

The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan is a cosmic conflict that began in heaven and was transferred to earth through the fall of Adam. This conflict revolves around the character and authority of God regarding His law—which is a transcript of His character and the foundation of His government. Lucifer, who was the first created being and a covering cherub in the throne room of heaven, rebelled against God and challenged His authority as the supreme ruler of the universe. Lucifer's responsibility was to look with reverence toward God's law contained in the Ark of the Covenant. However, he became lifted up because of his beauty, and his heart became hardened through pride. He desired to "be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:14) and determined to establish a better government than God. Satan deliberately rebelled against God and began to sow discord in heaven. He deceived one-third of the angels, eventually caused war in heaven, and was cast out with his angels. The Great Controversy continues to rage on earth today in the heart and mind of man! We must decide whose side we are on and who will have our allegiance. Let us study and learn What God Says About…"The Great Controversy."

THE CONTROVERSY BEGAN IN HEAVEN

1. What was Lucifer's original position in heaven?

"Thou art _____ _____ _____ _____ _____; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire." *Ezekiel 28:14*

Note: *Lucifer originally dwelt in the presence of God as the anointed covering cherub in the most holy place of the heavenly sanctuary. According to the earthly model of the tabernacle, two cherubs were positioned on each end of the mercy seat facing each other. Their high stretched wings covered the mercy seat as they looked downward with reverence towards God's law contained in the Ark of the Covenant (Exodus 25:16-22). Lucifer is very acquainted with God's sacred law and knows that it is the foundation of God's government and throne.*

2. Where does Lucifer desire to ascend? He is determined to exalt what above the stars or angels of God?

"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend _____ _____, I will exalt _____ _____ above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." *Isaiah 14:13*

Note: *The prophet Isaiah reveals the deep longings of the corrupt heart of Lucifer. This perfectly created angel, who chose to become Satan, desires to exalt himself above the angels and establish his throne in heaven. He is determined to receive worship and will do all in his power to receive it.*

3. What is Satan's ultimate desire?

"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *Isaiah 14:14*

Note: *Satan craves the seat and prerogatives of God. He, a created being, covets the position and authority of God. He has declared that he will exalt himself and be like God Almighty. In other words, Satan wants to be worshipped just as God is worshipped. Thus, during Christ's earthly ministry, he sought to receive worship from Jesus (see Matthew 4:9 and 10).*

THE ORIGIN OF SIN

4. How did God create Lucifer? What deadly vice originated in Lucifer?

"Thou wast _____ ____ _____ _____ from the day that thou wast created, till _____ was found in thee." *Ezekiel 28:15*

Note: *It is important to note that God did not create the devil. This means that God is not responsible for sin and must not be unjustly charged for the evils in this world. God created Lucifer, a perfect angel, who deliberately chose to rebel against God and become the devil or Satan.*

5. What egregious act did Lucifer commit in heaven?

"By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and _____ _____ _____: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire." *Ezekiel 28:16*

Note: *Sin originated in the mind of Lucifer. This covering cherub, who once reverenced God's law, sinned and broke God's law (Exodus 20:3; 17; 1 John 3:4). He did so by coveting God's position, which ultimately led to his expulsion from heaven. Satan despises God's law and all who obey it.*

6. What led to Lucifer's prideful downfall?

"_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ because of _____ _____, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee." *Ezekiel 28:17*

Note: *Lucifer's heart became lifted up because of his beauty. Clearly, he was self-centered and filled with pride. According to the book of Proverbs, God hates pride, and it results in a destructive fall (Proverbs 6:16, 17; 16:18).*

WAR IN HEAVEN

7. According to John the Revelator, what erupted in heaven? Who fought in this cosmic conflict?

"And there was _____ in heaven: _____ and _____ _____ fought against the dragon; and _____ _____ fought and _____ _____." *Revelation 12:7*

Note: *According to the book of Revelation, war erupted in heaven. This war revolved around the character and authority of God regarding His law. Revelation 12:7 indicates that Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels. Why is this? It is because Satan became jealous and despised Jesus, who received worship. Michael, which means "who is like God," is another name for Jesus Christ. Michael the archangel—the commander of the angels, was worshipped by the angels. Whereas, Lucifer, the first created being and highest angel, did not receive worship from the angels. Therefore, due to wounded pride and deceit, Satan secured sympathizing angels on his side and convinced them that the government of heaven would run better if he were in charge. Hence, he sowed seeds of discord and raised doubts regarding God's character, authority, and law. Eventually, war erupted in heaven, and he and his angels were cast out.*

8. How does John indicate that Satan and his angels lost the war in heaven? What did they forfeit in heaven?

"And _____ _____; neither was _____ _____ found any more in heaven." *Revelation 12:8*

Note: *Obviously, Satan and his angels lost the war in heaven. As a result of their rebellion and defeat, their place was forever lost in heaven, and it will never be occupied by them again. Therefore, they are determined to keep as many people out of heaven as possible and will put forth their utmost efforts to prevent anyone from dwelling where they once resided.*

9. What happened to the great dragon who fought in heaven? Where was he cast? Who was cast out with him?

"And _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out _____ _____ _____, and

_____ _____ were cast out with him." *Revelation 12:9*

10. How many stars of heaven did the dragon's tail cast down to the earth?

"And his tail drew _____ _____ _____ of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born." *Revelation 12:4*

Note: *The third part of the stars of heaven that were cast out of heaven with the devil's tail symbolizes one-third of the angels (see Job 38:7 as an example that stars refer to angels). The devil's tail represents his lies (Isaiah 9:15, 16). Just as Satan deceived one-third of the angels when he sowed discord regarding God's character, authority, and law, he does so today with even greater success. Sadly, many have bought into Satan's lie that God is unfair and unjust, and that His law cannot be kept. The question to be resolved in the Great Controversy is this: "Can God produce a people who will vindicate His character and keep His law?" According to Scripture, God will produce a people who will disprove the charges and claims of Satan and keep His law (Revelation 14:1-5; 12).*

11. According to Jesus, how did Satan fall from heaven?

"And he said unto them, I beheld Satan _____ _____ fall from heaven." *Luke 10:18*

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

12. According to John the Revelator, who was slain from the foundation of the world?

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of _____ _____ slain from the foundation of the world." *Revelation 13:8*

Note: *When John the Revelator says that the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world, he is indicating that the Plan of Salvation was already in place when the world was created. In other words, God devised a plan that should man sin, Jesus would sacrifice His life for sinners.*

13. How far back was the Lamb of God foreordained to die for the sins of the world?

18"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers. 19But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20Who verily was foreordained _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, but was manifest in these last times for you." *1 Peter 1:18-20*

Note: *In 1 Peter 1:20, the apostle Peter is saying that God's plan for Jesus to be sacrificed for sinners was not an afterthought. God's plan was already in place from eternity past—"before the foundation of the world."*

THE CREATION OF THE WORLD

14. What did God create in the beginning?

"In the beginning God created _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *Genesis 1:1*

15. Who did God create upon the earth after it was made?

"I have made the earth, and created _____ upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded." *Isaiah 45:12*

16. What does God give to all people who live upon the earth?

"Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth _____ unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein." *Isaiah 42:5*

17. God created the world in how many days? On which day did God rest?

[16]"Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the sabbath, to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant. [17]It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in _____ _____ the LORD made heaven and earth, and on _____ _____ _____ he rested, and was refreshed." *Exodus 31:16, 17*

Note: *After God created the world in six days, He declared that everything was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). After which, He blessed, sanctified, and rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3). God created a perfect world without any blemish, spot, or trace of sin. It was God's intention for planet earth and its inhabitants to remain in this perfect state forever.*

THE TEST IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Note: *After God created a perfect world and people, He established a test for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This was necessary because like the angels in heaven, they were created with free will. They must be given the opportunity to either choose to love and obey God or choose to disobey God. God did not create robots that were forced to love Him. Satan, having been cast out of heaven, would be permitted to tempt Adam and Eve. Their*

only safety would be to obey God's Word and to not venture onto forbidden ground. If they passed the test, they would have been forever secure and would never have had to face temptation again. However, if they failed the test, they would have to suffer the consequences.

18. What two trees did God place in the midst of the Garden of Eden?

"And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; _____ _____ _____ _____ also in the midst of the garden, and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____." *Genesis 2:9*

Note: *God placed two trees in the midst of the Garden of Eden as a test—the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God warned Adam and Eve about Satan's rebellion and fall from heaven. While He didn't tell them exactly how Satan would disguise Himself and seek to tempt them to fall, He told them to stay together at all times and be on constant guard to resist Satan.*

19. What command did God give regarding every tree? What restriction did God give regarding the tree of knowledge of good and evil? What would happen if they disobeyed?

16"And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden _____ _____ _____ _____: 17But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____: for in the day that thou eatest thereof _____ _____ _____ _____." *Genesis 2:16, 17*

Note: *Satan was confined to the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He was not permitted to follow Adam and Eve around in the garden to harass and tempt them. He could only tempt them if they ventured close to the forbidden tree.*

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY TRANSFERRED TO PLANET EARTH

Note: *After being cast out of heaven with his angels, Satan was determined to infect planet earth with the disease of sin. After Adam sinned, the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan was transferred to planet earth, and it now rages in the heart and mind of every person.*

20. What lie did Satan tell Eve at the forbidden tree? What did Eve immediately do after she took the fruit? What did Adam do when Eve gave him the fruit?

[4]"And the serpent said unto the woman, _____ _____ _____ _____ _____: [5]For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. [6]And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and _____ _____, and gave also unto her husband with her; and _____ _____ _____." *Genesis 3:4-6*

Note: *Once Satan tempted Eve and led her to bite the forbidden fruit, he could now work through Eve as his medium to tempt Adam to fall. His strategy was successful. He caused our first parents to sin and fail the test.*

21. What opened when Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit? What did they sew together to cover themselves?

"And _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed _____ _____ together, and made themselves aprons." *Genesis 3:7*

22. Through whom did sin enter the world?

"Wherefore, as _____ _____ _____ sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." *Romans 5:12*

THE FIRST GOSPEL PROMISE

23. What did God promise to put between the serpent and the woman and their seed? What shall the woman's seed do to the head of the serpent?

"And I will put _____ between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall _____ _____ _____, and thou shalt bruise his heel." *Genesis 3:15*

Note: *Genesis 3:15 contains the first gospel promise. God put enmity or conflict in the heart of humanity against Satan. In other words, mankind would be able to resist Satan's power through Jesus Christ—the coming Redeemer. Jesus would die for our sins and crush the serpent's head.*

THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB

24. What did God use to clothe Adam and Eve's nakedness?

"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make _____ _____ _____, and clothed them." *Genesis 3:21*

Note: *Adam, as a consequence of his sin, had to offer the first sacrifice of an innocent lamb. The lamb and its shed blood pointed forward to Jesus—The Lamb of God who would die for the sins of the world (John 1:29). God*

clothed Adam and Eve with the lamb's skin to cover their nakedness.

25. How many people would Christ draw to Himself as a result of dying on the cross?

[32]"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw _____ men unto me. [33]This he said, signifying what death he should die." *John 12:32, 33*

Note: *Obviously, all will not be saved. However, the magnetic power of Christ's death draws the world to repent of their sins, if they do not resist.*

26. What did God provide as a result of Christ's death on Calvary?

"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come _____, and _____, and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____, and _____ _____ _____ _____ _____: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." *Revelation 12:10*

Note: *When Christ died on Calvary, Satan was cast down to the earth for good, and he lost all access to heaven. As a result of Christ's victory on Calvary, believers are to tap into the power source of Christ who enables them to receive salvation and obtain victory over sin. Through His death, Christ recovered the first dominion that Satan usurped from Adam (Micah 4:8). Soon, God will bruise or crush Satan under His saints' feet (Romans 16:20). Christ defeated Satan in heaven and on earth, and He will defeat him through His saints who love God and obey His law. Surely, Christ will win the Great Controversy.*

SUMMARY

The Great Controversy is a cosmic conflict between Christ and Satan that began in heaven and was transferred to planet earth. Lucifer, the anointed covering cherub, was created perfect in all his ways, but became lifted up because of his beauty and pride. He, coveting God's position and authority, desired to be worshipped, rebelled in heaven, deceived one-third of the angels, and engaged in a war against Michael and his angels. The devil was utterly defeated and cast down to the earth. Satan claims that God is unfair and unjust, and that His law cannot be kept. The question to be resolved in the Great Controversy is this: "Can God produce a people who will vindicate His character and keep His law?" According to Scripture, God will produce a people who will disprove the claims of Satan and keep His law. The Plan of Salvation was not an afterthought. When Adam and Eve failed the test in the garden, God provided a means by which man could resist Satan's power through Jesus Christ—the coming Redeemer. Christ defeated Satan on Calvary and will ultimately win the Great Controversy.

27. Dear friend, will you surrender your heart to Christ as the Great Controversy rages over your life? _____

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