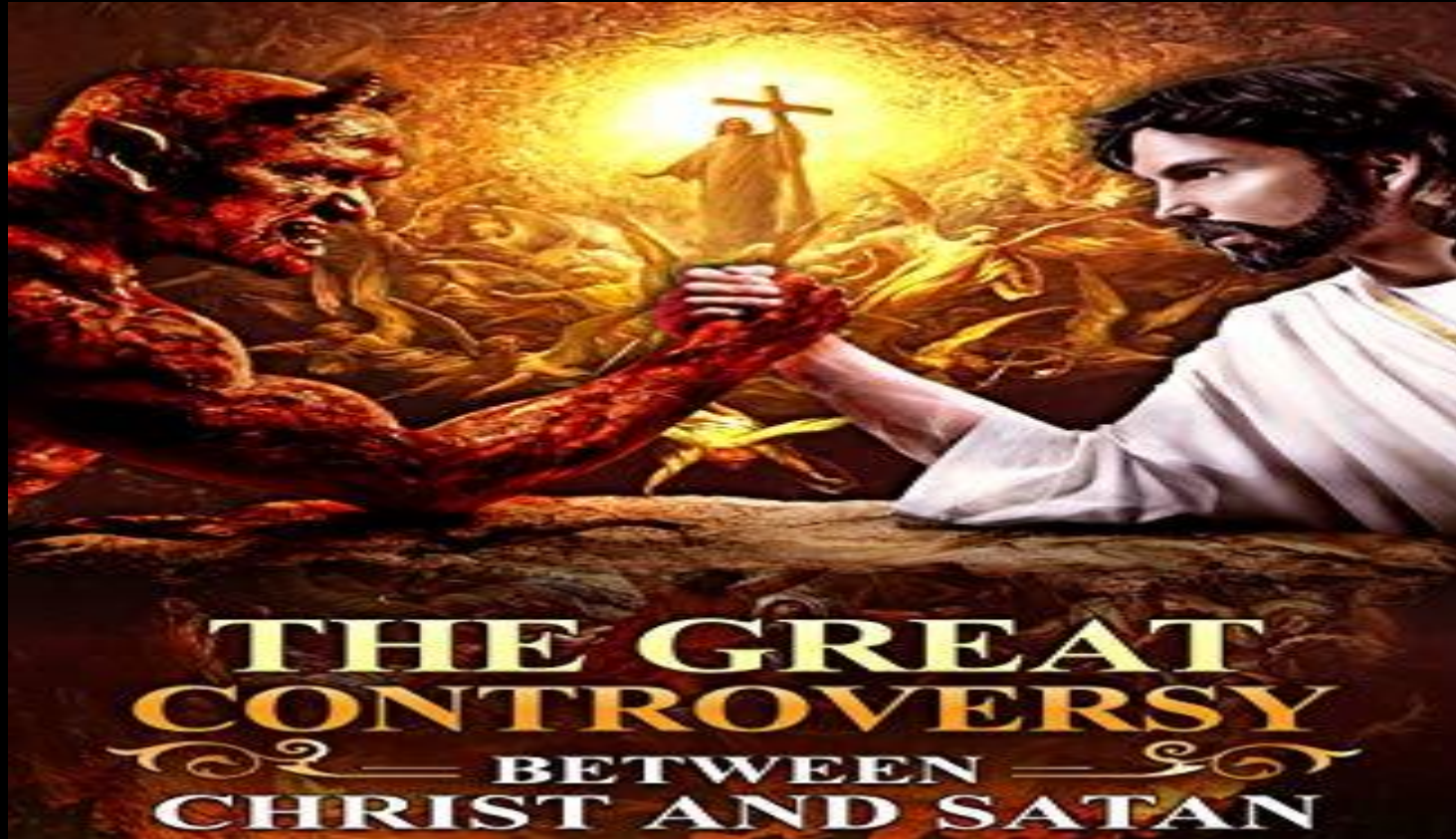
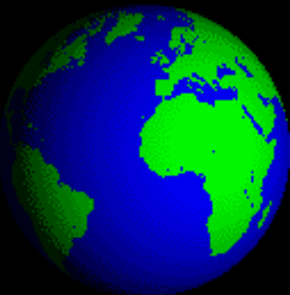


The Great Controversy



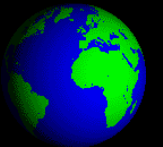
Past > Present > Future



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The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark

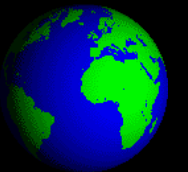
Sanctuary



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

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Trust:

How to Build Trust: 12 General Tips

1. **BE TRUE TO YOUR WORD:** Honour your commitments. Don't make promises you can't keep.
 2. **COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY:** Be clear about commitments.
 3. **BUILD TRUST GRADUALLY:** Take small steps. Don't expect too much too soon.
 4. **MAKE DECISIONS CAREFULLY:** Think before committing, Be organised so you can honour commitments.
 5. **BE CONSISTENT:** Trust is built from consistency.
 6. **PARTICIPATE OPENLY:** In team settings, show your willingness to trust. Listen actively. Give feedback respectfully.
 7. **BE HONEST:** Always tell the truth. Lies diminish trust.
 8. **HELP PEOPLE:** Authentic kindness builds trust.
 9. **SHOW YOUR FEELINGS:** Showing you care builds trust.
 10. **AVOID SELF-PROMOTION:** It will degrade trust.
 11. **DO WHAT YOU BELIEVE IS RIGHT:** Honesty is respected.
 12. **ADMIT MISTAKES:** Showing vulnerability builds trust.
- When we are operating on a “non-trust” level, We keep ourselves closed off from all opportunities available to us.**

How To

Build A Trusting Relationship <

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TRUTH

RESPECT

UNDERSTANDING

SAFETY

TRANSPARENCY

INVEST TIME & EMOTIONS

NICENESS

GENUINENESS



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



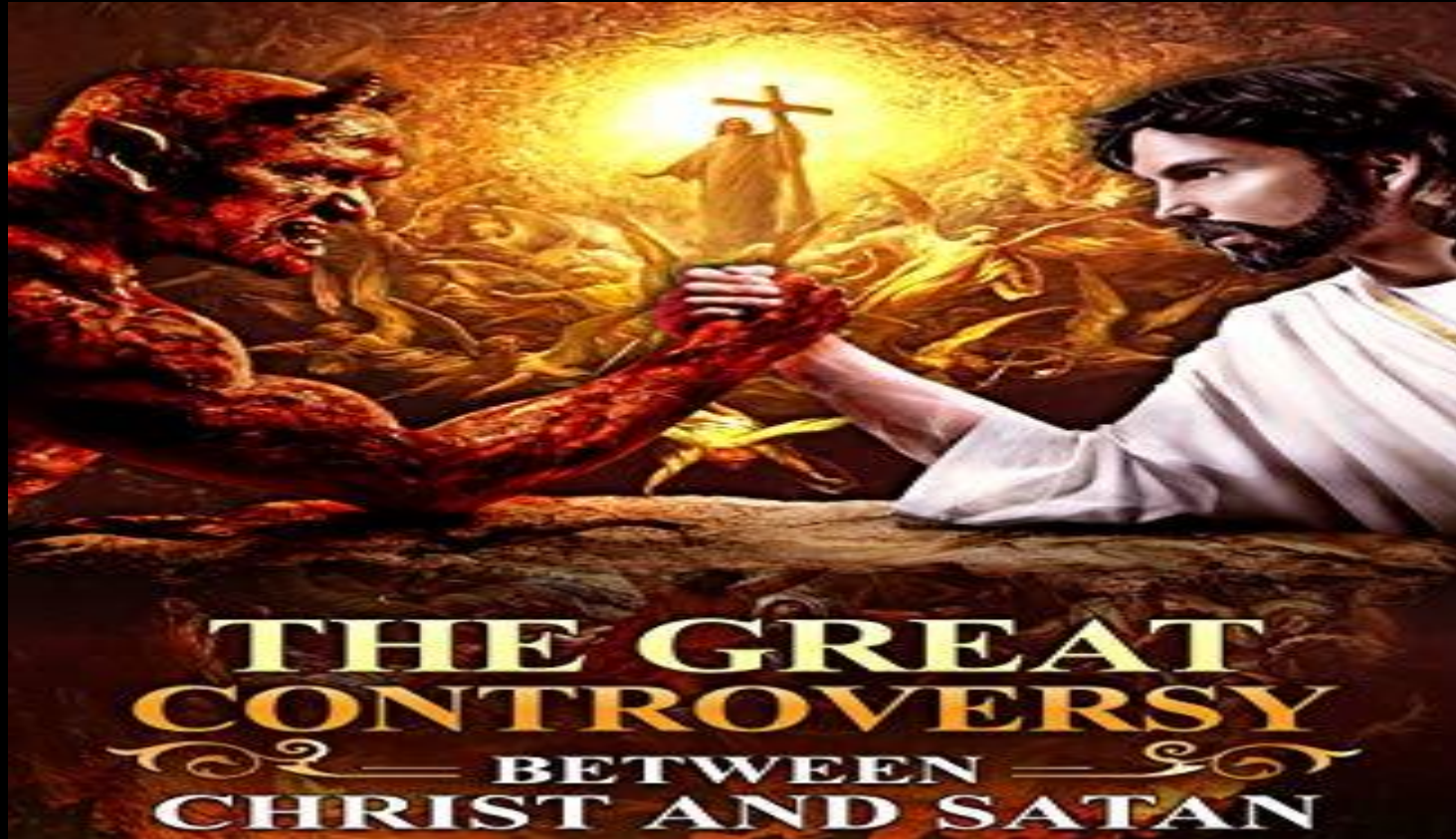
Yes we Can!

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
and lean not unto thine own understanding.
In all thy ways acknowledge him,
and he shall direct thy paths.

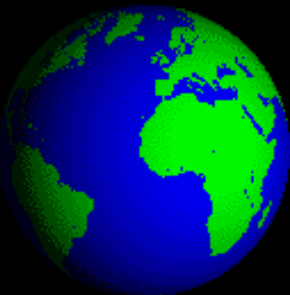
Proverbs 3:5-6



The Great Controversy



Past > Present > Future



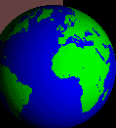
Introduction

For thousands of years, philosophers and other thinkers have tried to offer a satisfactory explanation for the bewildering mixture of good and evil that prevails in the world. **Why do rosebuds exist side-by-side with thorns?** **Why do animals kill and eat one another?** Why do people in some parts of the world have too much food while people in other parts are starving? **Why does an innocent child die in an automobile accident while the guilty, drunken driver escapes unharmed?** Why do ruthless people become rich while self-effacing people too often mire ever deeper in poverty?

Philosophers have offered a variety of answers.

Atheists, who hold that the world and all forms of life started by chance, suggest that good and evil are in a kind of “survival of the fittest” competition; eventually only one will survive. Others have suggested that at least two gods govern the world; one is good, the other, evil. Still others have suggested that God is powerful but not powerful enough to eradicate evil, hence good and evil are in a kind of stalemate.

The true explanation, however, is found in God’s Word.



What is the Great Controversy?

The most captivating stories have a clear hero and villain. **Someone fights for good, and the other fights for evil.**

It's easy to look at this messed-up world and believe that clearly-defined battles between good and evil only happen in stories. **It's not uncommon to see people do horrible things for good causes. Others try their best to do the right thing but end up making things worse.** How can pure good and pure evil exist in such a confusing world?

The Bible helps make these moral struggles clear. It tells how each of us are caught in an epic battle between good and evil.

This battle encompasses the entire world and was being fought before humanity even began. **And, just like in all good stories, the Bible tells us that good eventually comes out on top. God will prevail, and evil will be destroyed.**



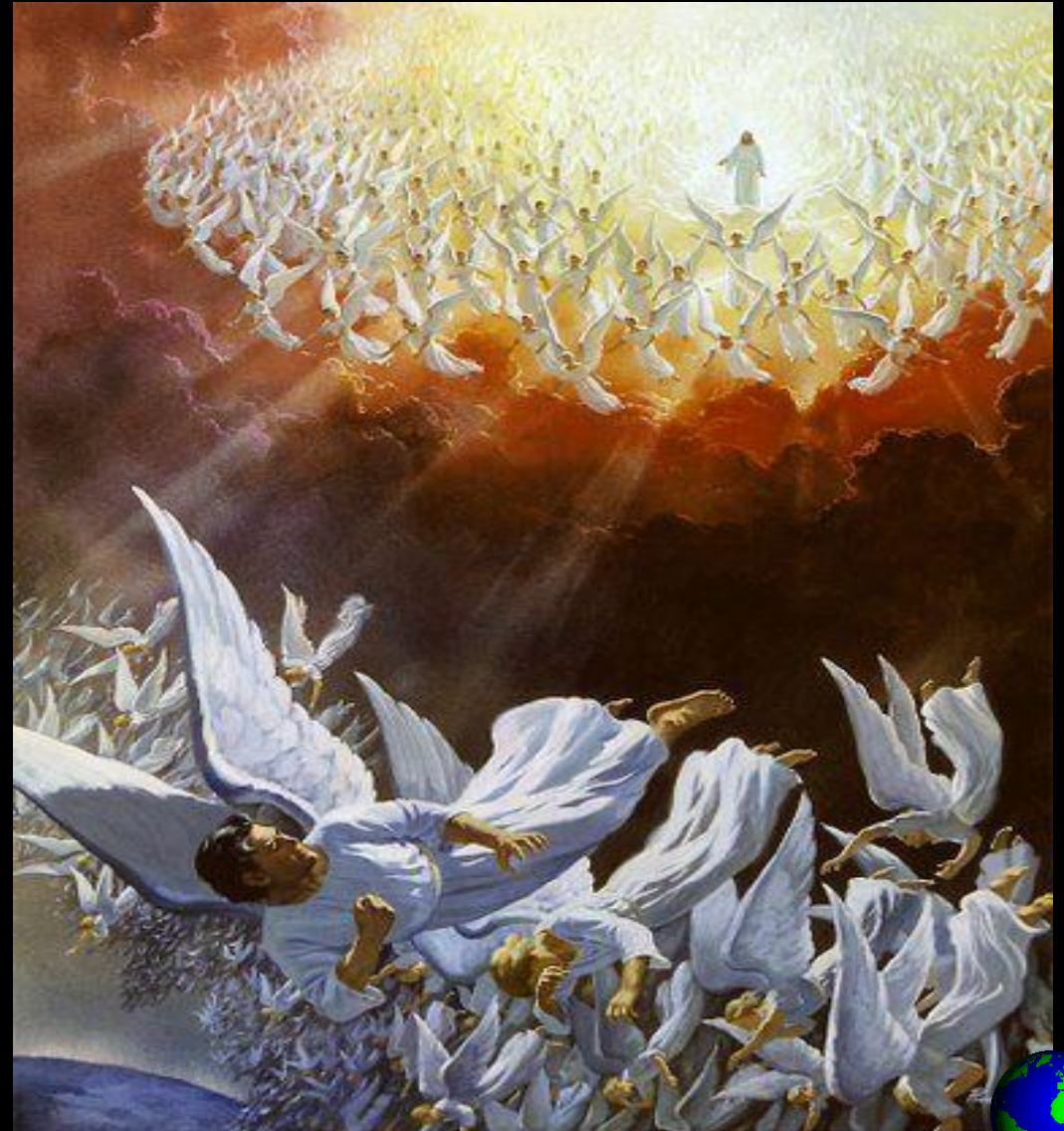
A Cosmic View of the Controversy

Scripture 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.



But this isn't a physical battle

This epic battle is sometimes referred to as the “Great Controversy,” the conflict between God and Satan. And all humanity is caught up in it due to our free will, and the fact we chose the “knowledge of good and evil” back in the Garden of Eden.

But this isn't a physical battle:

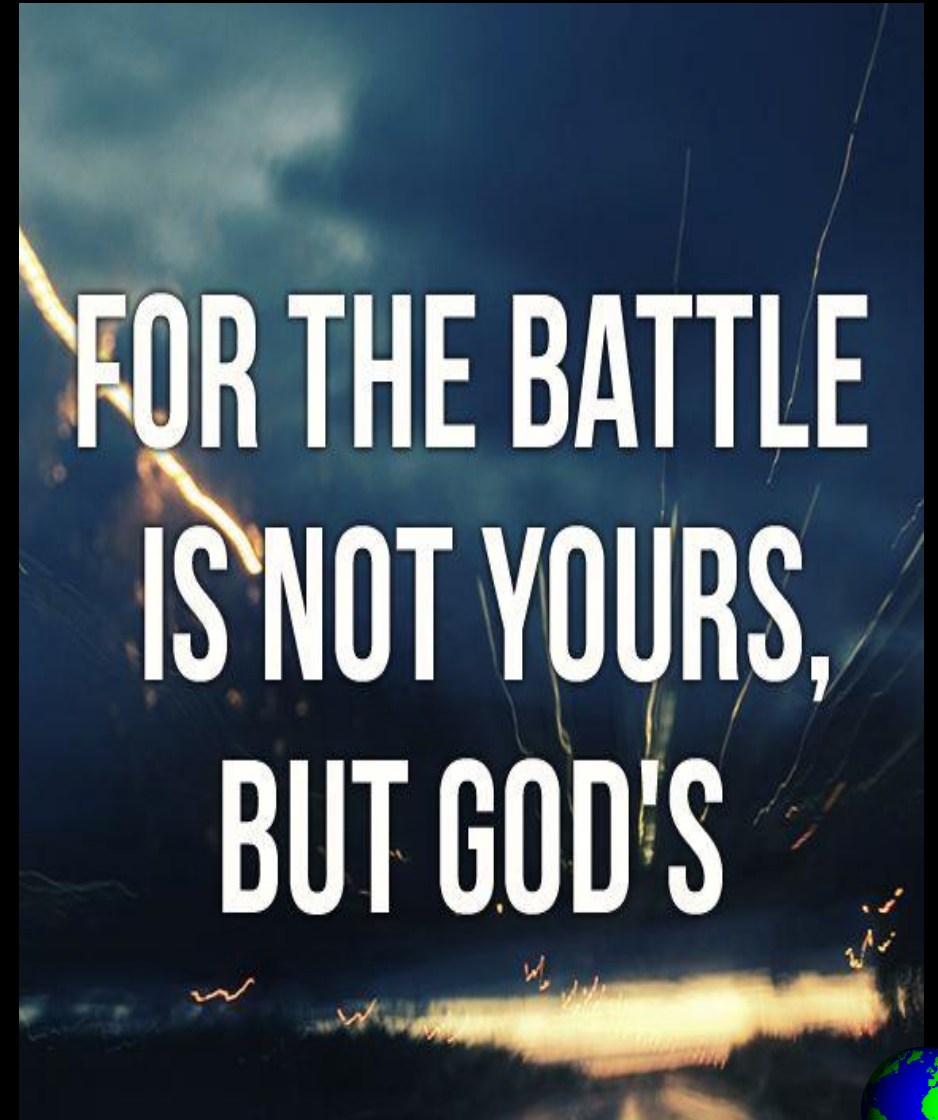
“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Ephesians 6:12).

The Great Controversy is a spiritual battle, a conflict over God's character and His right to rule the universe.

- How did the Great Controversy begin?
- How did the earth and humanity become involved?
- What are we to do during this spiritual war?

We'll learn exactly how this Great Controversy got started, what the stakes are, and why our own roles are so important in this great battle of the universe.

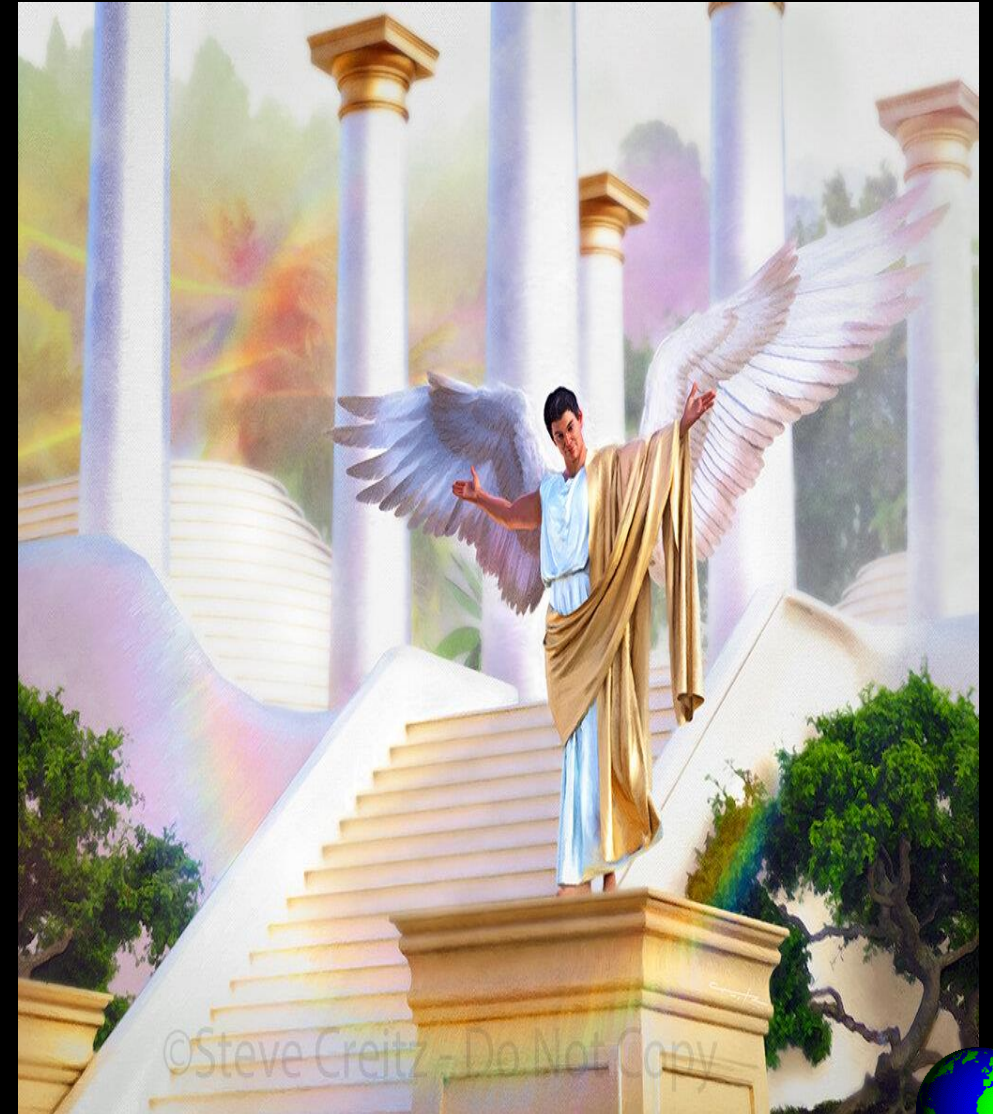
God's ultimate victory over evil!



Introduction of Lucifer

According to the Holy Scriptures, thousands of years ago, before this world was created, evil originated mysteriously in the heart of Lucifer, the most exalted of the angels in heaven. The fault was not God's, for Lucifer was created perfect (Ezekiel 28:15). But apparently Lucifer was dissatisfied with his status. He felt that he should be given honour equal to God, particularly the Son (Isaiah 14:12-14). He permitted envious, jealous thoughts to control him.

He should have dismissed these thoughts. He should have recognized that as a created being he had no right to the homage accorded deity. But he did not. Instead he harboured his evil thoughts and confided them to his angel companions. Obviously he did not say flatly, "I'm jealous of Christ." More likely he asked questions designed to sow seeds of dissatisfaction and of disaffection.

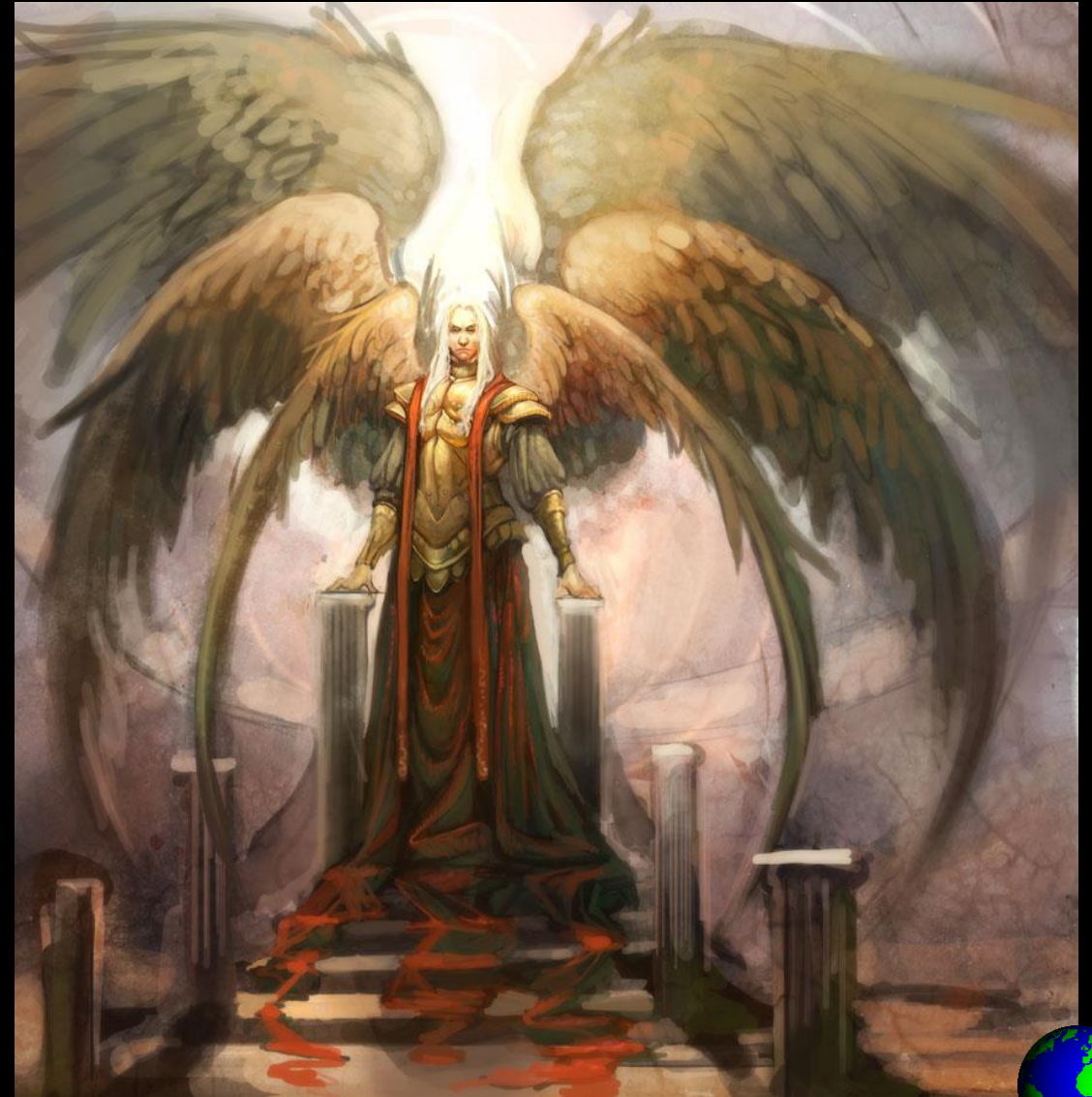


The Origin of the Controversy

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).

Although sin's rise is inexplicable and unjustifiable, its roots can be traced to Lucifer's pride: *"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour"* (Ezekiel 28:17).

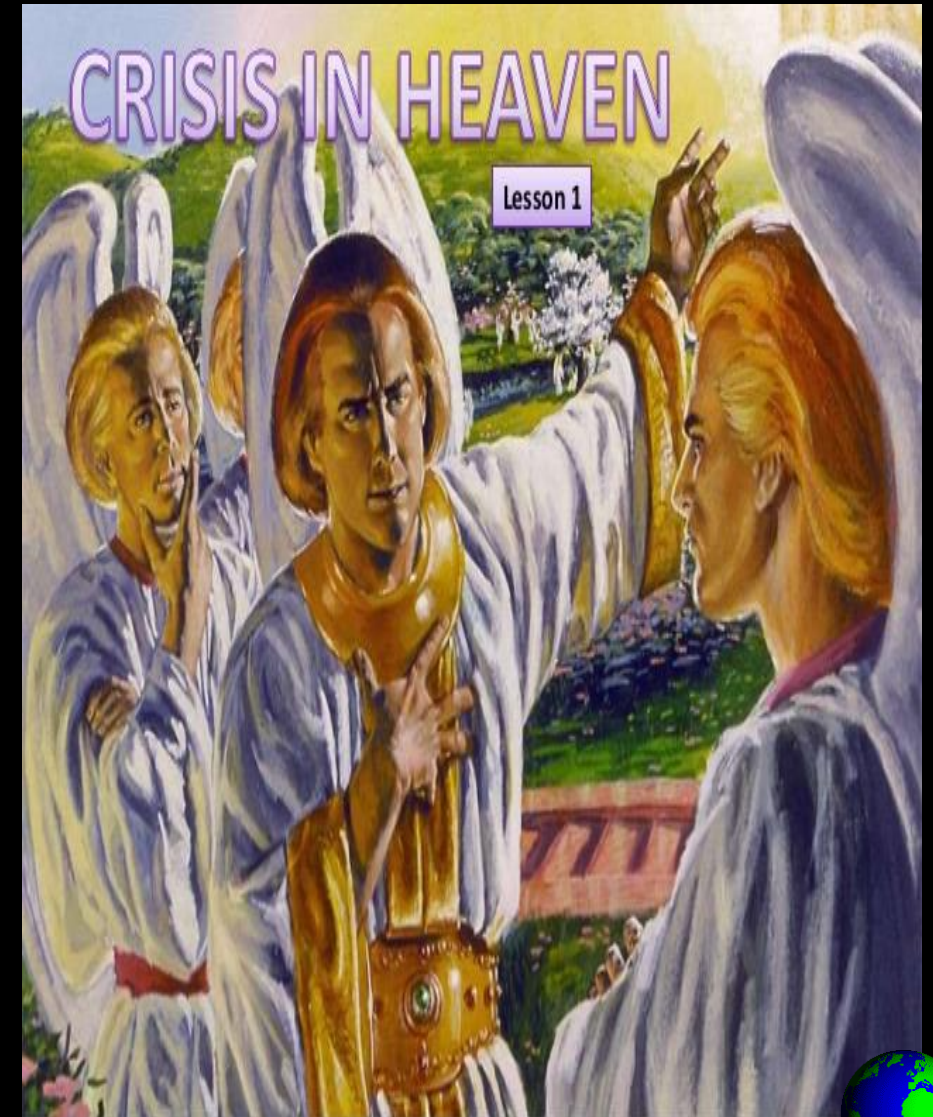
Lucifer refused to be content with the exalted position his Creator had given him.



The Origin of the Controversy (cont'd)

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."

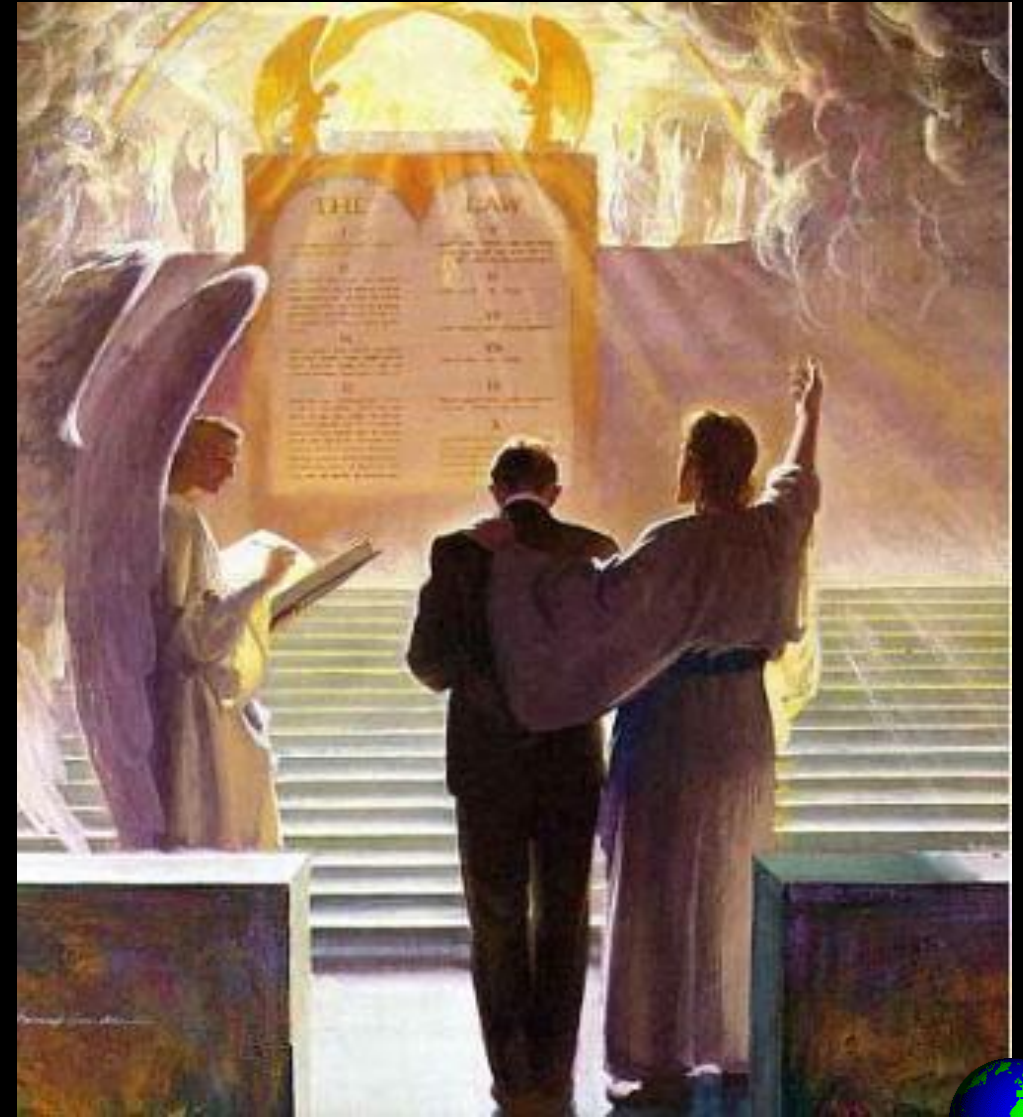
Lucifer's covert actions blinded many angels to God's love. The resulting discontent and disloyalty to God's government grew until one third of the angelic host joined him in rebellion (Revelation 12:4). The tranquillity of God's kingdom was shattered and "war broke out in heaven" (Revelation 12:7).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



God's Government of the Universe - Love

- Don't you think that heaven is too tightly structured?
- Why does God's government need laws?

We don't see why holy beings need laws. We don't think God loves us as He claims; He gets satisfaction out of issuing commands. He's unjust and unfair. This kind of suggestions he continued until one third of the angels were solidly committed to Lucifer. Misled by his siren song, they felt that he could set up a government superior to God's. With infinite patience God endeavored to explain His actions and persuade Lucifer and his sympathizers to abandon the disastrous course they were following. He endeavored to make clear that heaven's laws are grounded in love and are essential to happiness. But Lucifer and his fellow rebels were intransigent; they refused to accept God's explanations or respond to His entreaties.



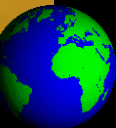
THE GREAT CONTROVERSY BEGINS WITH WAR IN HEAVEN

Right from the beginning of the Bible, God lets us in on the facts. Ever since sin entered our world, Earth has been the battleground of the Great Controversy. All the pain and loss humanity suffers is a result of that war.

- But the war didn't start on earth.

Back in heaven, before the earth even existed, there was an angel named Lucifer. He was also called "Morning Star" because of his radiance and beauty (Isaiah 14:12).

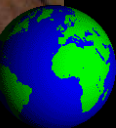
He was a splendid being, wise and beautiful, one of God's perfect creations. He was one of the great commanders of the angelic host. He even held a place of honour upon God's Holy mountain, serving as the right-hand man to the Godhead itself.



The Cosmic Issue Over Authority

How long Lucifer was allowed to spread his rebellion throughout the universe we are not told. He wanted to be like the Most High. He wanted to be equal with God and have his authority be heard as if it were God's. He told the Father about his dissatisfaction that Christ should be given preference and urged that he should have that position. He would be subject to the Father but not to Christ. The Father told him that His Son's position belonged to Him alone. Then Lucifer said that he was ready to resist the authority of Christ and to defend his position in heaven by force. So the war in heaven was instigated by Lucifer, and he and his angels had to be expelled. - *The Story of Redemption*, pp. 13-15.

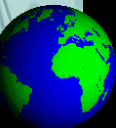
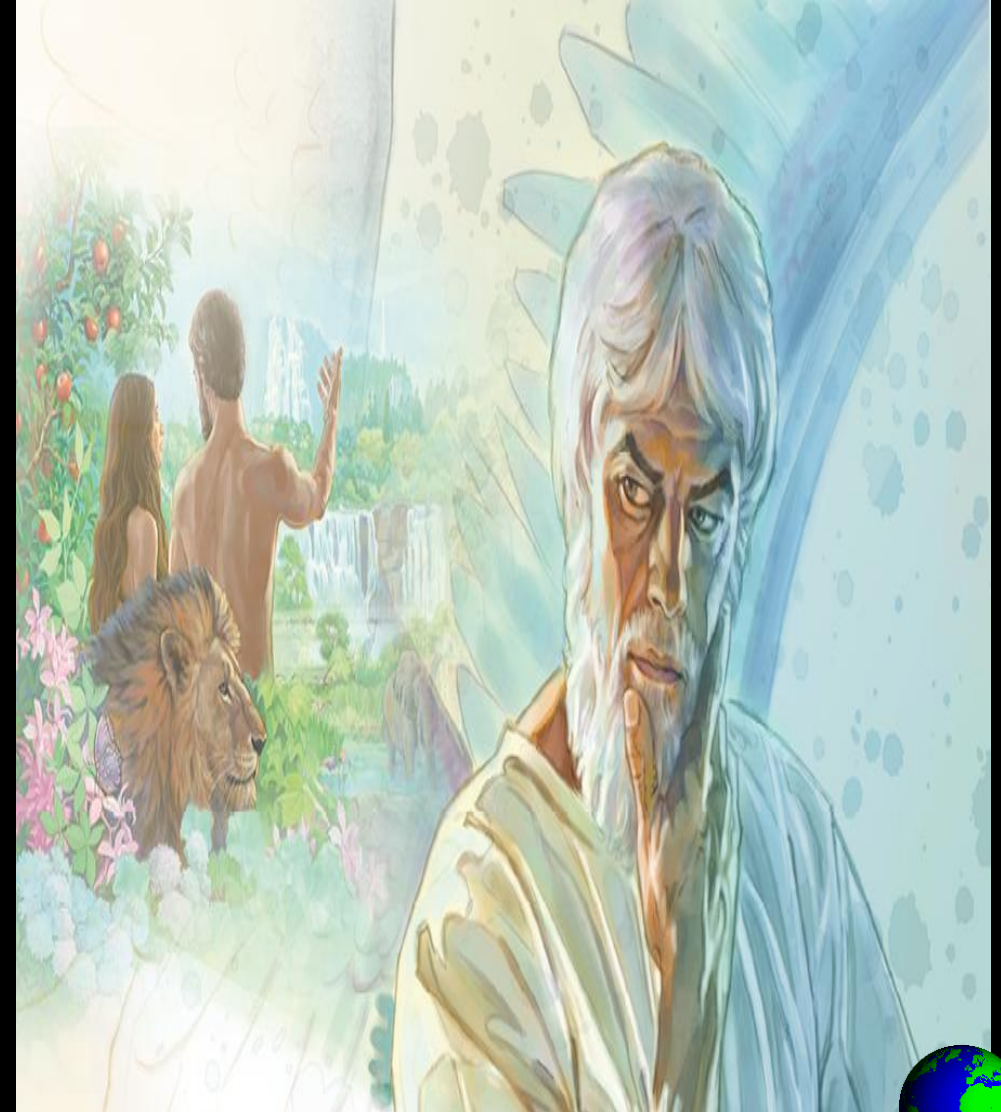
It is important to understand that closely examined, the cosmic struggle is between God and Satan over the authority of Christ. Lucifer refused to accept Christ as his Lord and King.



1st War in the Universe was in Heaven

Scripture says the crisis continued until “there was war in heaven” ([Revelation 12:7-9](#)). Lucifer and his sympathizers fought against Christ and the loyal angels, attempting to capture God’s throne. **But he was defeated and expelled from heaven.**

God gave Lucifer time. God did not at once destroy Lucifer and his followers, but gave them time and opportunity to show whether their charges against His character and law were justified. **On earth God placed Adam and Eve, the first human pair, in the Garden of Eden, and had set up a test of character so they could demonstrate their loyalty to Him. The test was simple; God set apart one tree in the garden and told Adam and Eve not to eat of it ([Genesis 2:16, 17](#)); disobedience would bring death. Lucifer (now renamed Satan)** saw this as an opportunity to tempt the holy pair to eat the fruit and thus join him in rebellion.



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.



Conflict Over a Planet

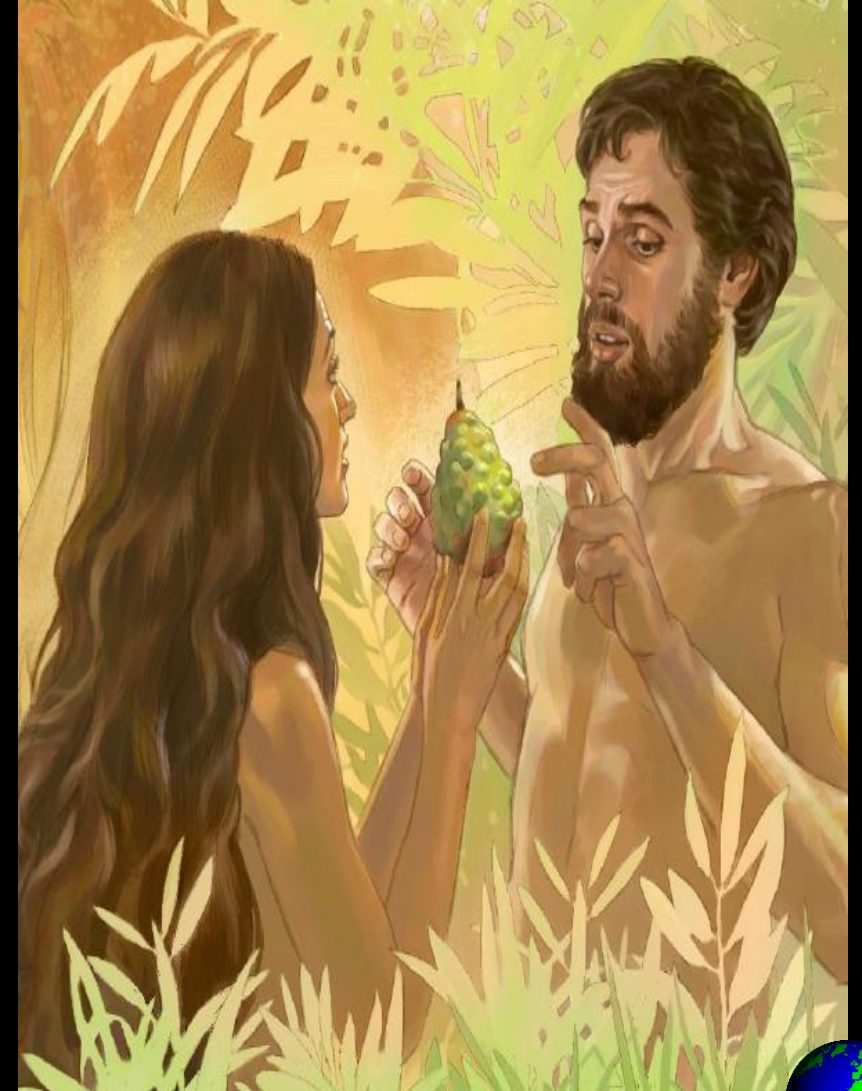
We can arrive at the legitimacy of the Ten Commandments without scriptural authority. It can make sense to worship only one God, not to use His name in cursing; to honour family, not to kill, be unfaithful, steal, lie, and be selfish. It even makes sense to rest periodically, especially in a stress-driven world. But on what logic or astronomical evidence must we keep the seventh day? The Sabbath has a greater part to play in this struggle than we may have previously thought. **The seventh-day Sabbath rests on no other authority than the authority of God.** It is more than a sign of creation or even a sign of redemption when the Lord said, *"Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day" for it is "a sign between them and Me, that they might know that I am the Lord who sanctifies them."* **It is a sign to the universe that God is ultimately in control. It is a statement about who God is.** He is not only a loving Father but a moral governor. Without ultimate authority centered in God, it calls into question the whole moral structure of the universe. There would be no moral absolutes. **Everything would be relative.**



1st Humans fell to the deception of Lucifer

Tragically and incredibly, Adam and Eve yielded to Satan's temptation. In mercy, God spared their lives so that they might have opportunity to repent, but the penalty for breaking God's law had to be met. Thus, God offered His own Son to come to this earth and die as a divine substitute, taking the place of sinners. He also promised a continuing conflict between good and evil ([Genesis 3:15](#)).

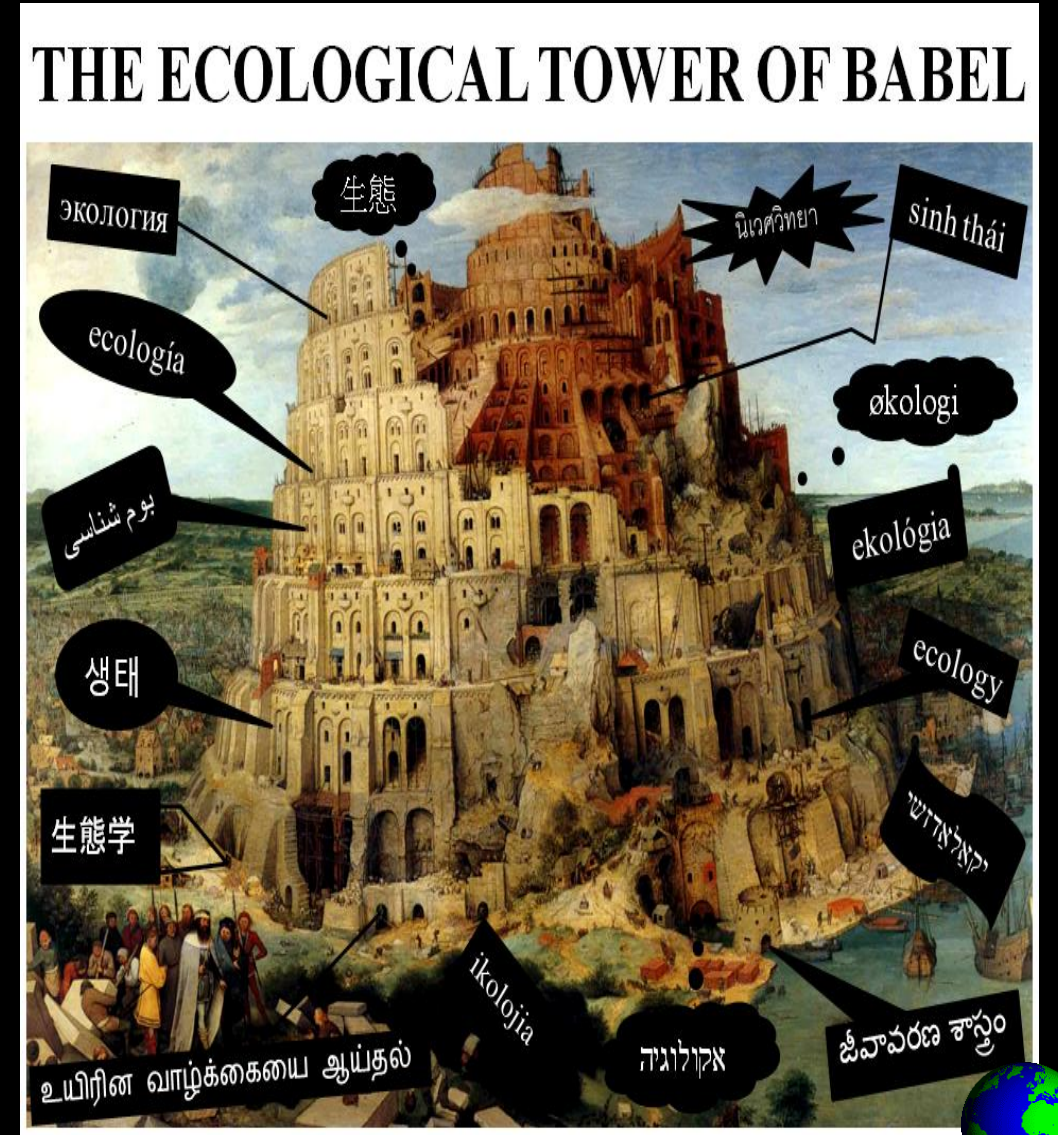
As time passed, the effects of sin became more and more evident not only on the human race but in all of nature. And the principles advocated by Satan, at first but dimly seen as dangerous, bore a harvest of evil fruit. Nineteen centuries ago, when Satan inspired human beings to murder Jesus, all the beings in other worlds saw clearly that God was right and Satan was wrong. All the inhabitants of heaven and elsewhere saw that God is love and that His law is just and necessary. But to give the inhabitants of our world ample opportunity to understand the issues in the great controversy and to choose whose side they wanted to join, God permitted the sin drama to continue for additional centuries.



The Impact on the Human Race

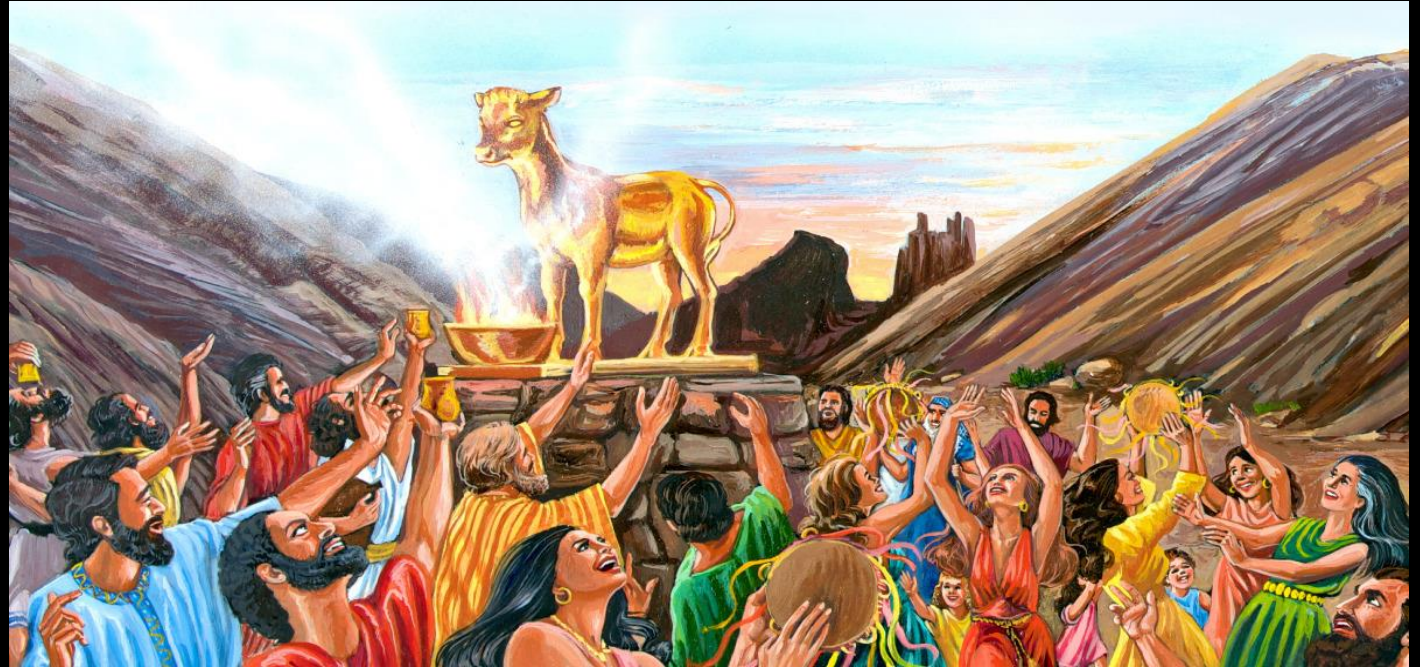
The effects of the struggle between Christ and Satan soon became apparent as the sin distorted the image of God in humanity. Though God offered His covenant of grace to the human race through Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:15), their first child, Cain, murdered his brother (Genesis 4:8). Wickedness continued 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).



The Impact on the Human Race (cont'd)

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.



God's Authority Made Evident

After the destruction of Jerusalem the gospel went to the Gentiles, and the focus shifted from the earthly temple to the sanctuary in heaven, which the Lord built and not man. In vision John sees the temple in heaven, and in it was the ark of the covenant. Ellen White also had a vision of the temple and the ark with the Ten Commandments and a special light illuminating the Sabbath. The fourth commandment makes a statement about creation and redemption and also about God's authority and His Son's deity. The law is there for all to see. Even in Eden before the Fall, it was not only observed by Adam and Eve, but by the heavenly host. All of heaven knows that the real issue in this cosmic struggle is over the deity of Christ. - *Early Writings*, pp. 32, 33.



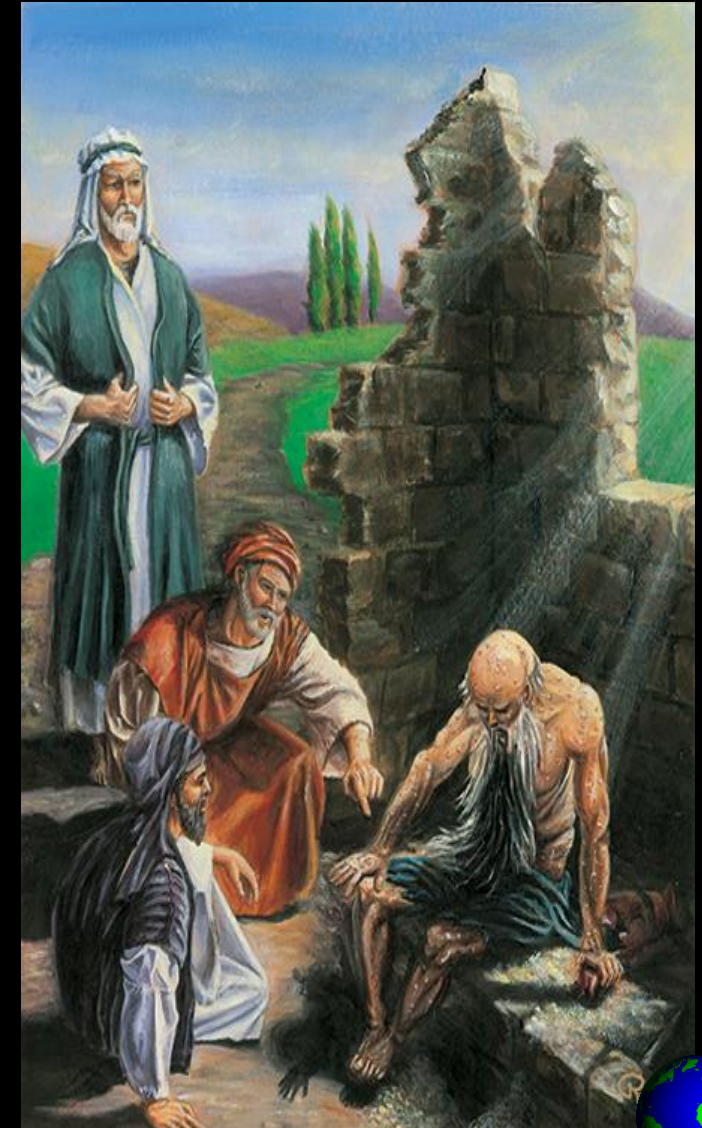
Earth, the Theatre of the Universe

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 perspective the book of Job affords provides powerful proof of the great controversy between Christ and Satan. This planet is the stage on which this dramatic struggle between right and wrong is being played out. As Scripture states, "We have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men" (1 Corinthians 4:9).



Earth, the Theatre of the Universe (cont'd)

Sin severed the relationship between God and man, and "*whatever is not from faith is sin*" (Romans 14:23). The breaking of God's commandments, or laws, is the immediate result of a lack of faith, the evidence of a ruptured relationship. In turn, by the plan of salvation God intends to restore the trust in the Creator that leads to a loving relationship manifested by obedience. As Christ noted, *love leads to obedience* (John 14:15).

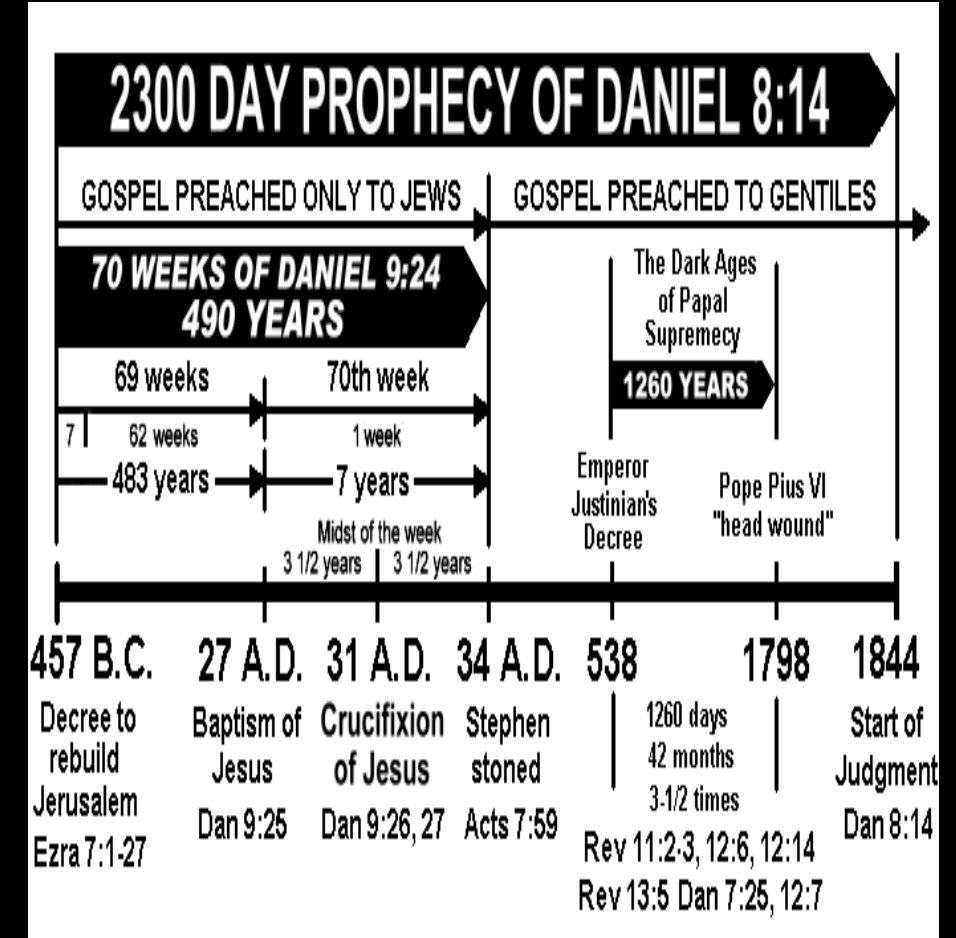
In our lawless age absolutes are neutralized, dishonesty is praised, bribery is a way of life, adultery is rampant, and agreements, both international and personal, lie shattered. It is our privilege to look beyond our desperate world to a caring, omnipotent God. This larger view reveals to us the importance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



God's Authority Set Aside

Daniel speaks of God's authority being challenged and an attempt being made to change His law, particularly the time in the law. Daniel further says, "He even exalted himself as high as the Prince of the host; and by him the daily sacrifices were taken away, and the place of His sanctuary was cast down." The meaning is made evident when in the following verses Daniel hears a "holy one" asking another "holy one" how long this casting down will last. The answer is given: "For two thousand three hundred days; then the sanctuary shall be cleansed," (Daniel 8:14) or set right again. When that will take place is made clear in the following verses in which Gabriel says, "Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end."

As the psalmist says, "It is time for You to act, O Lord, for they have regarded Your law as void. Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold! Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way."



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

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.

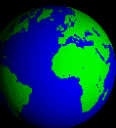
Rather than admitting responsibility for the lawlessness in the world, Satan lays the blame on God. He says God's law, which he alleges is arbitrary, infringes on individual freedom. Furthermore, he charges, since it is impossible to obey it, that law works against the best interests of created beings.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



Christ and the Issue of Obedience

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).

As Satan had tempted Eve to doubt God's word in Eden, 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 (cont'd)

But Christ's highest priority was to live by His Father's word. In spite of His great hunger, He answered Satan's temptation with "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God'" (Matthew 4:4).

In another attempt to defeat Christ, Satan gave Him a panoramic view of the kingdoms of the world, promising, "'All these things I will give You if You will 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, "'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve'" (Matthew 4:10). His words ended the battle. Though retaining His total dependence on the Father, Christ had defeated Satan.

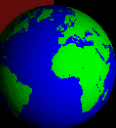


Showdown at Calvary

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 betrayed by one of His 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.

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 Prince Satan's position, assuring his ultimate downfall.



Controversy About Truth as It Is in Jesus

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).

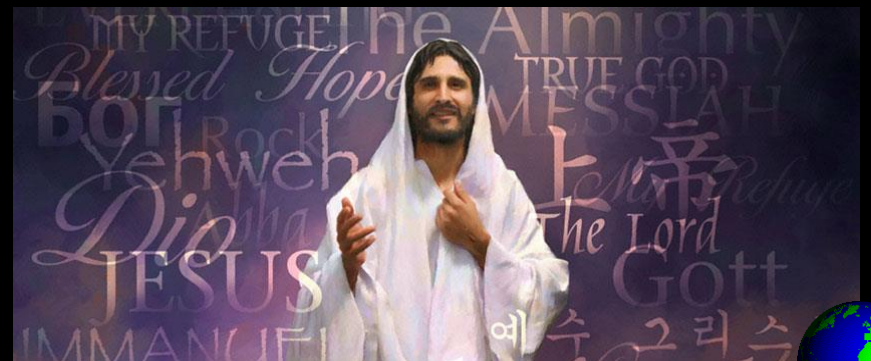
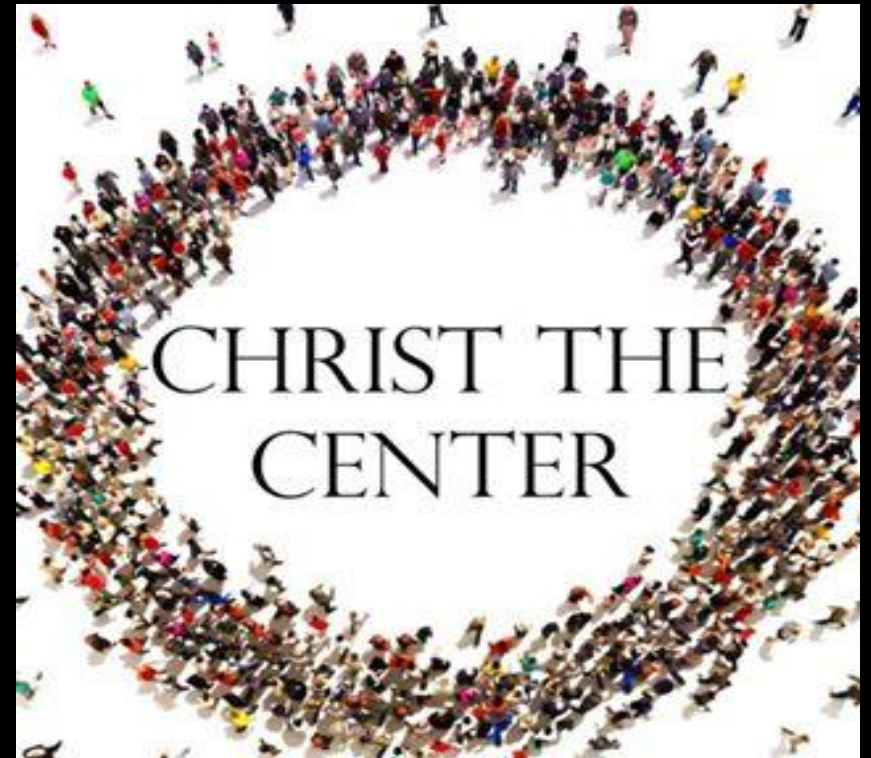
Today everyone faces the same question Christ asked His disciples. One's answer to this life-and-death question depends on one's faith in the testimony of God's Word.



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**, or the observable universe, (3) **Scriptures**, and (4) the **church**.

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.**

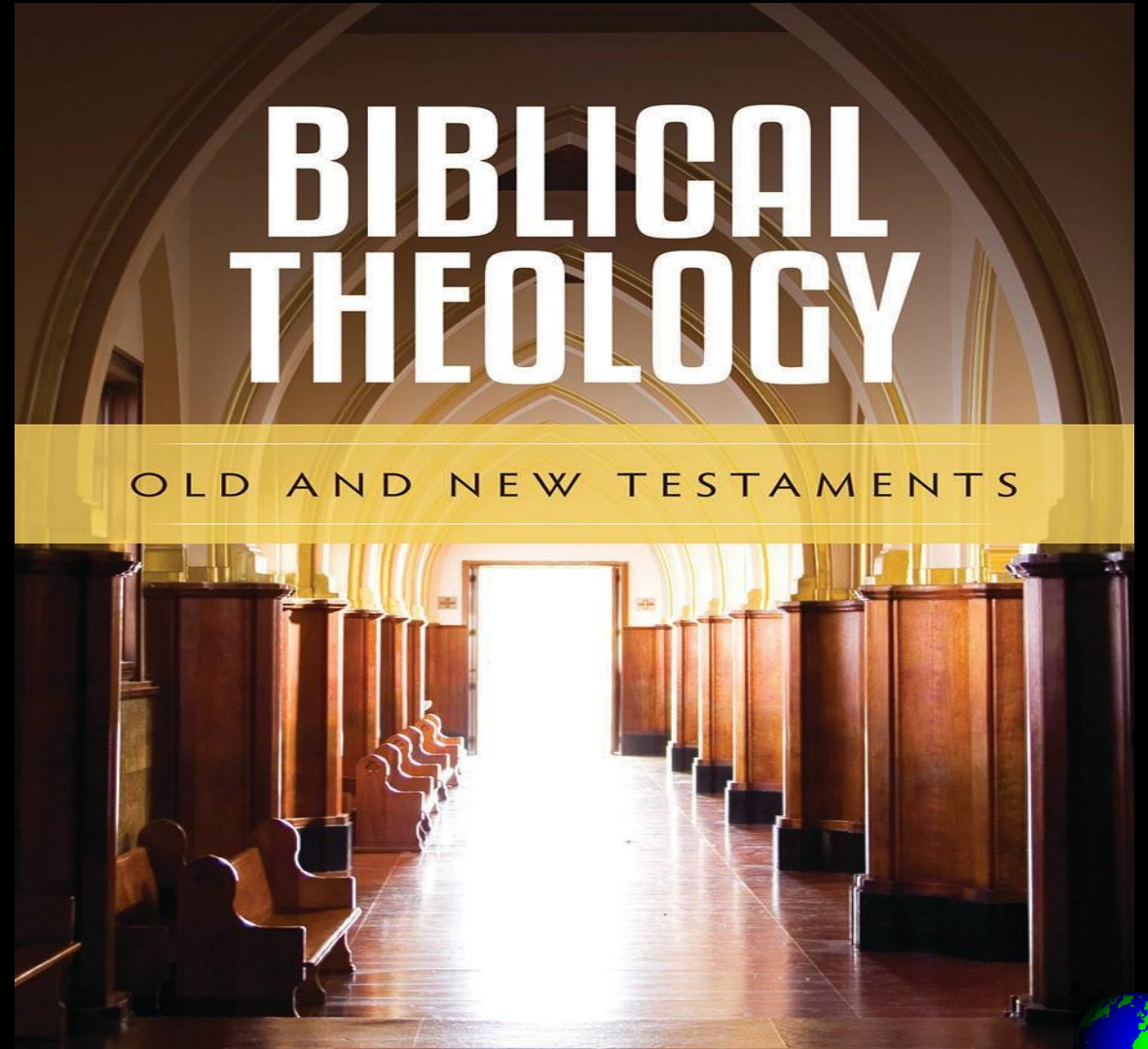


The Function of Christian Theology

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.

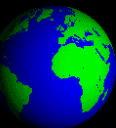
When it does so, true Christian theology serves the church well, for it goes to the root of the cosmic controversy, exposes it, and meets it with the only incontrovertible argument—Christ as revealed in the Scriptures. From this perspective God can use theology as an effective instrument for aiding humanity in opposing Satan's effort on earth.



The Significance of the Doctrine

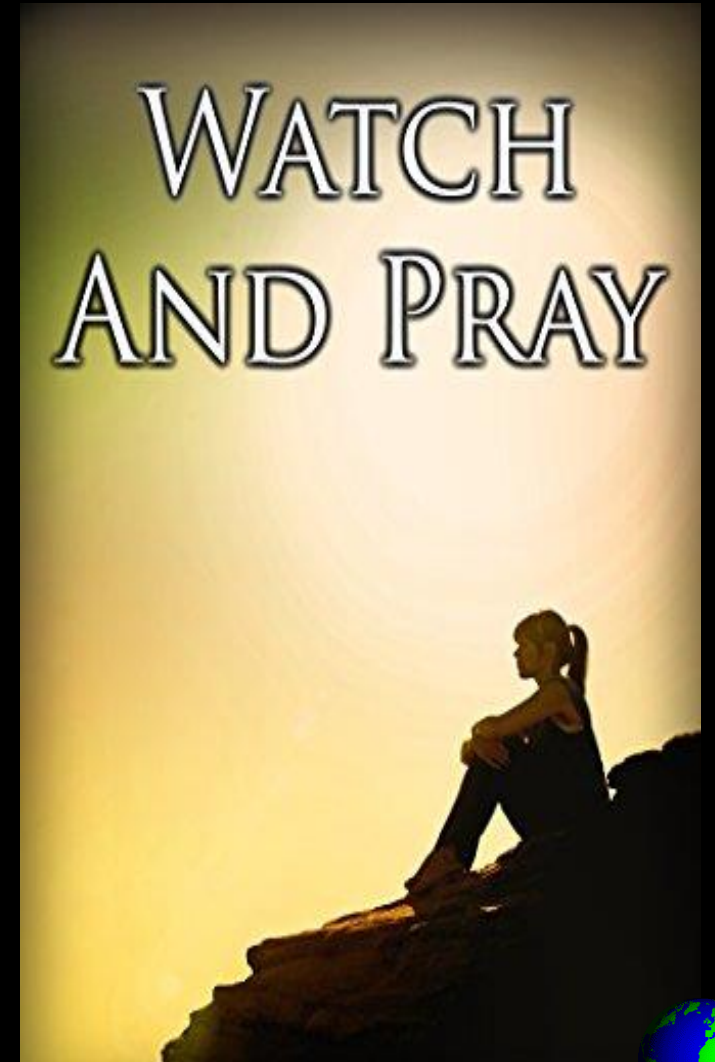
The doctrine of the great controversy reveals the tremendous battle that affects every person born in the world—that, in fact, touches every corner of the universe.

Scripture says, "*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high 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.

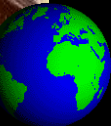


It Displays Christ's Present Loving Concern for the World

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.

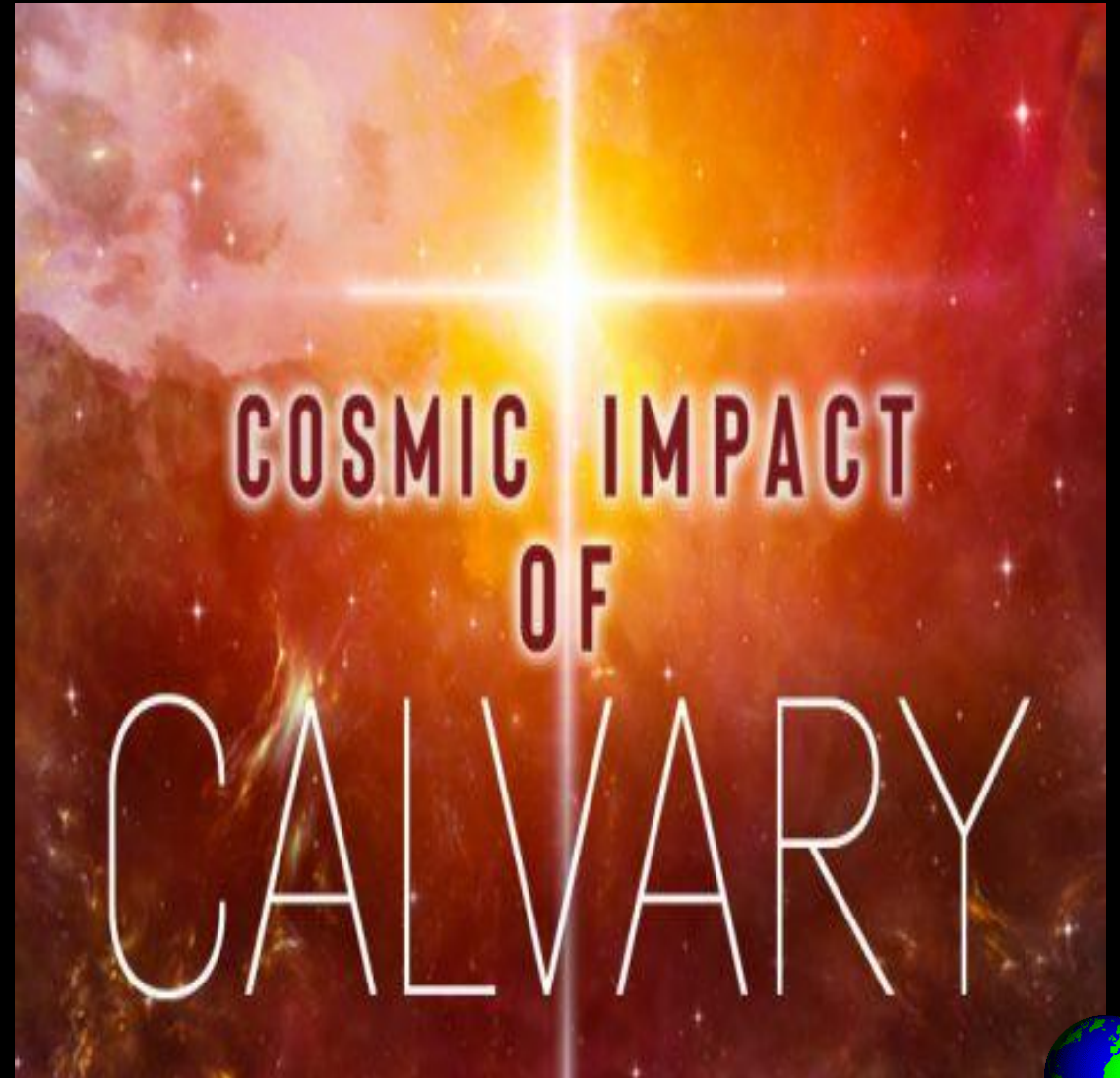


THE HOLY SPIRIT
Counselor Intercessor Comforter
Advocate Strengthenener



It Reveals the Cosmic Significance of the Cross

The salvation of humanity was at stake in Christ's ministry and death, for He came to give His life for the remission of our sins. In doing so He vindicated His Father's character, law, and government, against which Satan had cast false aspersions. Christ's life vindicated God's justice and goodness and demonstrated that God's law and government were fair. Christ revealed the groundlessness of Satan's attack on God, showing that through total dependence on God's power and grace repentant believers could rise above the harassments and frustrations of daily temptations and live victorious over sin.

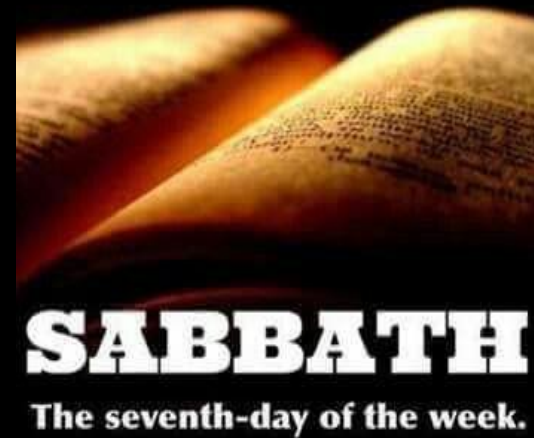


God Sets Things Right

In vision John saw an angel flying in the midst of heaven taking the gospel to the world and announcing God's final action. He gives a call to worship God, who created heaven and earth, because judgment time has come. This is a vision of a worldwide movement helping God to set things right. It speaks of His creative power and His right to be God. The race that Satan wished to control and destroy has not been given the privilege to make a statement against him and supportive of God. The throne room question about God needs to be settled. The earth is the test case. If God's authority could legitimately be set aside here, then it could be set aside anywhere. The fourth commandment speaks of God as Creator. It speaks to His authority and to the lordship of Christ. The issue is more than simply one day of worship versus another, as important as that is. It has to do with God's final statement to the universe of who He is and who His Son is.



SATURDAY



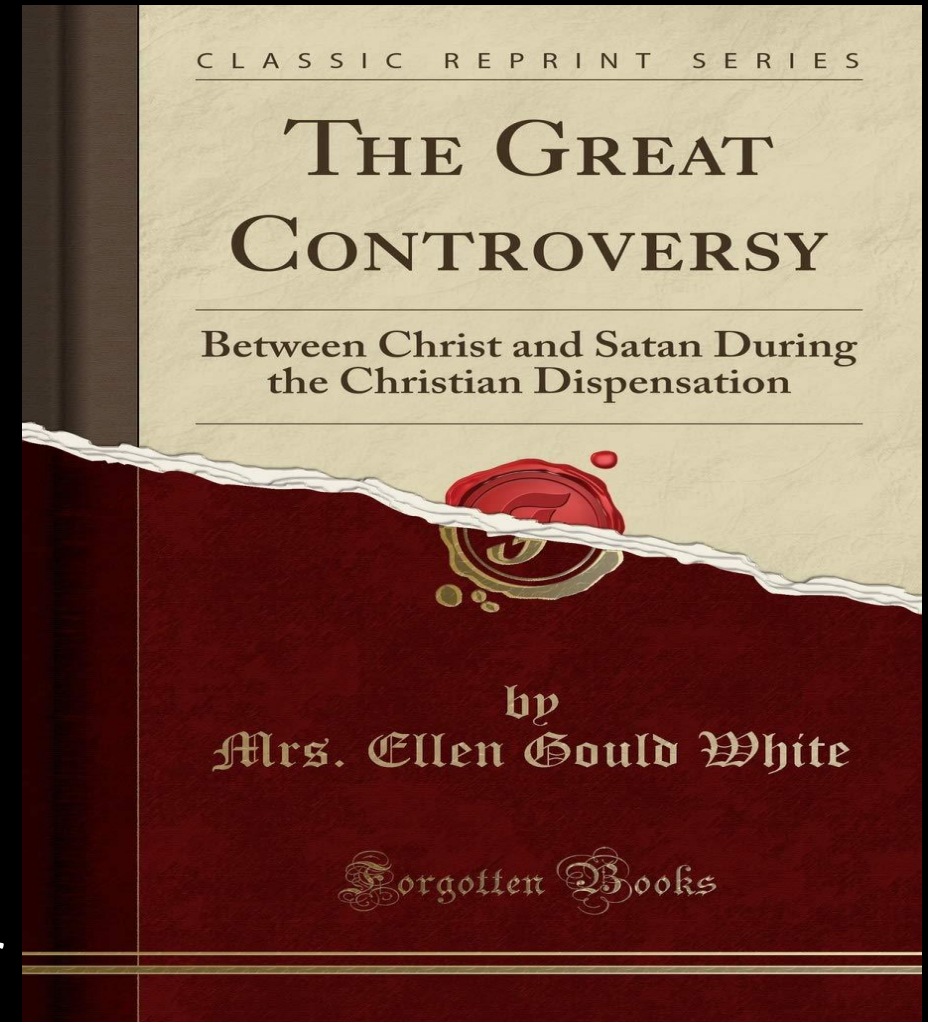
WHAT DO WE DO DURING THIS GREAT CONTROVERSY?

So what are we to do while this Great Controversy wages on throughout the earth and within our hearts?

We know we can't do this on our own, and we know we will make mistakes. But those who hold onto Christ's promises will be saved ([Matthew 24:13](#)).

To help us, God offers us many promises and pieces of advice throughout the Bible:

- “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ([Matthew 26:41](#)).
- “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.” ([James 4:7-8](#)).



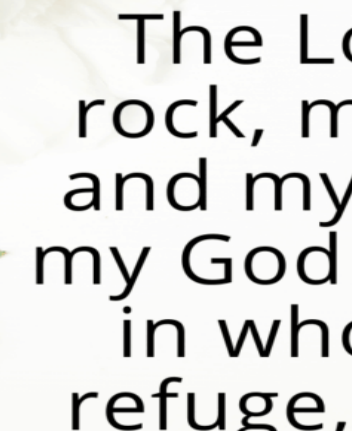
What do we do during this Great Controversy (cont'd)

- “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” ([Matthew 11:28-30](#)).
- “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” ([Romans 10:9](#)).
- “Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.” ([Joshua 24:14](#)).
- “I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.” ([John 15:5](#)).



What do we do during this Great Controversy (cont'd)

- “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” ([John 3:16, 17](#)).
- “Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you” ([1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#)).
- “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” ([1 John 1:9](#)).



The Lord is my
rock, my fortress
and my deliverer;
my God is my rock,
in whom I take
refuge, my shield
and the horn of my
salvation, my
stronghold.

Psalm 18:2



GOD'S ULTIMATE VICTORY

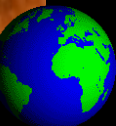
The entire universe has its eyes on Earth, waiting to see how this war plays out. Will God's good and just character finally be vindicated?

Fortunately, we already know how this war is going to end. God told us Himself in the book of Revelation, explaining how Satan and everyone he's deceived will one day be wiped out and the world will be made new ([Revelation 20](#)).

One day, God promises us He will put an end to sin, destroy Satan and his followers, and make all things right again. But before that happens, everyone has to make a choice.

Everyone on Earth must take a side in this spiritual war, this Great Controversy. They must look at the world around them, see the terrible results sin has brought, and choose whom they will serve.

They can serve God, accepting His free gift of salvation and choosing to live by His commandments, or they can serve themselves, choosing the path of rebellion, following Satan, and eventually sharing his fate.

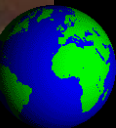


God's Ultimate Victory (cont'd)

Scripture has already made it clear how this great war for Earth is going to end. **God will one day be victorious, conquering sin once and for all. He will set up a new kingdom on earth, a kingdom that will never die. God wants each and every one of us to be there with Him. He is patient with us,** *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."* (2 Peter 3:10).

But ultimately, the choice is ours. It's up to us whose side we take in the Great Controversy over God's character.

We can choose the path of rebellion and selfishness, which is made to look appealing to the flesh, but it leads to destruction. Or, even though this world makes it difficult, we can choose the path of justice, mercy, and God's unfailing love.



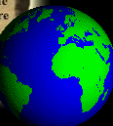
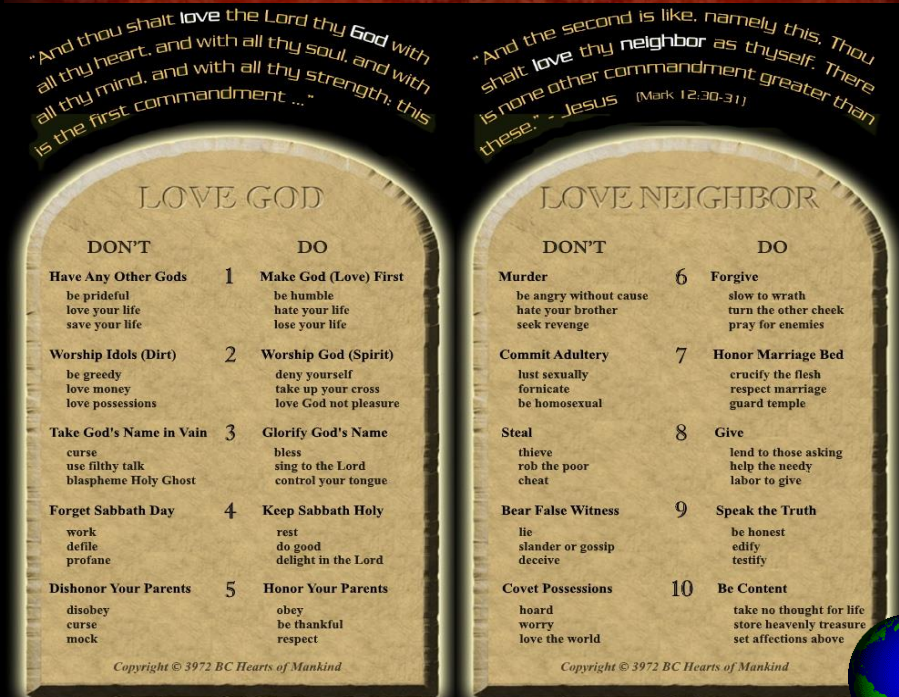
Today the Great Controversy is peaking

Today the conflict is nearing its close. With great urgency the Holy Spirit and angels are seeking to help people choose God's side and put loyalty to God, righteousness, and truth above life itself. Scripture makes clear that the ultimate outcome will be complete victory for God and vindication of His character and law. But until that day—the day when God destroys Satan and his followers and purifies the world by fire—good and evil will continue side by side, a powerful testimony that supernatural forces are continuing their deadly warfare begun long ago in heaven. For further study, see [Genesis 6-8](#); [Romans 1:18-32](#); [5:12-21](#); [8:19-22](#); [1 Corinthians 4:9](#); [Hebrews 1:4-14](#); [2 Peter 3:6](#).

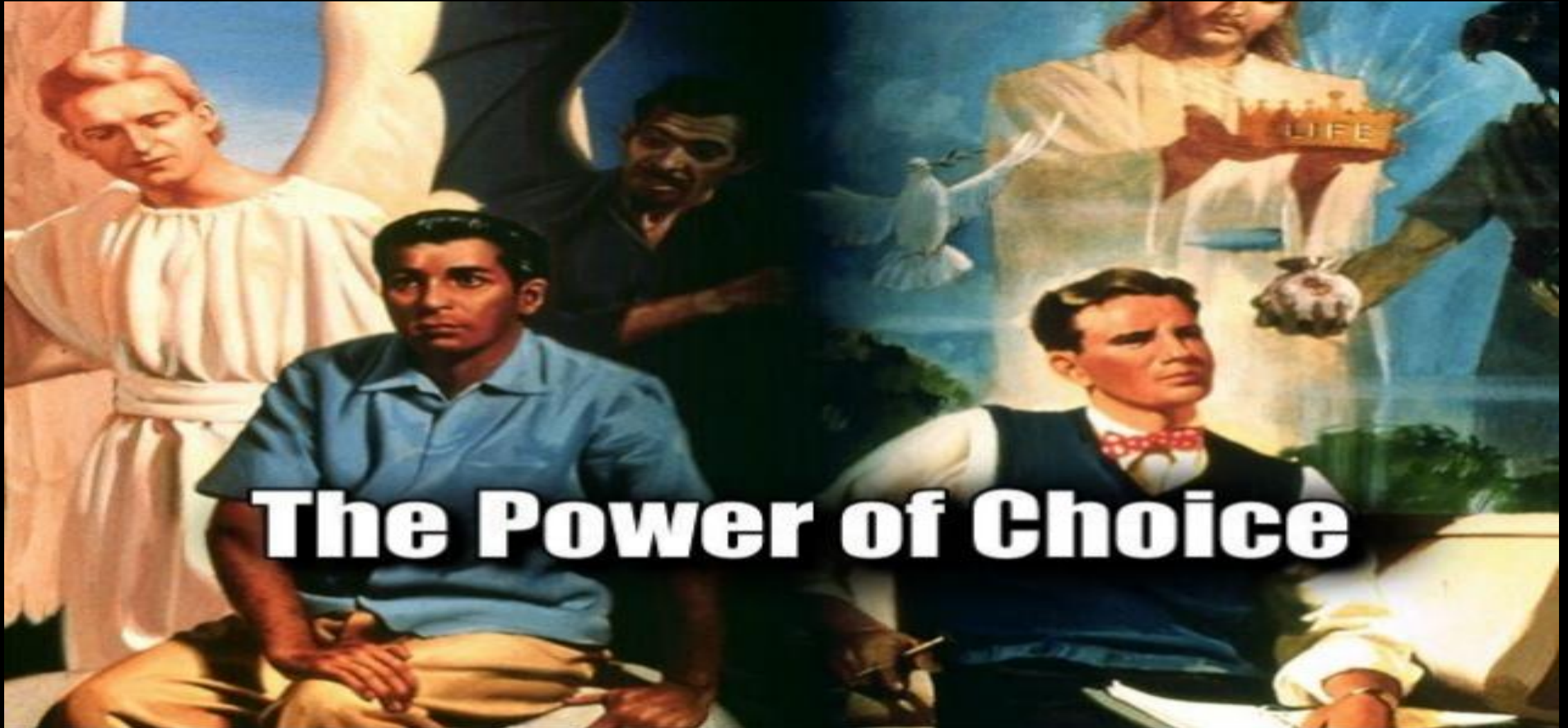


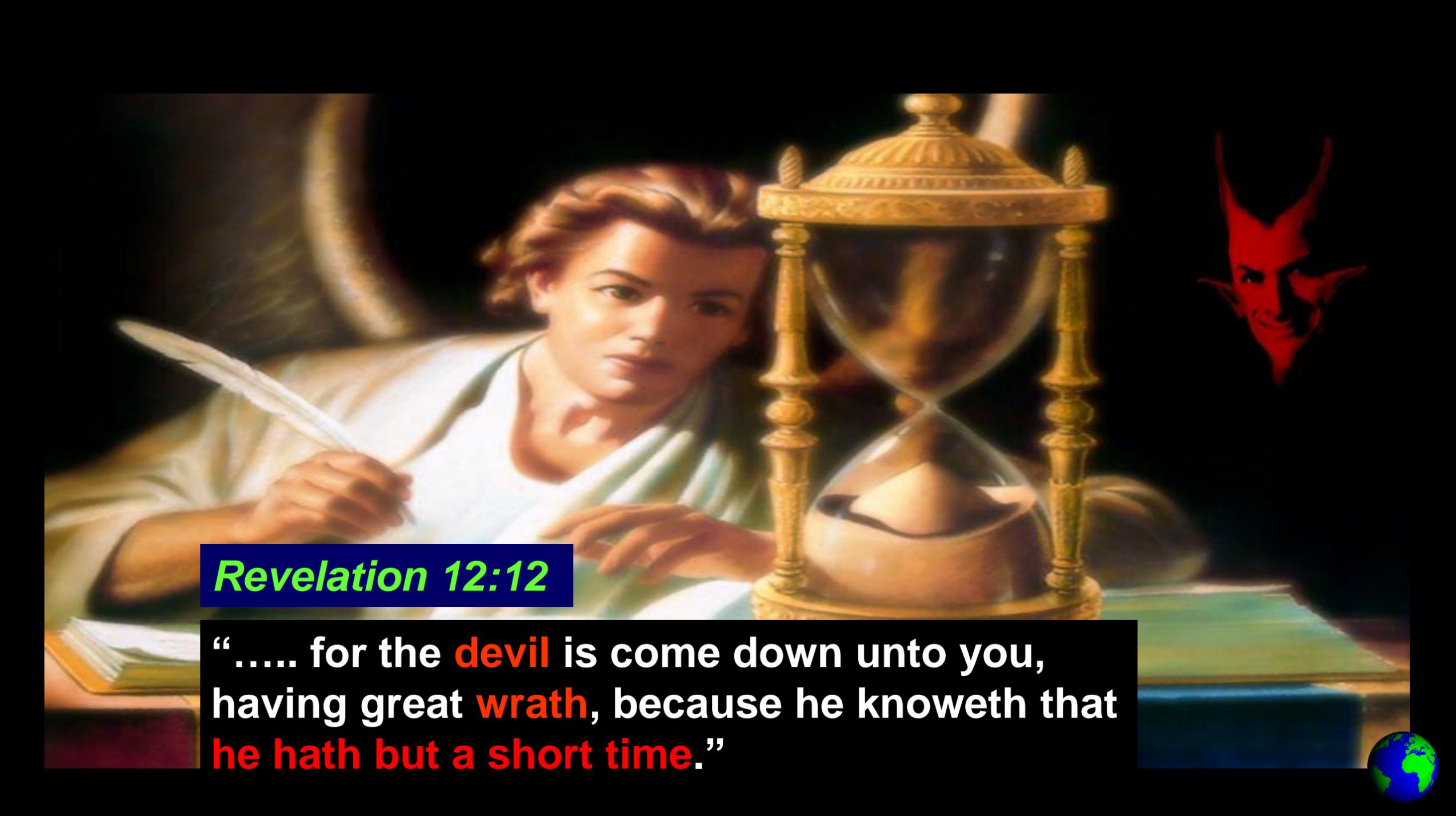
CONCLUSION - THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

All humanity is now involved in a great controversy between Christ and Satan regarding the character of God, His law, and His sovereignty over the universe. This conflict originated in heaven when a created being, endowed with freedom of choice, in self-exaltation became Satan, God's adversary, and led into rebellion a portion of the angels. He introduced the spirit of rebellion into this world when he led Adam and Eve into sin. This human sin resulted in the distortion of the image of God in humanity, the disordering of the created world, and its eventual devastation at the time of the global flood, as presented in the historical account of Genesis 1-11. Observed by the whole creation, this world became the arena of the universal conflict, out of which the God of love will ultimately be vindicated. To assist His people in this controversy, Christ sends the Holy Spirit and the loyal angels to guide, protect, and sustain them in the way of salvation. (Genesis 3; 6-8; Job 1:6-12; Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-18; Romans 1:19-32; 3:4; 5:12-21; 8:19-22; 1 Corinthians 4:9; Hebrews 1:14; 1 Peter 5:8; 2 Peter 3:6; Revelation 12:4-9)



God has given all:



An angel with a halo is shown writing in a book with a quill. Next to the angel is a large, ornate hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dark, dramatic environment.

Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you,
having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that
he hath but a short time.”



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





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?