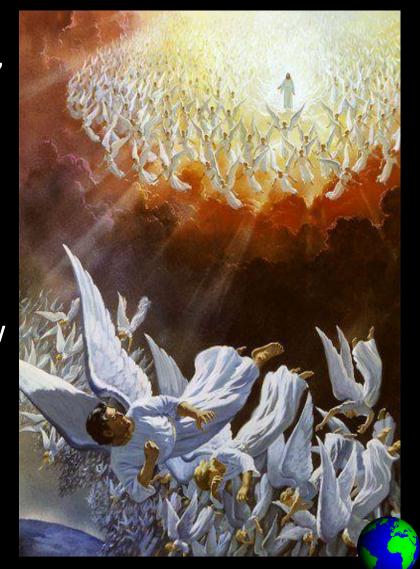


So in Summary

We all know the tragic results of sin. The account of Satan's first contact with humanity, as given in Genesis 3, shows that he was already a hardened sinner and a determined enemy of God; that he had no scruples whatsoever against the use of falsehood and slander in fomenting disloyalty and disobedience to the Creator; and that he was cruelly bent on the enslavement and ultimate ruin of humanity by sin.

When he tempted man he was then *on earth*, having already been banished from the dwelling place of God. Could we not safely assume, even on the basis of the few scriptures we have, that his venture into sin began *long before* the creation of our earth? We do know that the plan of redemption was made before the world began (2 Timothy 1:9-11).

But the actual expulsion of Lucifer from heaven, it would seem, occurred *not very long before* our world was made.



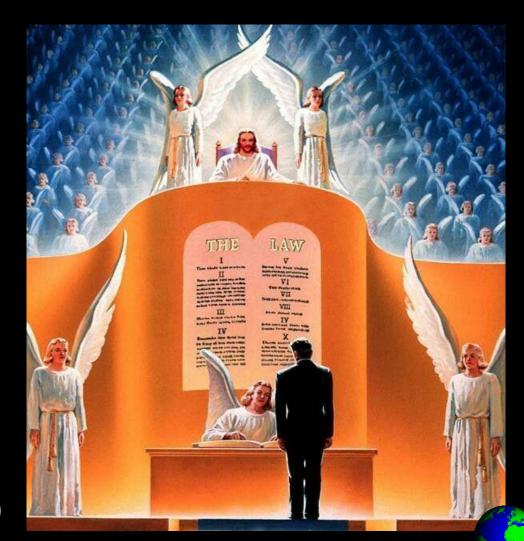
Summary (cont'd)

The millennium is the thousand-year reign of Christ with His saints in heaven between the first and second resurrections.

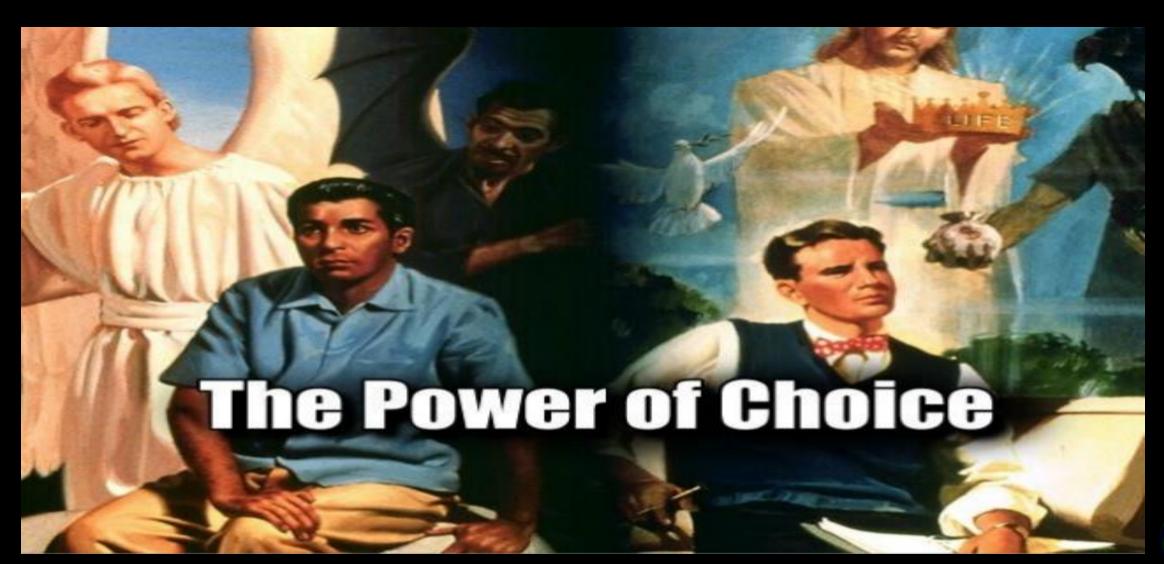
During this time the wicked dead will be judged; the earth will be utterly desolate, without living human inhabitants, but occupied by Satan and his angels.

At its close, Christ with His saints and the Holy City will descend from heaven to earth.

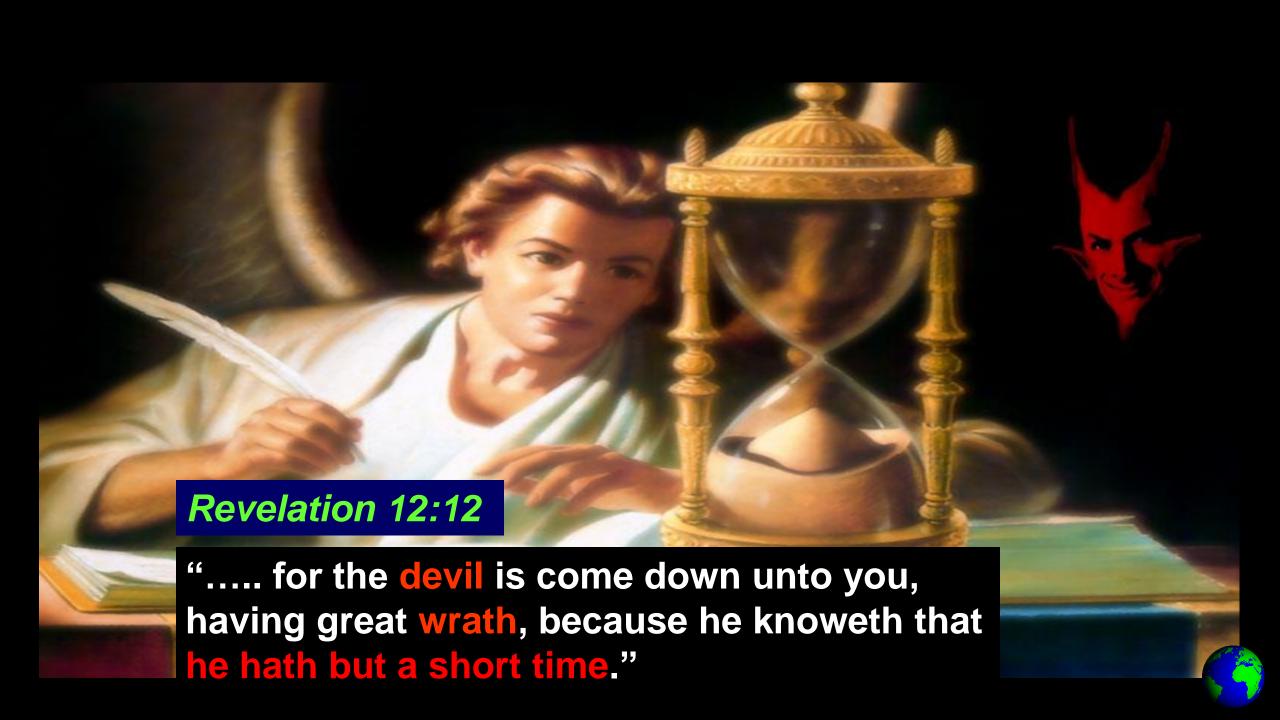
The unrighteous dead will then be resurrected, and with Satan and his angels will surround the city; but fire from God will consume them and cleanse the earth. The universe will thus be freed of sin and sinners forever. (Revelation 20; 1 Corinthians 6:2, 3; Jeremiah 4:23-26; Revelation 21:1-5; Malachi 4:1; Ezekiel 8:18, 19.)



God has given all:







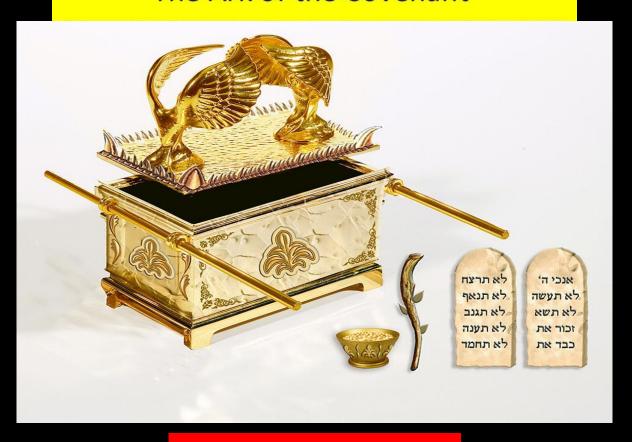
Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

- John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. -Revelation 3:20





