

**Enoch Khandagle**



# **The Origin Of Sin**

**In The Presence of God**

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## Preface

The problem of sin is not simply a theological puzzle—it is the deepest question of human existence. Every cry of injustice, every fear of death, every broken relationship, and every silent doubt about God traces back to one unsettling mystery: *How did evil arise in a universe created by a loving God—and why has it been allowed to continue?*

This book was written to face that question honestly, biblically, and to cover the story of good and evil from beginning to end.

*The Origin of Sin in the Presence of God* is a dedicated Bible study journey through what Scripture calls the great controversy—the cosmic conflict between truth and deception, love and selfishness, Christ and Satan. It is not written to speculate beyond Scripture, nor to reduce suffering to abstract theory. Rather, it seeks to uncover the biblical explanation of sin in a way that preserves God’s goodness, upholds human responsibility, and restores hope.

This work is inspired first and foremost by the Bible—the ultimate and final authority on all matters of faith and truth. In addition, it has been deeply influenced by the writings of Ellen G. White, whose insights into the great controversy theme have helped generations of believers better understand Scripture. Particularly formative were works such as *Patriarchs and Prophets*, *The Great Controversy*, and *Confrontation*, which illuminate the unfolding conflict between good and evil in the light of God’s character. While this book does not seek to replace Scripture or spirit of prophecy, it gratefully compiles and builds upon their perspectives.

Across cultures and religions, humanity has proposed many explanations for good and evil. Some claim evil is eternal. Others say it is necessary. Still others dismiss it as illusion or evolution. Even within Christianity, many struggle to reconcile a good God with a suffering world. Too often, God Himself is subtly blamed, while the true origin of sin remains misunderstood.

The Bible presents a radically different story.

Scripture reveals that good existed first. Love existed first. Freedom existed first. Evil did not arise because God created it, nor because it was required for growth, but because freedom was misused. Sin began not on earth, but in heaven—within a created being who chose self-exaltation over trust, pride over gratitude, independence over love. From that moment, the universe entered a moral conflict that would eventually reach humanity.

At the centre of this controversy stands the character of God.

“God is love” is not a poetic description; it is the foundation of His government. God rules not by force, fear, or coercion, but through truth, justice, mercy, and freedom. His law is not a system of control—it is an expression of His character. Obedience in God’s kingdom was once joyful, intelligent, and voluntary. Sin began when that trust was broken and God’s character was misrepresented.

This book traces that story carefully—beginning with God’s government of love, the exalted position and tragic fall of Lucifer, the rise of rebellion in heaven, and the war that followed. **It follows the conflict as it moves to earth through the deception of Adam and Eve, the loss of Eden, and the long history of human suffering that resulted due to ongoing great controversy.**

But the story does not end in loss.

In Christ, God entered the conflict Himself. Jesus did not come merely to forgive sin, but to expose Satan’s lies, reveal the true character of the Father, and secure the universe against rebellion forever. The cross stands as the great turning point of the great controversy—where justice and mercy met, where love was fully revealed, and where Satan’s accusations were decisively answered.

Yet the conflict continues.

Scripture reveals that the great controversy unfolds through history, through God’s remnant people, through truth proclaimed in a world of deception, and through a final choice placed before every human heart. It moves toward the complete end of sin, the final judgment, and the restoration of harmony in the universe—a universe at peace once again.

**This book is also written with deep gratitude, much love and respect to Pastor Adrian Ebens, and to friends and fellow believers whose faithful work, study, and conversations have helped me understand the great controversy in the light of the character of God.** Their influence has strengthened my conviction that truth, when rightly understood, always leads us to trust God more deeply.

Ultimately, this is not merely a story about angels, history, or prophecy. It is about you.

Every human being lives within this controversy. Every life reveals a choice—trust or doubt, self or love, truth or deception. Neutrality is impossible. To understand the origin of sin is to understand the stakes of our own decisions and the depth of God’s love.

If the Bible is true, then suffering is not meaningless, evil is not permanent, and God is not the author of pain. History is moving toward restoration. Sin will not rise again. And the greatest question of the universe—*Can God be trusted?*—will be answered forever.

This book is an invitation:  
to study Scripture deeply,  
to question honestly,  
to see God clearly,  
and to choose wisely.

May this journey lead you not merely to knowledge, but to trust.

Let us study together—patiently, prayerfully, and without fear.

Enoch Khandagle

## Chapter 1 — The Good and the Evil

From the earliest moments of human consciousness, people have asked the same haunting questions: *Why is the world both beautiful and broken? Why do love and hatred, justice and cruelty, selflessness and violence exist side by side?* No civilisation, tribe, or individual has escaped this tension. Every human being, shaped by religion, culture, or community, carries an explanation of the origin of good and evil —spoken or unspoken.

A child raised in a traditional village may learn that offended spirits cause evil. A philosopher may argue that evil is merely the absence of good. A secular thinker may insist that moral categories are evolutionary byproducts and human survival tools refined over time. A religious devotee may see good and evil as forces locked in cosmic struggle. Some may **also** say the presence of evil is the consequence of generational curses. Though the answers differ, the question remains universal: **Why does evil exist at all, and why does it persist?**

Across the world's religions and cultures, explanations for why good and evil coexist vary widely.

In **Eastern worldviews**, such as Hinduism and Buddhism, good and evil are often seen as part of a cycle—*karma balancing* moral cause and effect across lifetimes. It's understood this way that suffering exists because of desire, ignorance, and imbalance, not because of a personal evil being.

In **ancient dualistic systems**, like Zoroastrianism, good and evil are two nearly equal forces locked in opposition, and each eternally exists. Among these communities, the phrase "*History is the battlefield where their struggle unfolds*" is an evocative, philosophical statement that suggests historical conflicts such as military combats, or political power struggle is fundamentally driven by conflict and competition between opposing forces.— Good and evil.

In **modern secular thought**, evil is frequently explained in biological or sociological terms. Violence is blamed on genetics, trauma, or environment. Moral failure is reduced to dysfunction rather than rebellion.

In **Islam**, evil is understood as the result of human choice and the deception of Satan (Iblis), yet always under the sovereignty of God.

Even within **traditional Christianity**, many struggle to reconcile a good God with a world of suffering. Some conclude that evil is necessary, others that it is mysterious, and still others that it is simply inevitable.

These explanations offer insight, yet many leave crucial questions unanswered: *If evil is necessary, why resist it? If it is eternal, how can there be hope? If it is merely an illusion, why does it hurt so deeply?*

## The Bible's Unique Perspective

The Bible presents a worldview unlike any other. It does not portray good and evil as equal forces, nor does it describe evil as necessary, eternal, or illusory. Instead, Scripture declares that **good existed first**, and evil came later—through a tragic abuse of freedom.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). When creation was finished, God declared it “very good” (Genesis 1:31). Evil was not part of God’s design.

The Bible reveals that evil began not on earth, but in heaven—with a created being who misused freedom. Speaking symbolically of Lucifer, Scripture says:

Ezekiel 28:15 the Lord says to Satan “You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity (sin) was found in you”.

After falling in sin and rebelling against God, Lucifer (Satan) said in his heart “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God” (Isaiah 14:13). The Bible reveals that with this intention Satan has waged war against God for thousands of years. He is the reason why evils keep multiplying on earth continuously.

Therefore, according to the Bible, Evil is not a substance created by God, but a **rebellion Satan has perpetrated against love and truth found in God**. It is the result of choice—not necessity. This rebellion extended to humanity in Genesis 3, where deception replaced trust, and self replaced obedience. Yet even here, the Bible introduces hope. God promises that evil will not last forever (Genesis 3:15).

## Why Trust the Bible's Account About the Origin of Good and Evil?

The Bible's explanation is meaningful as it preserves **human responsibility** without making God the author of evil. It is deep because it addresses not only behaviour, but motives, freedom, love, and character.

It is complete as it explains the **origin, purpose, and end of evil**. The Bible account is true as it aligns with the human experience of conscience, conflict, and hope.

Unlike systems where evil is eternal, the Bible promises its end: “The devil... was cast into the lake of fire” (Revelation 20:10).

“There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying” (Revelation 21:4).

This book is an invitation—to think deeply, to question honestly, and to study carefully. The subject of good and evil is not merely philosophical; it is personal. It touches every heart, every home, every choice.

If the Bible is correct, then history is not random, suffering is not meaningless, and evil is not permanent. There is a reason for the conflict—and a glorious end.

The greatest controversy is not merely between good and evil in the world. It is the controversy over **who God truly is. Good or evil?**

Let us study this subject together—patiently, prayerfully, and without fear.

## **Chapter 2 – God’s Government and the Law of Love**

The story of the **origin of evil** does not begin on Earth. It begins much earlier, far beyond what human eyes can see, in the presence of God Himself.

The Bible introduces God with a simple yet profound statement: **“God is love” (1 John 4:16)**. This is not merely something God does; it is who He is. His love is not emotional or unpredictable. It is steady, faithful, and eternal. Scripture describes Him as “the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity,” whose “ways are everlasting.” He does not change. With Him “is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (Isaiah 57:15; Habakkuk 3:6; James 1:17). From the very beginning, God’s character has been the same: love expressed through justice, and freedom guided by truth.

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). Long before human beings existed, God brought into existence angels and a vast host of worlds. Creation was not an experiment, nor was it an act of loneliness. Every manifestation of His creative power was **and is** an expression of infinite love. God’s sovereignty was not about control, but about blessing. **God rules to give life, joy, and purpose to others while being just, righteous, merciful and true.**

**King David beautifully expresses this balance by describing to us how God takes care of heavenly affairs:** “Strong is Thy hand, and high is Thy right hand. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne: mercy and truth go before Thy face” (Psalm 89:13–14).

Human rulers often separate these qualities. Some emphasise justice but lack mercy. Others speak of love but ignore righteousness. God is neither harshly legalistic nor permissive toward sin. His justice is trustworthy, and His mercy is principled. He is both a righteous King and a compassionate Lord. Therefore his government inspires confidence rather than fear.

### **The Son at the Centre of Heaven**

The Bible says that God the Father was not alone in His work of creation and blessing. He had an associate, a co-worker who shared His purposes and His joy in giving happiness to created beings. Scripture reveals this glorious truth: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” John 1:1–2.

Jesus Christ, the Word, is the only begotten Son of God. He was one with the Father in nature, character, and purpose. He alone could enter fully into the counsels of God. Long before He came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem, He stood beside the Father as Creator and Lord.

Jesus Himself speaks of this ancient relationship:

“The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old... When He

appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him... and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him” (Proverbs 8:22–30).

This reveals something deeply relational about God’s government. It was built on love shared, joy expressed, and purpose fulfilled together. Jesus was not a created being among many, but the Son, the delight of the Father, and the rightful Lord of heaven.

## **Angels and the Order of Heaven**

Moreover, through the Son, the Father created all heavenly beings. “By Him were all things created... whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers” (Colossians 1:16). Angels are God’s ministers, radiant with the light flowing from His presence. They move swiftly to carry out His will, not as slaves, but as joyful servants.

Yet as glorious as angels are, they are not equal to Christ. The Son is “the express image” of God’s person, “the brightness of His glory,” and the One “upholding all things by the word of His power” (Hebrews 1:3). Supremacy belongs to Him alone. His throne is described as a “glorious high throne from the beginning” (Jeremiah 17:12), and His sceptre is a “sceptre of righteousness” (Hebrews 1:8). Honour, majesty, strength, and beauty surround Him. Mercy and truth go before His face.

## **The Law That Holds the Universe Together**

Just as every nation is governed by laws, God’s kingdom also operates under law. But this is not a cold system of rules. God’s law is an expression of His character. It is the **law of love**. **This is the same law he gave us through Moses**. Because love is the foundation of God’s government, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends on harmony with its principles of righteousness.

God desires the service of love, not forced obedience. He takes no pleasure in compliance that comes from fear. Instead, He grants freedom of will to all His creatures, inviting them to respond willingly to His goodness. Obedience in heaven was not burdensome; it was joyful. Love for God inspired loyalty, and love for one another created unity.

## **The Happy State of Heaven**

It’s important to know that, before evil ever existed, heaven was a place of perfect harmony. Every being acknowledged God’s authority as the authority of love. Angels rejoiced in fulfilling their Creator’s purpose. They delighted in reflecting His glory and praising His name. There was trust, unselfishness, and peace. No fear clouded their joy. No suspicion disrupted their relationships. Heaven was truly home.

But this happiness did not last forever.

A change came over this perfect state. The freedom God had granted was misused. Sin did not originate with an ignorant or weak being, but with one who had been greatly honoured. Next to Christ, he was highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven. In the next chapter we will find out who disturbed the harmony of heaven—and why?

## Chapter 3 – Lucifer: The Highest Created Being Ever

Before we can understand rebellion, we must first understand obedience which is a result of Love and trust. Before we can grasp the depth of evil Lucifer fell into, we must see the height from which he fell. The story of Lucifer is not merely the story of a villain; it is the story of a trusted leader, a gifted being, and a tragedy that forever changed the universe.

It is important to learn who Lucifer was *before* he rebelled against God. If we skip this part, we may misunderstand the nature of sin and the seriousness of the controversy that followed. Lucifer did not begin as God's enemy. He began as one of God's greatest creations. Only by seeing his original position can we begin to understand how rebellion could arise in a perfect heaven governed by love.

### Who Was Lucifer?

Lucifer was a real, personal being created by God. He was not an abstract symbol of evil, nor was he created sinful. The Bible presents him as a literal angelic being who once lived in perfect harmony with God and the rest of heaven. In fact, among all created beings, Lucifer stood closest to Christ in honour and responsibility. God Himself speaks of Lucifer's original state: "*Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty*" (Ezekiel 28:12).

Lucifer was the masterpiece among angels. He was intelligent, beautiful, and powerful. Nothing about him was flawed. The whole Heaven looked at him and saw excellence.

The name **Lucifer** means "*Light Bearer*" or "*Bearer of Light*." This name reveals both his role and his privilege. Lucifer was entrusted with reflecting God's light, His truth, and His character to the universe. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Lucifer was to reflect the glory of God.

This was not a small responsibility. Light in Scripture represents truth, life, and God's presence (John 1:4–9). To be called the Light Bearer meant that Lucifer stood in a position where others looked to him for guidance, inspiration, and leadership. He was meant to help others see God more clearly.

### Lucifer's Original Position and Privileges

Lucifer's position in heaven was unmatched among the angels. The Lord by the prophet Ezekiel says: "Thou (Lucifer) hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering" (Ezekiel 28:13). This verse indicates the garden of Eden was in heaven and it was the garden of God where Lucifer lived before he abandoned heaven. Which explains why the Bible says: *And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed - Genesis 2:8*

Moreover, “every precious stone was thy covering “, describes that honour, beauty, and royal dignity were given to Lucifer. He was not only exalted; he was adorned. Heavenly beings trusted him with authority and splendour. He was given access to places (the presence of God) that others could not go.

The Bible further says:

“Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so” (Ezekiel 28:14).

The “anointed cherub” suggests a role of guardianship and closeness to God’s throne. Lucifer stood in the presence of God. He covered, protected, and represented God’s government. This position was not earned through ambition; it was a gift from God’s generosity.

He walked “up and down in the midst of the stones of fire” (Ezekiel 28:14), a picture of intimate access to God’s glorious presence. Few beings in the universe were entrusted with such closeness.

## **His Role in Heaven**

Lucifer’s role was both leadership and service. He was created to work in harmony with God’s government, which was founded on the law of love. His influence was meant to strengthen unity, not divide it. Angels admired him. His wisdom and beauty inspired confidence. His voice carried weight.

Isaiah adds another glimpse of his former greatness:

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!” (Isaiah 14:12).

The phrase “*son of the morning*” points again to light, brightness, and prominence. Lucifer was like the dawn star of heaven, shining brightly among the angels.

Lucifer didn’t submit to God in fear but rather with a lot of love and trust. Lucifer was free, respected, and honoured. God shared His purposes with him and allowed him to participate in the administration of heaven.

## **God’s Trust and Generosity Toward Lucifer**

One of the most important truths to understand is this: **God did not mistreat Lucifer.** Scripture is clear that Lucifer was treated with generosity, fairness, and love.

He was created with extraordinary gifts above other angelic hosts: He was endowed with exceptional beauty, wisdom, authority, and musical abilities. (Ezekiel 28:12-17)

“Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created” (Ezekiel 28:15).

Lucifer was created perfectly. There was no hidden flaw, no built-in tendency toward evil. God gave him freedom of will, just as He gives it to all intelligent beings. That freedom was essential for genuine love. Forced loyalty is not love, and God never desired robotic obedience.

Everything Lucifer had come from God: his beauty, his wisdom, his musical abilities, his authority, and his influence. God withheld nothing necessary for his happiness. Heaven's joy was his joy. God's glory was his privilege to reflect.

Yet the same freedom that made love possible also made rebellion possible.

Ezekiel continues with words that mark the turning point of the universe: "Till iniquity was found in thee" (Ezekiel 28:15).

This short phrase carries immense weight. Sin did not come from God. It *appeared* within Lucifer.

The Bible later explains the nature of this change:

"Thine heart was lifted because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness" (Ezekiel 28:17).

Somehow, the Light Bearer began to look at the light as his own. Gratitude slowly gave way to self-focus. Trust shifted into pride. But how could such thoughts arise in a perfect heaven? How could dissatisfaction grow in a place where nothing was lacking?

This question brings us to the edge of the greatest mystery and the greatest controversy.

Lucifer had everything—honour, beauty, purpose, freedom, and closeness to God. He lacked nothing, yet something changed within his heart.

**Why did Lucifer rebel against a God of love?**

**How did pride replace gratitude in a perfect being?**

**And how did one angel's inner choice lead to a cosmic conflict that would reach all the way to Earth?**

In the next chapter, we will find answers to all these questions and see how the seed of pride turns into rebellion that disturbs heaven's peace for the first time.

## Chapter 4 — The Rise of Rebellion in Heaven

Before sin ever touched the earth, before pain, death, or fear entered the human story, a quiet tragedy began in the courts of heaven. It did not begin with war or violence. It began in the heart of a created being—with pride.

Heaven was a place of perfect harmony. Love flowed freely. The joy was complete. Every angel lived to honour God, and at the centre of that harmony stood Lucifer, the most honoured of all created angels.

### Pride and Self-Exaltation

Little by little, Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. Scripture reveals what was happening inside his heart:

“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.”

— *Ezekiel 28:17*

Lucifer was dazzling in beauty, brilliant in wisdom, and honoured above the heavenly host. But instead of seeing these gifts as coming from God, he began to see them as belonging to himself. Gratitude slowly faded. Admiration for God was replaced by admiration for self.

The Bible also records the thoughts he dared to cherish:

“Thou hast said in thine heart, ... I will exalt my throne above the stars of God... I will be like the Most High.”

— *Isaiah 14:13–14*

Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as his own. Not content with his position, though honoured above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it became his desire to secure their loyalty to himself.

And most dangerously, he began to envy the position of Christ, the Son of God.

### Lucifer’s Desire to Be Equal with the Father and the Son

Coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that belonged to Christ alone. He questioned why Christ should be honoured above him. In his heart arose the unspoken thought: *Why not me?*

Now the perfect harmony of heaven was broken.

Lucifer’s spirit of self-service instead of selfless love caused concern among the angels who cherished God’s glory above all else. In the heavenly council, they pleaded with him. The

Son of God Himself presented before Lucifer the greatness, goodness, and justice of the Father, and the sacred, unchanging nature of God's law.

Lucifer was warned in love. He was told that God had established the order of heaven and that departing from it would bring ruin. But instead of humbling himself, Lucifer allowed jealousy of Christ to prevail. The warning only strengthened his resistance.

### **The Father Sets the Record Straight**

In mercy and transparency, the King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts. Before them all, He clearly set forth the true position of His Son.

The Son of God shared the Father's throne. The glory of the eternal, self-existent One surrounded them both. Around the throne gathered a vast, unnumbered multitude of angels: "Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands." — *Revelation 5:11*

Before the assembled universe, the Father declared that Christ, His only-begotten Son, alone could fully enter into His purposes. To Him was committed the execution of the divine will. Christ had worked with the Father in creating all the hosts of heaven, and to Him, as well as to God, their allegiance and worship were due. (Matthew 11:27; John 1:18, Colossians 1:15–17)

The angels rejoiced. They bowed before Christ in love and loyalty. Even Lucifer bowed outwardly—but inside, a fierce conflict raged.

Truth and loyalty struggled against envy and pride. For a moment, worship softened his heart. Love thrilled his being. But pride returned. Once again, he indulged envy toward Christ.

"Why," he questioned in his heart, "should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He honoured above Lucifer?"

### **Lucifer's Accusations Against God**

Leaving the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer began a dangerous work. Quietly. Secretly. Carefully.

He went among the angels, spreading seeds of doubt. He disguised rebellion as concern. Reverence as reasoning.

He began to question God's law, suggesting that angels—being wise and exalted—did not need rules. He implied that the law restricted freedom (Psalms 94:20). He hinted that God's government was unfair and that Christ's exaltation was an injustice.

In doing this, Lucifer misrepresented both **God's law** and **God's character**.

God's law, which was founded on love, was portrayed as control. God's authority, which existed for joy and protection, was painted as oppression. Lucifer claimed that if he were exalted, freedom would increase and happiness would flourish. (Peter 2:19)

All the while, he insisted that he was loyal to God. But Jesus, tells us this about Satan: “He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth... when he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar.” John 8:44

## **Misrepresentation and Deception**

There had been no change in Christ’s authority. His position had always been the same. But Lucifer’s envy made it seem otherwise.

Using the trust placed in him, Lucifer subtly infused his own discontent into the minds of angels under his influence. He repeated their doubts as evidence that many were unhappy under God’s government. While secretly stirring rebellion, he appeared to be working for peace.

The spirit of dissatisfaction spread quietly. There was no open rebellion yet, but division grew. Some angels sympathised with Lucifer’s reasoning. Others remained loyal, pleading with the disaffected to trust God’s wisdom.

The loyal angels reminded them that Christ had always been one with the Father, long before angels existed. Heaven had known perfect harmony under His rule. Why should that harmony now be broken?

But the seeds had been planted.

A Heaven on the Edge

Heaven stood at a crossroads.

No open arguments had yet taken place. No intellectual battle had begun. But hearts were choosing sides. Trust in God was being tested. Loyalty was being weighed against pride.

The once-perfect unity of heaven trembled under the weight of deception.

And soon, the conflict hidden in thoughts and whispers would burst into open war.

I have understood and learned this history of the beginning of the great controversy from the book Patriarch and prophets, chapter 1, by Ellen g White

Mrs Ellen g white, writes this history with much detail in her book. I have only tried summarising and bringing out important aspects.

*In the next chapter, the rebellion will no longer be secret...War will break out in heaven.*

## Chapter 5 —War in Heaven

The Bible pulls back the curtain on a conflict most people never see, yet one that explains everything we experience today.

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought” (Revelation 12:7).

This was not a war of swords and fire. No physical weapons clashed. This was a war of **ideas**, of **character**, of **trust**. At its heart, it was a conflict between **truth and deception**, between **love and self-exaltation**.

Michael, whose name means “*Who is like God?*”, stood with angels who trusted God’s goodness. Michael is none other than Jesus in his pre-incarnated state.

Opposing Jesus and his angel was Lucifer who is identified as the dragon, leading angels who had begun to doubt God’s character and government. (Revelation 12:9)

The battlefield was the mind. **Satan’s weapon was persuasion with lies.**

### A Strange Thought in a Perfect Place

Before this conflict, heavenly beings knew no sorrow, no suspicion, no fear. Harmony was as natural as breathing. Yet something new appeared, something heaven had never known before: **discontentment.**

In great mercy, according to His divine character, God bore long with the one who began this unrest. The spirit of dissatisfaction had never before existed in heaven. It was strange, mysterious, and even confusing to the one who felt it. At first, Lucifer did not fully understand his own thoughts. He feared expressing them, yet he did not dismiss them.

God did not respond with force. Instead, **infinite love and wisdom went to work.**

God patiently reasoned with Satan. He revealed how he exercised justice mercifully. He showed Satan where his thoughts would lead him. The rebel was brought to see that “the Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works” (Psalm 145:17). He was convinced—if only for a moment—that he was wrong.

The door of mercy stood open. Had he humbled himself, acknowledged his error, and returned to trust in God's wisdom, he could have been restored. Heaven would have rejoiced. Many angels would have been saved from deception.

But something stood in the way.—**Pride.**

To admit error felt like a loss. To submit felt like humiliation. And so, instead of returning, he hardened his heart again.

### **Satan Core deception**

Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. He began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, but angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide. They were not beings that could bring dishonour to God; all their thoughts were holy; it was no more possible for them than for God Himself to err. The exaltation of the Son of God as equal with the Father was represented as an injustice to Lucifer, who, it was claimed, was also entitled to reverence and honour. If this prince of angels could attain to his true, exalted position, great good would accrue to the entire host of heaven; for it was his object to secure freedom for all. {PP 37:1}

To one lie Satan added another. "In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. **Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan**; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. When men broke the law of God and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God's favour. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner." {DOA, P.761}

So it's worth noting that it was Satan's idea that every sin must be punished and God can not show mercy and yet be just, which was Satan's made-up lie. He took these ideas and projected them on God and his kingdom. Making God look cruel and tyrannical. He told the Angels "God is loving, but if they broke his law he would destroy them forever." This was a major shock to all the angels that were deceived by Satan. They believed Satan's absurd lie which caused them to fall. This was the same lie Satan communicated to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden very subtly. Definitely, iniquity (the continuous falling into known sin deliberately) will destroy us but not because God would destroy us in a literal sense. But rather because iniquity separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). The absence of God brings suffering and also eternal death, because by choosing to live in sin one rejects the source of blessings and life.

There is a huge contrast to what Satan spread about God's character, kingdom and way of dealing with us compared to what we studied earlier: *Righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne: mercy and truth go before His face*" (Psalm 89:13–14).

The use of colon (:) in the centre of this verse is to express how righteousness and justice mean God is merciful and truthful toward us. The way Jesus dealt with the woman caught in adultery whom Pharisees and priests were ready to stone, is a perfect and beautiful example of how God deals with his children who sin knowingly or unknowingly.

The righteousness and justice of God is executed by showing mercy to a sinner and yet present the truth about their condition or sinful action that their heart would turn to God with repentance that flows out of Love. In fact, the righteousness and justice of God is to save them from being eternally separated from loving God.

Today many hearts don't come to repent truly because they are far from knowing the true character and nature of God's Kingdom. To them, the justice system of God and Man looks more or less the same. So even in their religious experience they go no far then falling into the pit of legalism.

## **Mercy Misunderstood**

**But in Satan's case, God's patience was meant to heal and restore him—but it was misinterpreted.**

A compassionate Creator, yearning to save all, continued to invite and warn. Yet this mercy was twisted into evidence of supposed weakness. The rebel began to suggest that God's long-suffering meant He could be challenged, even overthrown.

"If we stand together," he claimed to the angels of his side, "we can gain more freedom. We can build a better government."

Thus deception grew bolder. He rejected the appeals of loyal angels, calling them deceived and enslaved. He accused God's Son of receiving unfair honour. He promised liberty, equality, and self-rule—while quietly seeking control.

And many angels listened. Loyalty or Rebellion. Heaven was now divided—not by force, but by **choice**.

Loyal angels pleaded earnestly with Satan and his angels. They warned that God's law was as unchangeable as His character. They urged them to repent, reminding all that no created being could succeed against the One who gave them life.

Some wavered. Some were ready to return. But another lie sealed their decision. Satan said to them, "You have gone too far. God will not forgive you now."

It was not true—but it was believed. Pride, loyalty to a leader, and the desire for unrestricted freedom outweighed the quiet voice of truth. And one by one, the appeals of divine love were rejected.

Freedom: The Risk of Love

This raises a question many new believers ask:

## Why did God allow this to happen at all?

The answer is simple—and costly.

### Love cannot exist without freedom.

God did not create robots. Angels were given real minds, real wills, and the real ability to choose. Obedience that is forced is not love. Worship driven by fear is not devotion.

Scripture reveals this principle everywhere: “Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve” (Joshua 24:15).

Freedom made rebellion possible—but it also made love genuine. Why God Did Not Destroy the Rebel Immediately

When rebellion finally erupted into open war, Michael and his angels stood firm. The dragon and his followers were cast out (Revelation 12:8–9). Yet even then, God did not destroy him.

Why? Because the universe was watching. If destruction had come immediately, obedience would have been rooted in fear, not trust. Questions would have remained. Doubt would have lingered in unfallen angels’ hearts.

God allowed rebellion to fully reveal itself. The deceiver had claimed God’s law was unjust. Now the results of rejecting it will be seen. He had claimed to seek freedom. Now the fruit of that freedom would be exposed.

Through time, through history, through suffering, the universe would learn a lasting lesson:

“His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

This war in heaven was not just about angels. It was about **you**. It was a safeguard for the future. A revelation of what sin truly is. A demonstration that God’s authority is not selfish, His law not restrictive, and His mercy not weakness.

Though “clouds and darkness are round about Him,” Scripture assures us that “righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne” (Psalm 97:2).

One day, every question will be answered. Every doubt will be silenced. Every being—loyal and rebellious—will see that God has always been just, always merciful, always loving.

One day every knee will bow before God the Father and his beloved Son to acknowledge God’s righteousness, just merciful and true. (Philippians 2:10,11)

And the war that began in heaven will never rise again.

## Chapter 6 — Satan Cast Out

Before our world was filled with pain, fear, and death, there was peace. Before human tears ever fell, heaven itself experienced a moment of deep sorrow and struggle.

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail... So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan... he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” — Revelation 12:7–9

This was not a war of swords or weapons. It was a war of truth. Lucifer argued against God’s character. He accused God of being unfair and restrictive. But when the time came, Lucifer could not prove his claims. Truth stood firm. Love could not be defeated.

**Even then** God did not grab Satan and forcefully throw him out of heaven. Heaven is a place of freedom. God never forces loyalty. When Lucifer could no longer defend his lies, when he could not win the hearts of all the heavenly host by his deception he chose to leave. Like someone who quits a game because they know they are losing, Satan abandoned his position before his complete defeat. **This is how he was cast out of heaven.**

The Bible says of rebellious angels:

“They did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper dwelling.” — Jude 1:6

Satan left because his rebellion had no foundation. And he did not leave alone. Many angels believed his lies and followed him.

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: Revelation 12:3,4

Symbolically one-third of the stars of heaven represent the heavenly angels whom the dragon (Satan) deceived and cast them all down to earth. So it was Satan who influenced the angels to leave heaven in the quest to form a new universe.

### **A New World, A New Beginning**

After the tragedy in heaven, God created the Earth in six days and he rested on the seventh day. The earth was beautiful, full of life, colour, and peace. Surely it was a hundred times better than what it is now. At the centre of creation were two beings: Adam and Eve the crowning creation of God.

God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” — Genesis 1:27

For humans to be made in God’s image meant they would reflect His character. They were created with love, intelligence, creativity, and freedom of choice. They could think, reason, and decide. Most importantly, they could love—because love must always be freely given.

God gave them dominion over the Earth. They were caretakers, rulers under God, trusted with a perfect world.

Adam and Eve were not accidents. They were not afterthoughts (please make sure you translate such a sentence with the right Marathi sense). God had planned to create the earth and give it to humans even before the rebellion of Satan in heaven.

Everything God created during the days of creation was good and whole. Everything was peaceful and pleasant. But the battle that began in heaven was not over.

Now, fallen and filled with hatred, Satan turned his and his followers' attention to our new world.

No longer free to stir up rebellion in heaven, Satan’s enmity against God found a new field in plotting the ruin of the human race. In the happiness and peace of the holy pair in Eden, he beheld a vision of the bliss that to him was forever lost. Moved by envy, he determined to incite them to disobedience and bring upon them the guilt and penalty of sin. He would change their love to distrust and their songs of praise to reproaches against their Maker. Thus he would not only plunge these innocent beings into the same misery which he was himself enduring, but would cast dishonour upon God, and cause grief in heaven. *PP. 52.1, Chapter 3—The Temptation and Fall*

Our first parents were not left without a warning of the danger that threatened them. Heavenly messengers opened to them the history of Satan’s fall and his plots for their destruction, unfolding more fully the nature of the divine government, which the prince of evil was trying to overthrow. *PP. 52.2, Chapter 3—The Temptation and Fall*

And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:8,9

And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. Genesis 2:15-17

Sometime after this Satan entered the Garden of Eden with the same plan he used in heaven. He came with deception. He approaches Eve in the form of a serpent

The Bible says: Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

First, he planted doubt. “Has God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden??” — Genesis 3:1

This was the same question he had raised in heaven. Can God be trusted? Is he really good? Is His word true?

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Then came deception. Satan twisted God’s words, making obedience seem unnecessary and disobedience seem harmless.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 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.” — Genesis 3:4,5

Here the father of lies made his assertion in direct contradiction to the expressed word of God. Satan assured Eve that she was created immortal, and that there was no possibility of her dying. He told her that God knew that if she and her husband should eat of the tree of knowledge, their understanding would be enlightened, expanded, and ennobled, making them equal with Himself. And the serpent answered Eve that the command of God, forbidding them to eat of the tree of knowledge, was given to keep them in such a state of subordination that they should not obtain knowledge, which was power. He assured her that the fruit of this tree was desirable above every other tree in the garden to make them wise, and to exalt them equal with God. He has, said the serpent, refused you the fruit of that tree which, of all the trees, is the most desirable for its delicious flavour and exhilarating influence. {Con 13.3}

Eve thought that the serpent’s discourse was very wise, and that the prohibition of God was unjust. She looked with longing desire upon the tree laden with fruit which appeared very delicious. The serpent was eating it with apparent delight. She longed for this fruit above every other variety which God had given her a perfect right to use.

**But you may wonder how could Satan deceive Eve so easily?**

Eve had overstated the words of God’s command. He had said to Adam and Eve, “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” In Eve’s controversy with the serpent, she added “Neither shall ye touch it.” Here the subtlety of the serpent appeared. This statement of Eve gave him an advantage; he plucked the fruit and placed it in her hand, using her own words, He hath said, If ye touch it, ye shall die. You see no harm comes to you from touching the fruit, nor will you receive any harm by eating it.

Eve yielded to the lying sophistry of the devil in the form of a serpent. She ate the fruit and realised no immediate harm. She then plucked the fruit for herself and for her husband. “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 did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”

Adam and Eve should have been perfectly satisfied with their knowledge of God derived from His created works and received by the instruction of the holy angels. But their curiosity was aroused to become acquainted with that of which God designed they should not know. It was for their happiness to be ignorant of sin. The high state of knowledge to which they thought to attain by eating the forbidden fruit, plunged them into the degradation of sin and guilt. {Con 14.1,2,3 - 15.1}

### **The Transfer of Dominion**

God had given Adam and Eve authority over the Earth. But when they chose to trust Satan instead of God, that authority was claimed by their new master Satan. That is why during the conflict with Jesus in the wilderness Satan said to Jesus, “All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. Luke 4:6,7

The Bible shows that through sin, Satan became the ruler of this fallen world. Adam and Eve did not just break a rule. They changed allegiance.

Fear replaced peace. Shame replaced joy. Death replaced life. They had never imagined sin could create such damage to their lovely life.

## Chapter 7 — Lost Home & Paradise

The garden was quiet after the fall—too quiet. The laughter that once mingled with birdsong had faded, replaced by the sound of hurried footsteps and trembling breath. For the first time since creation, humanity was afraid of its Maker.

When sin entered the world, it did not come alone. It arrived carrying shame, selfishness, and the fear of death. *“Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked”* (Genesis 3:7). Innocence vanished in a moment. Where there had once been openness, now there was hiding. Where there had been trust, now there was suspicion.

God came walking in the garden *“in the cool of the day”* (Genesis 3:8), not as an executioner, but as a Father searching for His lost children. Yet Adam and Eve hid themselves among the trees. Fear had rewritten their understanding of God. When God called, *“Where are you?”* (Genesis 3:9), it was not because He lacked knowledge, but because humanity had lost clarity about Him.

When confronted with their disobedience, something even more tragic surfaced. Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the serpent. Their love for each other turned inward, self-preservation replaced self-giving, and responsibility was shifted in the desperate hope of survival. Why? Because they believed Satan’s lie so completely that they now feared God would kill them for eating the fruit and therefore, none of them were ready to take the blame.

God had said, *“In the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”* (Genesis 2:17). Here God didn’t say I will kill you. But because Satan presented God as selfish, restrictive, and cruel. Having accepted Satan’s picture of God, Adam and Eve interpreted God’s warning as a threat to kill them. This is why when they heard God walking in the garden they began to hide themselves with shame and fear. Fear of death drove them to blame, and blame revealed a deeper truth: humanity now needed someone to stand in their place. Adam and Eve didn’t want to die, they would rather have anybody else killed but themselves. The beings once created in the image of God were changed into the image of the one who deceived them. Sin had created a gulf they could not cross alone.

### The Curses That Followed the Fall

When God spoke of what would follow their choice, His words were not curses hurled in anger. Scripture is careful here. God was not cursing humanity; He was declaring the tragic consequences of trusting Satan over Him. **He was revealing what life would now look like in a world where Satan was allowed to rule to a certain degree. (Luke 4:5-8)**

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. Genesis 3:14

Just as the Lord said, so it is. But if we say God cursed a serpent that was not even actively involved in the deception. We are saying God is unjust. How can God curse serpents or generations of serpents for no mistake? Here it is Satan who permanently harmed the serpent and cursed it above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; and made its life miserable by genetically altering its wings causing it to move on its belly, and eat dust all the days of thy life. This creature was beautiful and it flew. This is how prophet Ellen G white describes Serpent before the fall of humans.

“The serpent was then the most wise and beautiful of the creatures on the earth.”— Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 53

“It had wings, and while flying through the air presented an appearance of dazzling brightness, having the color and brilliancy of burnished gold.”— Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 53

But can Satan really change the structure of God's creatures? Yes, he can. While he can not create anything he has the wisdom to alter by destroying nature. That is what the genetic modification sectors are all about.

“Satan cannot create; he can only pervert and destroy what God has made.” - Selected Messages, Book 2, p. 102

But you may wonder why did Satan destroy the Serpent partially?

The answer is simple, because Satan saw his own pre-fall self in the serpent. Remember this? The Bible says “Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made Genesis 3:1

As Satan who once was Lucifer was the leader of angels, the wisest, full of beauty and powers. So was serpent also in the animal kingdom. But after his fall, this place was given to angel Gabriel. Therefore, Satan hate this animal above all other animals and harmed it permanently.

To the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. Genesis 3:16

You may say, It's understood why Satan destroyed the serpent, but why does it seem from the above verse that God punished women for listening to the serpent (Satan)? But before you conclude, pause and think about this. Despite one woman's fault, why would God cause all the women to have monthly problems or even make all of their conceptions sorrowful? Is he an unjust God? Is he a God who gifts a woman the ability to reproduce and then turns that gift curse? No, not at all.

Again here too, it's Satan who has caused this to happen to women's biology. The reasons he did this are as follows. Firstly, God has only given humans the power to reproduce,

Angels don't have this power. Therefore Satan has been envious ever since humans were made. Secondly, he knew was in the garden when the Lord declared in Genesis 3:15 an indirect prophecy about sending his son to this earth. Satan understood this prophecy very well. Thirdly, women are made in the image of Jesus and have been designed to express the role of Jesus as creator and sustainer. Therefore, Satan caused harm to womanhood permanently. This also caused a imbalance in the relationship of Man and woman permanently which well expressed in the words "thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee" Genesis 3:16

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. Genesis 3:17-19

Again bringing of the thorns and thistles were also done by Satan. A ground that would resist human effort was all Satan's work to add more suffering to human life. So that they would think of their creator as unjust and heartless.

By making labour exhausting and the soil resistant, Satan sought to wear humanity down. Endless toil, frustration, and scarcity would consume human energy. Men would return home bitter, exhausted, discouraged and sometimes drunk. Families would struggle to survive, leaving little strength for worship, trust, or joy in God.

This strategy aligns with Satan's character. He seeks not always to destroy outright, but to exhaust, distract, and embitter. A weary heart often stops seeking heaven. Thus, the cursed ground became one of Satan's most effective tools to separate humanity from God.

This is all beyond even the wisest of humans to understand because we blind folded by Satan's deception and life. However, Jesus the way, truth and life, when he was on earth explained this truth through a parable. You will see in this parable the pattern that God (master) is good and that the enemy is evil and is the cause of all the bad that is produced in human experience.

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade sprang up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this —Matthew 13:24-28

In this parable, the field is God's creation, the good seed is His design, the servants are humanity, and the enemy is Satan. The damage in the field was not caused by the master, but by the enemy's intrusion. Likewise, the suffering that followed the fall of humans was not God's original plan. It was the result of Satan's interference—his corrupting wisdom altering creation to keep it alive cruelly rather than in abundance.

The changes that followed after the fall of humans, were not random, nor were they authored by God's heart. It was Satan's strategic, calculated, and malicious move against humans. Scripture consistently reveals that Satan is not only a liar but a destroyer, one who seeks to deform what God has made good (John 8:44; John 10:10). What we call "curses" are, in truth, the visible scars of Satan's interference in God's creation.

## **The Great Misunderstanding of Humanity**

Today, humanity largely misunderstands this great controversy. We do not recognise Satan as the true cause of our suffering. Instead, we blame God for pain, death, and hardship—while unknowingly drawing closer to the very enemy who caused so much pain to us.

This tragic deception fulfils Satan's original lie: that God is the problem and Satan is the solution. As long as humanity believes this, suffering will continue to be misunderstood, and the enemy will remain hidden in plain sight.

Yet Scripture lifts the veil by saying this. "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life*" (John 10:10). When this truth is understood, the story of the fall is no longer a tale of God's cruelty, but a revelation of His mercy—mercy that continues to call humanity out of deception and back toward the lost paradise.

## **The Loss of Home**

### **Why, then, were Adam and Eve sent away from Eden?**

Adam was driven from Eden, and the angels who, before his transgression, had been appointed to guard them in his Eden home, were now appointed to guard the gates of paradise and the way of the tree of life, lest he should return, gain access to the tree of life, and sin be immortalised. {Con. 15.2}

This was mercy, not rejection. To live forever in a fallen state would have sealed suffering eternally. God would not allow sin to become immortal. "*So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life*" (Genesis 3:24).

Every healthy relationship stands upon two great principles: love and faith. Love cannot exist without trust. When Satan presented a false image of God, he shattered their faith in their Creator. They no longer saw Him as loving and trustworthy. Fear replaced confidence, doubt replaced peace. Therefore, separation was the inevitable result. But this separation was temporary as the Lord had planned to redeem humans in case humans fell short of his glory.

## Chapter 8 — Plan of Redemption

The fall of man filled all heaven with sorrow. The world that God had made was blighted with the curse of sin and inhabited by beings doomed to misery and death. There appeared to be no escape for those who had transgressed the law. Angels ceased their songs of praise. Throughout the heavenly courts, there was mourning for the ruin that sin had wrought. {PP 63.1}

The Son of God, heaven's glorious Commander, was touched with pity for the fallen race. His heart was moved with infinite compassion as the woes of the lost world rose before Him. He knew that sin had caused separation, a great gulf between the Heavenly Father and His earthly children. This is what sin always does. **That's why the Bible says** "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God" (Isaiah 59:2).

But why does sin cause separation?

### The Nature of Sin and the Law of Faith

When Adam and Eve sinned, they did not merely break the law of God expressed in the Ten Commandments. They broke something far deeper and more essential. Scripture declares, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4). The usage of the word **also** here reveals that sin includes more than one dimension.

Apart from breaking God's law (the Ten Commandments), another law was **also** violated. That law is called the law of faith. The apostle Paul writes, "Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by **the law of faith**" (Romans 3:27). Again he says, "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Romans 14:23).

**According to this Bible understanding sin is two things:**

- 1. First, breaking of the law of faith**
- 2. Breaking of the law of God**

**You may say what is the difference? Here is the difference:**

- 1. The law of faith is the governing principle; if kept well, it enables us to receive righteousness and grace through trust in Christ.**
- 2. Breaking the law of God means violating God's moral commandments. This law of God is a transcript of God's character (Psalm 19:7; Romans 7:12). A person who keeps them becomes like God.**

When our first parents chose to trust Satan over God, the law of faith was broken first. Distrust entered their hearts. Only afterwards did they physically eat the forbidden fruit, thus breaking the commandment of God. The Bible declares, "The just shall live by faith" (Habakkuk 2:4). **But Adam and Eve were no longer just because they chose to believe Satan's lie against God and go that way.**

Fear, Death, and Misunderstanding God

The record of Genesis reveals the tragic consequences of this broken trust:

“They heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God.”

When God called, Adam replied, “I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid.”

What caused such fear? It was the fear of death. Satan had twisted God’s warning, “*In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die,*” into the belief that God Himself would kill them as punishment if they transgressed his commandment. Therefore, they now viewed God as a threat rather than a refuge.

This was the same lie Satan had spread among the angels of heaven, that the transgression of God’s law demanded the death of the transgressor as an act of punishment from God.

In the opening of the great controversy, Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy, and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, **urged Satan**; and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice. When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted. It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven. Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God’s favor. God could not be just, **he urged**, and yet show mercy to the sinner. {DA 761.4}

Remember it was Satan that urged every sin must be punished. We need to keep in mind though righteousness and justice are the foundation of God’s throne, it’s important to remember and understand that mercy and truth go before His face (Psalm 89:14). Meaning God approaches every situation with mercy and truthfulness. This is a key point.

Imagine you went to heaven, and happened to do something wrong by mistake, would you expect God to punish you? Is that the God we serve? No away with such thoughts.

Coming back to Eden’s story, because of this satanic lie the misunderstanding and grasp of this belief in the hearts of Adam and Eve is clearly seen in their responses to God.

When Adam said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” That literally implied, if anybody has to die because of the sin, it should be you (God) for giving me the woman or the woman who gave me the fruit, but not me (Adam)”

Even when Eve said, “The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat,” that implied that if anybody has to die it would be the serpent, not me (Eve).

In others, both were saying, “If someone must die, it should not be me.” After sin entered both became selfish and thought God needed somebody to die before he could forgive them. This means the sacrificial system that was introduced after humans fell in sin, was introduced just to meet the demand of their own hearts.

For example, If your Child did something against you. Would you say I would need somebody to die or I need the blood of an anime before I can forgive my child? No not at all!

If we being sinful humans love our child so much, why do we think God who loves us so much more than we can think or imagine needs someone to die before he can accept or save us? We think this way just because we have been taught the Bible that way. God never needed a sacrifice of animals nor did he require the sacrifice of his dear son.

“For you do not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. Psalms 51:16

More references —Hosea 6:6, Isaiah 1:11–17, Micah 6:6–8, Hebrews 10:5–6, Matthew 9:13

Yet heaven did not abandon the fallen race. There was only one way left for God to reveal the depth of His love, by giving His only begotten Son. This was the only way God could show them how much he loves them and decrease the gulf the misunderstanding of his character had created.

Satan through his deception set humans against the law of God, making them feel if law is not kept and fulfilled God would destroy them permanently. Since the law is as sacred as God Himself, only One equal with God (that is Jesus) could make atonement for its transgression to permanently satisfy Satan's claims and lie he insinuated against God's law. Therefore, none but Christ could only redeem fallen man and restore him to harmony with Heaven. On the other side, even if God would be willing to give one of his brightest and most loved angels to die for humans as per Satan's claims, we humans still would have seen him as an untrustworthy God.

## The Council of Peace

However, while the human race stood hopeless in sin, Jesus entered into a sacred counsel with His Father. Before the Father, He pleaded on the sinner's behalf, while the host of heaven awaited the result with an intensity of interest that words cannot express. Long continued that mysterious communing, the “counsel of peace” (Zechariah 6:13).

The plan of salvation had been laid before the foundation of the world, for Christ is “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). Meaning even before Humans had sin, God had already appointed his Son to be their Saviour if they fell in sin. Yet even so, it was a struggle for the King of the universe to yield up His Son to die for the guilty race. But love triumphed.

“God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Oh, the mystery of redemption. Through endless ages, immortal minds will seek to comprehend that love which passes knowledge, and they will wonder and adore. {PP 63.3}

Finally It was decided when and how Jesus would come to the fallen world. The angels were filled with sorrow and offered themselves in His place, but God would not allow it. Only Christ could reveal the Father fully and restore faith in God's character.

## The Promise of a Saviour

The first promise of a Saviour was given in Eden. God declared to the serpent, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). This was the gospel in seed form, a promise that evil would not triumph and that a Redeemer would come.

To teach humanity the necessity of a substitute as per their hearts demand, God instituted the sacrificial system. An innocent life would stand in the place of the guilty. Every lamb slain pointed forward to Christ, the true Lamb of God. Later, through Moses, the sanctuary service was given to reveal in detail the plan of salvation. Every sacrifice, every priestly service, and every ceremony testified to Jesus.

Before Christ came to earth, all who understood God's love and accepted His grace by faith received the assurance of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. Prophets, holy men and women looked forward to the promised Redeemer. Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and all who trusted in God's promise were saved by faith in the coming Lamb.

These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Hebrews 11:13

## Chapter 9 – Christ Enters the Conflict

The Saviour's coming was foretold in Eden. When Adam and Eve first heard the promise, they looked for its speedy fulfilment. They joyfully welcomed their firstborn son, hoping that he might be the Deliverer. But the fulfilment of the promise tarried. Those who first received it died without seeing it. From the days of Enoch, the promise was repeated through patriarchs and prophets, keeping alive the hope of His appearing, and yet He came not. The prophecy of Daniel revealed the time of His advent, but not all rightly interpreted the message. Century after century passed away; the voices of the prophets ceased. The hand of the oppressor was heavy upon Israel, and many were ready to exclaim, "The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth." Ezekiel 12:22.

But like the stars in the vast circuit of their appointed path, God's purposes know no haste and no delay. Through the symbols of the great darkness and the smoking furnace, God had revealed to Abraham the bondage of Israel in Egypt, and had declared that the time of their sojourning in Egypt will be four hundred years. "Afterwards," He said, "shall they come out with great substance." Genesis 15:14. Against that word, all the power of Pharaoh's proud empire battled in vain. On "the self-same day" appointed in the divine promise, "it came to pass, that all the hosts of the Lord went out from the land of Egypt." Exodus 12:41. So in heaven's council the hour for the coming of Christ had been determined. When the great clock of time pointed to that hour, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. {DA 31 - 32.1}

"When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, ... to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Galatians 4:4, 5.

The Creator of this world entered His creation not with trumpet blasts or royal procession, but with the cry of a helpless infant in a manger. Heaven bent low. The God of infinity and power clothed himself in flesh and became touchable.

Empires had risen and fallen, philosophies had promised wisdom and delivered emptiness, and religions had multiplied rituals without peace. Humanity was weary of fables and ceremonies. Souls longed for light, for certainty beyond the grave, for a God who could be known. Jews scattered throughout the nations carried fragments of prophecy with them, and Gentile seekers studied Hebrew Scriptures with hunger greater than Israel's teachers. Hope flickered like lamps in a dark valley. **The world was ready for the desire of ages, Jesus Christ the saviour to come (Haggai 2:7)—though it did not know it.**

Into that darkness, Christ came. He did not come merely to teach, but to **enter the conflict** that had enslaved humanity since Eden. In taking human nature upon Himself, Jesus immediately drew the attention and opposition of Satan and his entire fallen evil host.

Satan knew if Christ failed in keeping himself holy, humanity would lose forever. Therefore, he was constantly looking for an opportunity to tempt him.

## The Wilderness Battlefield

After His baptism, when the Father's voice declared, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17), Jesus did not move toward applause or influence. Instead, "Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost... was led by the Spirit into the wilderness" (Luke 4:1).

There, alone among wild beasts, He fasted forty days. Hunger weakened His body. Silence pressed upon His soul. The glory that had surrounded Him faded, and He stood where every human must stand—dependent upon God alone.

Then Satan came.

Not as a monster, but as deception always comes—reasonable, subtle, persuasive. He had disguised himself as an angel of light sent from heaven by the Father to rescue Jesus his son from a long wearisome fast. Satan tempted him with three powerful temptations that would be one hundred per cent impossible for any human in Christ's situation to resist **without God's grace.**

### The First Temptation: Appetite

Satan in a very suggestive manner said to Jesus, "If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become bread and eat them" (Matthew 4:3).

This test was not merely about food. It was about **self-reliance instead of trusting in God.** Satan wanted Jesus to use his divine power to escape human suffering and put physical need above obedience. Appetite had ruined Adam. Appetite had enslaved humanity. If Christ yielded here, the battle would have been over.

Jesus answered not with argument, but with Scripture:

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 8:3).

Jesus chose trusting God over his hunger. Obedience over relief. Faith over instinct.

Where Adam fell in abundance, Christ stood firm in starvation.

### The Second Temptation: Presumption Through Scripture

Satan retreated for some time—But he returned with the Bible in his hand.

Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, and in their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" Matthew 4:5, 6

Here Satan was quoting Psalm 91:11. But Satan omitted a phrase: "*to keep thee in all thy ways*" —This means thy ways of obedience.

The temptation was subtle: **It forced God to act**, it demanded proof of His care, and it misused faith to justify recklessness. It was Scripture twisted to harbour pride. To provoke pride in the Son of God, Satan took Him up into the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple.

Jesus responded again:

“It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God” (Matthew 4:7; Deuteronomy 6:16).

Faith does not demand signs. Faith rests in God’s word without manipulation. Christ refused to step outside the path of obedience—even if angels stood ready to rescue Him. (Delete)

### **The Third Temptation: Worldly Power and Prosperity**

Finally, Satan changing from the disguise of an angel of light to his original self expressed his boldest offer.

The devil took him up on a mountain and from a high mountain, he displayed the kingdoms of the world—wealth, influence, success without suffering.

And said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. “Therefore, if you will worship before me, all will be Yours.” And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’” (Luke 4:6–7).

The conflict ended. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him. Matthew 4:11

This temptation was a shortcut around the cross because this temptation offered Jesus Glory without sacrifice, and a kingdom without obedience. But Jesus never gave in.

### **Victory for Us**

Christ did not overcome as God using divine advantage. He overcame **as a man**, armed with Scripture, sustained by the Spirit, and anchored in trust. He walked the path humanity must walk—and won.

Our Lord Jesus says, “The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in Me” (John 14:30).

Satan still uses this temptation against us every day—offering success at the cost of integrity, prosperity at the price of conscience.

- **Appetite** — when physical desire seeks control
- **Presumption** — when Scripture is twisted to excuse disobedience and our selfish motives
- **Worldly prosperity** — when success demands compromise for the holy path.

Satan has not changed his strategy. But neither has Christ withdrawn His help.

“Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Because Christ entered the conflict and stood victorious, we are not left defenceless. His victory is offered to us—not earned by our strength, but received by faith.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrew 2:18)

The conflict continues in every human heart. Christ has truly entered the conflict—and He stands ready to fight for us still.

## Chapter 10 – The Cross: The Turning Point of the Great Controversy

Before there was a cross on Calvary, before nails pierced divine hands, before blood touched cursed soil, there were **questions in heaven**.

Despite Satan's cunning deceptions, the loyal angels on God's side did not rebel against God for a moment—but they were uncertain about the truth. Satan's false claims made them wonder and question God's Love, motive and actions. **But they refused doubts and uncertainty to make a home in their hearts.**

Heaven had once been a place of unbroken harmony. Truth flowed freely, love governed all, and trust was the atmosphere of life in heaven. Yet into this perfect order came a voice—brilliant, persuasive, subtle. Lucifer, once the light-bearer of God's character, began to raise questions about God's character. He did not deny God openly at first. Instead, he *reframed* Him and got angels to doubt his love towards them.

Is God truly just?

Is His law necessary?

Does he rule by love—or by fear?

The questions were dangerous precisely because they sounded reasonable.

Even holy angels—wise, loyal, and sincere—struggled to see where truth ended and deception began. Satan cloaked selfish ambition in the language of freedom and progression. He accused God of withholding, of self-exaltation, of injustice. And because God governs by love, not force, He allowed the questions to be heard.

Thus the Great Controversy began in heaven in the presence of God and continued for four thousand years after the fall of man and before Jesus came to this world.

### The Mission of Christ: To Reveal the Father

God did not answer Satan's accusations with thunder. But when the fullness of time came He answered him through His only begotten Son.

**Jesus Christ came to earth not primarily to die—but to reveal his father's character during his earthly life and even during his death.**

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus lifted His eyes to heaven and prayed words that echoed far beyond the upper room:

In that prayer, he first defined how one could get eternal life: "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3).

**Then he said something very remarkable, which we usually overlooked or ignored.**

He said, “I have glorified You on the earth. I have **finished** the work which You have given Me to do... I have manifested **Your name** to the men whom You have given Me” (John 17:4–6).

To glorify God means to reflect his character. So Jesus here was saying “father I have revealed your character to the people you gave”. Moreover, to further confirm this he says, I have manifested your name to the men whom you have given me. Which also essentially means that Jesus revealed father character to his disciples.

To “know” God is to know His **character**.

To reveal the Father to his lost children was Christ’s true mission—not only to humanity, but for the watching unfallen universe as well. Every word He spoke, every tear He shed, every miracle He performed, every act of compassion—**was God’s answer to Satan’s lies.**

Angels watched closely. They watched Him touch lepers instead of condemning them. They watched Him forgive sinners instead of crushing them. They watched Him weep at Lazarus’s tomb. They watched Him remain silent before false accusations.

**From the beginning earthly creation until the point when Jesus came to the earth heavenly Angels had seen Satan’s evil works. But now not only so, they began to see more clearly than ever before—what God was truly like.**

**John the beloved disciple of Jesus speaks about him as a representative of all the disciples of Jesus:**

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the **glory** as of the only begotten of the Father,) **full of grace and truth.**” John 1:14

### **Satan’s Position: Cast Out, But Not Yet Cast Down**

Many Christians today do not understand **where Satan stood in his relationship to heaven after his fall**, and what changed after the cross. This confusion or lack of understanding weakens their awareness of **His** present work in their life.

Scripture declares:

“So the great dragon was cast out... that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan... he was cast to the earth, and his angels were **cast out** with him” (Revelation 12:9).

Yet another declaration follows:

“Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God... have come, for the accuser of our brethren... has been **cast down**” (Revelation 12:10).

Though these Bible verses are next to each other in the Bible, these verses describe **two different periods in history which are far apart.**

Satan was **cast out** of heaven when he and his angels chose to abandon their loyalty. But God did not force them out. They left—because their lie could no longer withstand the **truth**

**of God.** It's the same behaviour as any bad loser who quits the game before it finishes because they realise they will lose the game.

“The angels who did not keep their habitations, but left their own abode...” (Jude 1:6). See it says here clearly they left.

The “war in heaven” was not fought with weapons. It was fought with **arguments**, with claims and counterclaims, This war was between truth and deception. When Lucifer and his angels could no longer prevail, they left heaven in shame.

Though cast out, he was **not yet cast down**. Meaning before the cross, Satan still *now and then* appeared as the *accuser of Brethren in heaven*. He challenged God's ways of running heaven and sought to influence heavenly minds. Sometimes he would even hinder the angels as they performed their assigned duty toward humans.

The above verse (Revelation 12:10), talks about a period after the cross of Jesus, when Satan was fully defeated before the universe and heavenly angels. Thereon, he could not enter heaven or influence any heavenly citizen negatively with his lies and hypocrisy.

**But what changed and why? In this chapter we will see the great controversy before and after the cross.**

**Now we will see below the accounts of Satan's constant efforts to wage war against God and his angels in various situations before Jesus went on the cross.**

## **The Accuser at Work Before Cross**

### **Job's Faith Tested**

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. Job 1:1

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them” (Job 1:6).

So here we see that Satan visited heaven before the cross. Most probably he represented the earth.

And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? “Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. Job 1:9-11

With a calculated confidence, Satan accused Job, a perfect and upright man and God himself. He implied that God's government was based on reward and fear, not love. God allowed the question to play out—not because Satan was right, but because the universe was learning about him little by little. This is the first instance recorded in the Bible where after he was cast out Satan appeared in heaven and made his false claim against God in the heavenly assembly. This was done to paint God as unworthy of receiving genuine worship and love before the angels. Showing that humans love God out of fear or their needs.

The story goes on to say that God allowed Satan to test Job's faith by destroying all his property, killing ten children and striking him with a severe painful skin condition.

Despite all these, Job stayed faithful. If his worship of God was based on fear or out of selfish reasons, He would not have calmly borne all that happened to him for days, months and years.

### **At the Grave of Moses**

At the place of Moses' burial, a great conflict unfolded before the unseen universe. As Jesus came to call His servant out from the grave, Satan appeared to resist Him, claiming Moses as a sinner and should be lawfully dead.

Before the loyal angels, Satan sought sympathy for his cause, presenting himself as the guardian of justice and accusing Christ of setting aside the law. But, as Jude 9 reveals, Christ did not argue or accuse; He simply said, "*The Lord rebuke thee,*" and spoke life into the silent grave.

The resurrection of Moses became a powerful testimony to the angels who stood with Christ. For the first time, they witnessed beyond all doubt that their Commander held authority over death itself. Moreover, it revealed to them that God intends that nobody should perish.

Satan had believed that the decree "dust thou art, to dust thou shalt return" gave him rightful possession and undisputed control over humanity, but this act of Jesus shattered his claim. The angels saw that Christ was truly the Resurrection and the Life, able to ransom those whom Satan had bound. Thereafter their faith in Jesus's supremacy and righteousness was greatly strengthened.

### **On the Battlefield of Prayer**

As the Prophet Daniel struggled to understand some aspects of the prophetic message the Lord gave him, he earnestly sought the Lord in prayer for the right prophetic understanding. His prayers were immediately answered and the Lord sent forth Angel Gabriel to help him understand the prophecy.

Angel Gabriel is the one who after the fall of Lucifer occupied his role. As this mighty angel descended to fulfil his heaven-ordained duty, the scripture says, the prince of Persia

withstood him for 21 days. The Bible scholars point to the prince of Persia as Satan. We are sure it was Satan because the Bible says Jesus (Michael) came down to fight this enemy (Daniel 10:13, 20). This is because Angel Gabriel was not able to fight this foe for 21 days.

In this case, too, Satan was not warring against Gabriel physically. This was an intellectual spiritual war. Surely as Satan's approach is, he must have perplexed Angel Gabriel's mind with many questions, arguments and claims against God based on his self-made lies. Satan knew Gabriel had come down to explain an important prophetic message which had the first Advent of Jesus at its heart. Therefore, **he** tried his best to hinder him while trying to poach this loyal servant of God to his team. **We know this happened before the cross, because the prophet Daniel lived 530–600 years before Christ.**

## **After the Cross**

As we saw in the above situation before the cross, Satan and his host could still **hinder** heavenly messengers or Jesus himself though they were cast out initially. In this period the Angels on God's side obeyed him—but the truth is many questions lingered in hearts.

Then came the cross. The universe leaned forward.

From the birth of Jesus up till the cross Satan's true character was revealed—not as a misunderstood reformer, but as a murderer, liar, and a robber. Heavenly angels witness how He drove humanity to crucify the Son of God. Hatred stood exposed. Love stood bleeding.

When Jesus prayed for His enemies on the cross, heaven understood his heart. When Jesus refused to save Himself, angels wept. When Jesus took his last breath and cried, *"It is finished,"* He truly won all the heavenly host on the Father's side.

In the middle of his ministry Jesus Himself had declared:

"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler (Satan) of this world will be **cast out**" (John 12:31). This was the moment Satan was **cast down**.

His arguments were no longer heard. His accusations are no longer entertained. The angels no longer wondered.

God was vindicated forever. The Resurrection Morning: A Changed Heaven

It's amazing to learn from inspired writing Sister E.White. How angel Gabriel and other angels in heaven behaved post Calvary.

The night of the first day of the week had worn slowly away. The darkest hour, just before daybreak, had come. Christ was still a prisoner in His narrow tomb. The great stone was in

its place; the Roman seal was unbroken; the Roman guards were keeping their watch. And there were unseen watchers. Hosts of evil angels were gathered about the place. Had it been possible, the prince of darkness with his apostate army would have kept forever sealed the tomb that held the Son of God. But a heavenly host surrounded the sepulchre. Angels that excel in strength were guarding the tomb, and waiting to welcome the Prince of life.

“And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven.” Clothed with the panoply of God, this angel left the heavenly courts. The bright beams of God’s glory went before him and illuminated his pathway. “His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: and for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.”

Now, priests and rulers, where is the power of your guard? Brave soldiers who have never been afraid of human power are now captives taken without sword or spear. The face they look upon is not the face of a mortal warrior; it is the face of the mightiest of the Lord’s host. This messenger is he who fills the position from which Satan fell. It is he who on the hills of Bethlehem proclaimed Christ’s birth. The earth trembles at his approach, the hosts of darkness flee, and as he rolls away the stone, heaven seems to come down to the earth. The soldiers see him removing the stone as he would a pebble, and hear him cry, Son of God, come forth; Thy Father calls Thee. They see Jesus come forth from the grave, and hear Him proclaim over the rent sepulchre, “I am the resurrection, and the life.” As He comes forth in majesty and glory, the angel host bows low in adoration before the Redeemer, and welcome Him with songs of praise. {DA.779.1-3}

“During the time of Prophet Daniel, Angel Gabriel was hindered and delayed from doing his work for 21 days. But now there was no resistance.No debate, no delay, no fear. The cross had changed everything.

Today, the entire loyal universe stands united. Angels no longer serve God with questions in their hearts. They serve with joy.

Humanity is now invited into that same trust. We are invited to know the true gospel which is: “God is love” (1 John 4:8). He has not changed. He will not change.

But Satan will not rest. The book of Revelation portrays a prophetic picture revealing that in these last days, Satan will once again wage war against God’s people. He will persecute them to the end of the earth. (Revelation 12:17).

The final battle is before us. We do not need to fear Satan, he is a lost foe. Let us, like the angels, trust God fully. Let us stand firm in faith. Let us cling to the cross. For at Calvary, the universe chose its side.

## Chapter 11 – The Conflict Continues

The death of Christ did not end the controversy between good and evil—it unveiled it.

At the cross, Satan’s character was fully revealed before the universe. His hatred of God’s law, his cruelty toward the innocent, and his rebellion against heaven stood exposed. Yet, though defeated in principle, he was not destroyed. Though cast down as a vanquished foe, he arose with renewed determination to ruin those whom Christ had redeemed with His blood. From that moment forward, the conflict shifted its battlefield from heaven to earth.

*Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. (But) Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.”*

— **Revelation 12:12**

### The Church Born in Fire

Before and even after the cross, pagan Rome was in power and Satan worked through this kingdom to destroy the gospel. The early followers of Christ clearly understood the cost of discipleship. Their Master had been rejected, scourged, and crucified. They expected no better treatment.

Jerusalem soon became a place of danger for all who confessed the name of Jesus. The Sanhedrin sought to silence the gospel by threats, imprisonment, and death. Stephen, a young deacon was martyred first, his cruel death marked the beginning of a fierce persecution that scattered the believers throughout Judea and beyond.

Yet persecution only advanced the work Satan sought to destroy. *“They that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.”* — **Acts 8:4**

The apostles carried the message of a risen Saviour into hostile lands. Peter and John preached boldly despite beatings and imprisonment. James was executed. Paul endured stoning, chains, hunger, and exile. Of all the Twelve, only John lived to old age—yet even he suffered banishment on Patmos, where Christ revealed the closing scenes of earth's history in the form of prophecy.

The enemy hoped to destroy the church by force. Instead, the faith of the believers was purified, strengthened, and spread abroad.

### **From Persecution to Popularity**

When Satan saw that violence reaped no results, he adopted a more dangerous strategy.

Unable to overcome Christianity, he chose to unite with it. Rome united with the Christian Church in the 4th century when Emperor Constantine legalised Christianity and used it to strengthen imperial unity, and later emperors made it the state religion, allowing Christian institutions to absorb Roman political and administrative structures as pagan practices faded.

As the church gained favour with earthly powers, humility and simplicity were replaced by ambition and ceremony. Pagan customs entered the church with Christian names, and truth was sacrificed for unity.

Eventually, as Christianity blended with Roman culture, worship shifted from Saturday to Sunday, making a pretence of honouring Christ's resurrection and aligning with Rome's Sunday pagan worship tradition; Constantine reinforced this change in 321 A.D by making Sunday a legal day of rest.

The warning of the apostle Paul was fulfilled: *"For the mystery of iniquity doth already work."*  
— **2 Thessalonians 2:7**

This union of church and state marked a turning point in history. The church gained political power, but lost spiritual authority. Human tradition took the place of God's Word, and the commandments of men eclipsed the commandments of God.

Thus began a period of spiritual darkness foretold in prophecy.

### **The Long Night of the Dark Ages**

With Pagan Rome turning into papal Rome for centuries, the Bible was withheld from the people by being taught to be too holy for common men to read it. Fear ruled the conscience. Forgiveness was sold, and salvation was obscured. God's law was altered by rejecting sabbath and introducing idols. Christ's mediatorial work was hidden beneath layers of human authority and pagan worship.

Yet even in the darkest hour, God preserved a faithful remnant.

In remote valleys and hidden places, the Waldenses people guarded the Scriptures as their greatest treasure. Children memorised entire portions of the Bible. Believers travelled in disguise, sharing God's Word at the risk of their lives.

*“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”— Psalm 119:105*

Jerome (347–420 AD.) and John Huss (1372–1415 AD.) both reformers testified boldly before councils. Girolamo Savonarola (1452-1498) lifted his voice against corruption. Thousands sealed their faith with their blood. Though the enemy appeared victorious, heaven recorded every sacrifice.

The light was dim—but not extinguished.

The Dawn of the Reformation

God did not abandon His truth to error.

At the appointed time, the truth was rediscovered, and conscience awakened. Martin Luther, (1483 to 1546) a German Roman Catholic Monk, found peace not in penance or ritual, but in the promise:

*“The just shall live by faith.”— Romans 1:17*

Standing before emperors and councils, Luther chose obedience to God over submission to men. The printing press became a divine instrument, spreading Scripture throughout Europe. The Word of God was placed in the hands of the people.

Tyndale (1494–1536) laboured so that England could read the Bible. Knox (1514–1572) proclaimed the truth in Scotland. Calvin (1509–1564) systematised doctrine, and Zwingli (1484–1531) preached reform with courage. While John Bunyan (1628–1688) wrote *\*Pilgrim’s Progress\**.

The Reformation broke the chains of ignorance—but it did not complete the work. Many stopped where they were, unwilling to advance further into truth. Thus, while light increased, error was not fully removed.

The conflict continued.

Prophecy Illuminates the Final Era

As history progressed, God revealed deeper truths through prophecy.

From the book of Daniel came a time prophecy reaching to the last phase of Christ’s ministry:

*“Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.”— Daniel 8:14*

In the early nineteenth century, believers across continents studied the Scriptures with earnest prayer. God moved upon the hearts of humble men and women. William Miller (1782–1849) and others proclaimed the nearness of judgment, calling people to repentance and preparation. Their prophetic understanding of **Daniel 8:14** led them to predict that Jesus’s first Advent would happen on **22 October 1844**, which later proved to be a wrong interpretation of a significant event.

The message tested hearts. When Christ did not return as expected on **22 October 1844**, many were bitterly disappointed. Satan triumphed in ridicule and unbelief. Yet God was leading His people—not to error, but to a clearer understanding of Christ’s work in the heavenly sanctuary.

*“We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.— Hebrews 8:1–2*

The prophecy was fulfilled—not on earth, but in heaven. The Millerite Brethren later understood, that Christ was not going to come earth on 22 Oct 1844, but as it was in the earthly sanctuary the high priest entered the most holy compartment of the sanctuary with blood of the lamb to atoned for the sin of the people, so did Christ entered the most holy place (the presence of the Father) to atone for our sins.

## **The Remnant and the Closing Conflict**

The final conflict now centres on truth and obedience.

Satan, knowing his time is short, directs his anger and frustration toward those who cling to God’s Word and rely wholly upon Christ. Satan’s Deceptions are refined. His Errors are made attractive. The lawlessness he creates is exalted as freedom.

Yet God calls his remnant people to stand firm.

*“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”*

— **Revelation 14:12**

From the apostles to the reformers, from the martyrs to the Advent believers, the same controversy has continued. The same Christ leads His people. The same enemy opposes them.

But the outcome is assured. Soon the conflict will end. Truth will triumph. Christ will return as King, and the universe will be cleansed from sin forever.

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.”*

— **Revelation 21:4**

Until that day, the conflict continues—but God’s remnant people do not fight alone. In the next chapter, we will learn who God’s remnant people are and their role in this great controversy.

## Chapter 12 – The Remnant People of God

The night will never be as dark as it is just before dawn.

Across the pages of sacred history, God has never worked with the many, the powerful, or the applauded. He has always preserved for Himself a *remnant*—a people often unseen, misunderstood, and pressed on every side, yet faithful even faithfulness costs everything.

The final chapters of Earth’s story and the remnant people of God are not different. A People Seen by Heaven

The apostle John, exiled on Patmos, was shown the final conflict in symbols that speak about the Remnant people’s role in prophetic history and future events.

“And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, **which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.**” — *Revelation 12:17*

Here is the Bible definition for the remnant people of God—not a name on a membership roll, not an institution protected by human authority, but a people marked by two unmistakable signs:

1. **They keep the commandments of God**
2. **They possess the testimony of Jesus Christ**

The first sign is easy to understand. Here the commandment of God refers to the law of God. However, the Scripture itself explains what the second mark the testimony of Jesus Christ means:

“For the testimony of Jesus is the **spirit of prophecy.**” — *Revelation 19:10*

The remnant, then, is a prophetic people. One who has a true prophet from God to direct them on the path of righteousness by pointing them to the Bible. They emerge at the end of time, not by accident, but by divine design.

### Remnant Born Out of Disappointment, Shaped by God

In the early nineteenth century, when the world pulsed with revival and revolution, God stirred the heart of a humble farmer named **William Miller**. With no ambition for fame and no desire to form a new church, Miller simply opened his Bible and followed the prophecies where they led him.

Night after night, candlelight flickered across the pages of Daniel and Revelation. Slowly, carefully, prophecy unlocked prophecy, until one conviction burned brighter in the heart of William Miller than the rest: **Jesus was coming again.**

After studying Daniel 8:14, which reads. "And he said unto me, Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.", Miller thoughtfully concluded since the sanctuary that was built by Moses was on earth, Jesus is coming soon again to cleanse the earth from sin and to take his bride, the church with him.

By correctly counting the end of 2300 days, which meant 2300 years as per the prophecy, William Miller pointed out which year Jesus would return to earth. However, he was very hesitant to suggest a date Jesus would come that year because William knew that Jesus said, *"But of that day and hour (of his coming) knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Matthew 24:26"*

However, William Miller's followers took this a little further and by sophisticated Bible study they found a date by which the sanctuary was going to be cleansed. And so they concluded Jesus would return to the earth on October 22nd 1844. But Miller was still not happy about this.

Their Counting of the year and date was correct but the event they predicted was wrong. Little then Miller and his followers realised that this verse of Daniel 8:14 referred to the sanctuary which is in heaven which is not built by human hands (Hebrews 8:1–2). Jesus was not going to come to earth, but rather as the earthly high priest enter the most holy place with the blood of the lamb for the atonement of sins, so was Christ going to enter the most holy place from the holy place with his own blood and merits to atone for our sins. This way the heavenly sanctuary was going to eventually be cleansed.

Dear reader as I write this book and you read this book, Jesus is atoning for our sins. Therefore, the world since Oct 22nd 1844 has been experiencing the abundant fruits of Jesus's ministry in the most holy place. For this reason, our Lord has also been providing his remnant with his testimony through giving the spirit of prophecy to Prophet Ellen g white. A testimony that covers everything about Jesus' identity, life, incarnation, and plans from eternal ages in the past to eternal ages in the future. So that they could be established in true faith and also help others to know Jesus as he is. With this many other pioneers such as Her Husband James White, and ministry brethren such as Joseph Bates, J.N Andrews, Hiram Edson, A.T Jones, E.J Waggoner and many more were used by the Lord to communicate his grace that is found only in Jesus.

But why is Jesus sharing his testimony with us? That is because he is the brightness of the image of God. If we knew Jesus we would know his father. To know the Father and the Son is eternal life (John 17:3). Here to KNOW means much much deeper than learning about the Father and his Son.

Moreover, since Oct 22nd 1844, God has been revealing himself more fully through the testimony of Jesus, so that humans would learn about him and **judge him in the light of truth**, and finally revere him for his pure unchanging love as their creator and give him glory. Which means it reflects his character. (Revelation 18:2-3)

Therefore, Oct 22nd 1844 connects to this verse where it says: "And I (John) saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the **everlasting gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, **Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come:** and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters. Revelation 14:6,7

But while judging God may seem like an abstract thought to us, it's not unfamiliar to the Bible writers. When you read the following Bible verses and think about the word **justified** or the word **judged**, please pause a minute and think about why God needs justification or why the Bible is saying God will be judged.

*"Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be **justified** when thou speakest, and be clear when thou **judgest**." Psalms 51:4*

*"God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written (Psalms 51:4), That thou mightest be **justified** in thy sayings, and mightest overcome (blameless) when thou art **judged**." Roman 3:4*

*"And all the people that heard him, and the publicans, **justified** God, being baptised with the baptism of John." Luke 7:29*

*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, **justified in the Spirit**, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. 1 Timothy 3:16*

*The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is **justified** for her children. Matthew 11:19*

## **What is the difference between being judged and justified?**

**Judging is the act of** someone evaluating, criticising, or forming an opinion about a person, action, or situation while judging them.

**Justified is the defence:** showing that a judgment, action, or decision is right, fair, or reasonable. This also happens after a person's action or decision is judged.

We are called to know the Everlasting Gospel, learn of God, judge him in the true light revealed in his son, because Satan has spread a lot of lies about him. After we realise his

true character, then fear (revere) him and give him glory (reflect his character or keep his law) who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and the fountains of waters. (The father and the son) Revelation 14:6,7

While we know God is going to judge each soul as per his or her deeds in the light of his grace. The above Bible verses are telling us God is also allowing humans to learn of him, judge him and know him. He wants us to see him as he is not how Satan has been trying to portray him so that we may become part of the remnant family of our Heavenly Father.

### **Coming back to William Miller and His Followers**

Coming back to Miller and his followers — though their understanding of things was not up to the point, even then this movement was not the work of human brilliance. Humans were the actors in this play, but the whole play was directed by God. The Lord allowed them to err so that they could eventually know what is happening in heaven and make the world aware of it.

The proof that this experience was from God is expressed this way in the prophecy. The little book mentioned here is the book of Daniel which Father Miller William was studying. To Prophet John, it was already shown that the people who eat (study) this book will find it tasty in their mouth, but find this book bitter in their belly. This was a similar experience to what the pioneer of the Seventh-Day Adventist church went through due to their initial wrong understanding of the prophecy.

And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. Revelation 10:9,10

This movement was like no other Christian movement that crossed denominational lines, social classes, and continents. Farmers, preachers, scholars, and labourers all cried with one voice, *“Behold, the Bridegroom cometh.”*

But heaven’s clock moved differently than Earth expected. October 22, 1844, passed—*not* with fire in the sky, but with tears on the ground because Jesus didn’t come as they expected. History remembers it as **the Great Disappointment**, yet heaven remembers it as the birth pangs of a remnant.

Ellen G. White would later write: “The passing of the time in 1844 was productive of great results... It tested and proved those who believed in the advent message.” — *The Great Controversy*

What was shaken loose was not faith, but false expectations. What remained was a small, searching people—wounded, humiliated, humbled, yet unwilling to abandon Scripture. God eventually revealed to them about Jesus entering into the most holy place to do his final work on Oct 22 1844.

From that refining fire arose the **Seventh-day Adventist movement**. But here lies a solemn truth: **not all who carry the name are the remnant.**

The remnant is not defined by denominational labels, but by obedience and living faith. They are those—within and sometimes outside visible structures—who **keep God's law**, honour His Sabbath, and cherish the prophetic gift entrusted to the church through sister Ellen G white.

## The Gift of Prophecy Restored

After a painful hundred years of dark ages and disappointment witnessed by Miller and his followers, there came a time when many believed prophecy had ceased, and God spoke again.

But through a frail teenage girl—**Ellen G. White**—heaven's voice broke the silence. The Lord began to speak to his people through her in visions and dreams. Her visions and dreams did not replace Scripture; they pointed relentlessly back to it. Again and again, she lifted up Christ, exalted the law of God, and warned of coming deception. She always called her writing the lesser light and the Bible the greater light.

She herself testified: "Little heed is given to the Bible, and the Lord has given a lesser light to lead men and women to the greater light."

— *Review and Herald*

The spirit of prophecy was not given to glorify a messenger, but to prepare a people—to warn, correct, comfort, and guide the remnant through the closing conflict.

### A People in the Spirit of Elijah

The remnant does not exist for survival alone. They exist for a mission.

Long before Christ's first coming, a wild prophet clothed in camel's hair stood beside the Jordan. John the Baptist was not popular. He did not flatter kings or soothe consciences. His message was simple and piercing: "**Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand**"

Jesus said of him:

"For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias(Elijah), which was for to come."— *Matthew 11:13–14*

Yet Malachi foretold another Elijah still ahead:

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers."

— *Malachi 4:5–6*

Like John, they call the world back to obedience—not legalism, but loyalty. They lift the law of God in an age that has trampled it. They prepare the way for Christ's return by restoring the truth that has long been forgotten. As John's food, dress, message, and place of living were different from those of his time, so are the remnants different in all these aspects from the world.

Ellen White writes: “In this age, just before the second coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven, such a work as that of John is to be done.”— *The Desire of Ages*

### The Target of the Dragon’s Rage

Truth always provokes opposition. Satan’s wrath is not indiscriminate. Revelation is clear—the dragon does not war against everyone, but specifically against the remnant.

Why? Because the remnant exposes his final deceptions. They reveal the counterfeit sabbath. They proclaim Christ’s heavenly ministry. They unmask false worship and call men back to the Creator. Most importantly through the writing of the Bible and Ellen G White, they present the true character of God to the world

Ellen G. White explains: “The last great conflict between truth and error is but the final struggle of the long-standing controversy concerning the law of God.” — *The Great Controversy*

Unable to destroy Christ, Satan turns his fury on those who reflect His character.

### Jacob’s Time of Trouble

There comes a moment when every soul must stand alone. Satan will make a final attempt to destroy God’s people. Scripture calls it **Jacob’s time of trouble**:

“Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob’s trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.”— *Jeremiah 30:7*

For the remnant, this is not punishment—but purification. By this time Christ would have finished his ministerial work in the most holy place. Probation would have been closed. No mediator will stand between humanity and judgment. Surrounded by threats, condemned by earthly powers, the remnant will wrestle with God as Jacob once did—not for forgiveness, but for assurance.

Ellen White writes with solemn beauty: “Though God’s people will be surrounded by enemies who are bent upon their destruction, yet the anguish which they suffer is not a dread of persecution... it is a fear lest they have not made their calling and election sure.”— *The Great Controversy*

In these trials, the remnant cling to God’s promises in the darkest night humanity has ever known.

### Delivered by the Voice of God

And then—when hope seems extinguished, when death appears certain—**God speaks**.

The same voice that thundered at Sinai, that called Lazarus from the grave, that calmed the stormy sea, will shatter the silence. “It is done.” says Jesus— *Revelation 16:17*

The heavens open. The earth trembles. The faithful are delivered—not because they were perfect, but because they trusted a perfect Saviour.

Ellen White declares: “The people of God are then delivered by the voice of God, calling forth the sleeping saints, and announcing the day and hour of Jesus’ coming.”  
— *Early Writings*

A People Who Follow the Lamb. At last, the story ends where it was always meant to—**with Christ**. “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.”— *Revelation 14:4*

The remnant does not boast in survival. They sing of grace. They cast their crowns at the feet of the One who kept them when they could not keep themselves.

And the universe along with humans finally understands:

God was just.

God was faithful.

God was worth trusting—to *the very end*.

## Chapter 13 – The End of the Great Controversy

For six thousand years the earth had groaned beneath the weight of rebellion. Every tear, every grave, every whispered prayer had witnessed that something had gone terribly wrong. But now, at last, the story will soon be reaching its final page.

John revelator says this about the ones that were taken to heaven: “and I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in this the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.” Revelation 20:4-6

The redeemed—once broken by sin, scarred by sorrow, haunted by fear—then in the presence of God will stand clothed in immortality. For a thousand years, God’s children will live and reign with Christ in heaven. This is not a reign of power, but of understanding.

The books of remembrance will open. Not because God needs to explain Himself—but because love always reasons and invites trust. The saved will be shown the records of human history, the hidden chapters of lives they had questioned, the choices that had puzzled them on earth.

Why was this child lost so young?

Why did that prayer seem unanswered?

Why was this or that soul missing from heaven?

And one by one, every question dissolved in the light of truth. The Bible says “*Judgment was given unto them.*” (Revelation 20:4)

This is not a judgment to condemn—but to confirm. The redeemed will see that God had been **fair, patient, and merciful beyond measure**.

Meanwhile, the earth lay desolate, And Satan in the Bottomless Pit.

*“And he (God) laid hold on the dragon... and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit.”* Revelation 20:2–3

The “bottomless pit” was not a place of fire—but a place of utter desolation. The same Greek word used here describes the earth before creation: *without form and void* (Genesis 1:2).

Satan will be bound—not by chains of iron, but by **circumstance**. He will have No nations to deceive. No hearts to corrupt. No minds to tempt because not a single soul will be alive on earth.

Ellen G. White writes that during this time, Satan was left to contemplate the ruin he had caused, to see the consequences of his lies written across a broken world (*The Great Controversy*, ch. 41).

The earth itself testified against him.

## **The Final Judgment**

At the end of the thousand years, the New Jerusalem will descend. The Holy City, radiant with the glory of God, will come to rest upon the earth.

At the end of a thousand years Satan will also be released out of his bottomless prison (Revelation 20:7)

This release will not be an act of mercy toward Satan, but an act necessary to the unveiling of truth. The wicked will be raised from the dead, and with minds once again capable of making choices, Satan will find himself no longer bound by circumstance. Instantly, his ancient work of deceiving will resume.

*“And he will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog.”*(Revelation 20:8)

He will stir the same ambition that once drove him to rebel in heaven. Before the resurrected wicked, he will appear as a leader of strength, a victim of injustice, claiming that God has robbed them of their rightful inheritance. He will argue that the Holy City was built by their labor, yet denied to them by divine tyranny.

Ellen G. White writes that Satan will persuade them that they can take the city by force—that victory is possible if they unite (*The Great Controversy*, ch. 42).

And they will believe him. The countless multitudes of the lost—kings, generals, scholars, warriors—will organize themselves for war. Weapons will be forged. Strategy will be laid. The spirit of rebellion, long dormant, will burn again.

Then the final march will begin.

*“And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”*

Revelation 20:9

If we do the surface reading of the Bible we may very easily assume that this fire that comes down from God is a literal fire. However, this is not the case. Of course towards the end of the judgement there will be a lake of fire burning with brimstone which will be the literal fire. However, this literal fire does not come from God. It comes from beneath the Earth's crust from the volcanic beds that are currently present below the Earth.

But where did this volcanic bed come from under the Earth? Ellen G white, tells us that they began to form under the earth post-Noah's flood.

“At this time immense forests were buried (in earth). These have since been changed to coal, forming the extensive coal beds that now exist, and also yielding large quantities of oil. The coal and oil frequently ignite and burn beneath the surface of the earth. Thus rocks are heated, limestone is burned, and iron ore melted. The action of the water upon the lime adds fury to the intense heat, and causes earthquakes, volcanoes, and fiery issues. As the fire and water come in contact with ledges of rock and ore, there are heavy explosions underground, which sound like muffled thunder. The air is hot and suffocating. Volcanic eruptions follow; and these often failing to give sufficient vent to the heated elements, the earth itself is convulsed...” — Patriarchs and Prophets 108-109.

Similar volcanic beds erupted during the destruction of the twin cities Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 14:10). The same volcanic beds are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:6, 7)

However, before this literal fire bursts open from under the earth and forms a lake of fire of brimstone, another form of fire would have destroyed every human being.

This is a fire which comes from God devourers the wicked. But it literally does not burn the subject. However, it causes much more suffering than literal fire.

To understand the nature of this fire better and how it destroys the wicked, we will have to study the fire Moses saw on the mountain while taking care of his father in law's flocks.

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the **bush was not consumed.** - Exodus 3:2

Apart from drawing Moses' attention to this miraculous bush on fire, God was also revealing himself to Moses. This fire didn't burn the bush nor hurt Moses in any way. This was God's way of presenting himself to Moses — a harmless God. It was an acted parable to reveal God's true loving character to Moses. To show that God does not destroy.

But you may say, then why does the following Bible verse (Revelation 20:9) say that “*fire came down from God out of heaven, and **devoured them***”?

They are devoured, because as Sister Ellen G White says, “By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire.”(GC, p. 673)

In the holy presence of God, all sins of the wicked are brought to the surface of their heart all at once. This particularly will happen only with the lost once as they have not overcome and dealt with their sins by the grace of God. (Exodus 24:17, Hebrew 10:27,12:29)

As the wicked March to take this city, above the city walls, Christ will be revealed—not as a suffering Saviour, but as King and Judge. Before any attack can begin, His glory which is like a consuming fire to the wicked will stop the conflict. All of sudden the scene will change and the wicked will stand before the throne of God itself.

This is how the Bible describes the next scene:” And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.” Revelation 20:11, 12

As soon as the books of record are opened, and the eye of Jesus looks upon the wicked, they are conscious of every sin which they have ever committed. They see just where their feet diverged from the path of purity and holiness, just how far pride and rebellion have carried them in the violation of the law of God. The seductive temptations which they encouraged by indulgence in sin, the blessings perverted, the messengers of God despised, the warnings rejected, the waves of mercy beaten back by the stubborn, unrepentant heart—all appear as if written in letters of fire. {GC 666.2}

The panoramic record of redemption will unfold before all of their eyes. The cross will be lifted before all. Every act of mercy, every rejected appeal, every patient effort of love God made toward them will be shown to the lost.

Ellen G. White describes this moment as the time when the entire universe will see the justice of God and the wicked will acknowledge the righteousness of their sentence (*The Great Controversy*, ch. 42).

Satan’s accusations will collapse. His followers will see him as he truly is—the architect of their ruin. Hatred will turn inward. The unity of rebellion will shatter.

Thereafter, no one will accuse God. Even Satan would have no defense. *In fact “Every knee shall bow...and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”* (Philippians 2:10–11)

But why is this scene portrayed with the words **fire that devourers**? That is because this will truly be the most painful experience human souls could ever go through.

The lost will see one after one all their sins that have caused them to separate from God for eternity. Then they will also know how much pain and suffering their lives have caused to people and animals they knew and didn’t know on earth.

They will see their lives as God had seen them. They will see the mercy they had rejected, the Spirit they had silenced, the love they had despised. The heart will be full of regrets but repentance would not be possible for them.

Jesus says some will suffer more in the judgement than the others.

“It will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you...It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.” Matthew 11:20–24

The reasons for this various levels of suffering are given to us by Jesus this way: “That servant who knew his master’s will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.” Luke 12:47–48

Jesus is speaking here in parables. Meaning God will not literally beat us. But rather, Humans will suffer based on how much they know about God and his will. The whole suffering in this fire that comes from God, clearly seems like a very bad mental agony.

Jesus says “And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Mathew 8:11,12

So clearly the fire that comes from God that devourers the wicked is not the fire we think and neither the wicked who never knew God will suffer the most. In fact, the opposite is true.

So we can safely say the suffering they experience is not directly from God. But rather it is the pain sins have caused, which so far God has been carrying. But during the judgement the weight of these sins will justly be put upon lost by revealing to them what they have sown. The full revelation of their sinful choices, acts, and loss of eternal life is what will cause them immense suffering.

I believe they all would go through some very intense mixed feelings, beliefs and wishes in this final suffering. They will long to live forever as that was the original principle God has placed in the heart of men. But on the other end, due to the agony the burden of sin and separation from eternal father would cause them to wish speedy death.

Lord says, “Wherever I banish them, all the survivors of this evil nation will prefer death to life.” Jeremiah 8:3

Life under God’s judgment is worse to them than nonexistence because it forces them to face truth which is against their nature and life.

But sooner or later their wish to die will be granted. Some will suffer for a moment, while others will suffer many days. All are punished according to their deeds. All will meet their just end.

The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived. After all have perished who fell by his deceptions, he is still to live and suffer on. In the cleansing flames the wicked are at last destroyed, root and branch—Satan the root, his followers the branches. The full penalty of the law has been visited; the demands of justice have been met; and heaven and earth, beholding, declare the righteousness of Jehovah. {GC. 173.1}

Interestingly God tells us how he will destroy Satan.

“By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground...”  
Ezekiel 28:18

The Bible portrays the downfall of Satan as a fire that comes from within, symbolizing the self-destructive nature of sin rather than literal burning. His pride and rebellion set in motion a process that inevitably consumes him, showing that evil contains the seeds of its own ruin. As James 1:15 explains, “Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death,” and Proverbs 16:18 warns, “Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.” These verses reveal a consistent biblical truth: rebellion against God cannot sustain itself. Even before God's final judgment, Satan's own corruption leads to his collapse, demonstrating that the consequences of sin are internal as well as inevitable.

In all this Satan will suffer the most. “*The wages of sin is death.*” (Romans 6:23) Therefore, every wicked person, false prophets, angelic beings, the beast, and Satan will come to an end of their lives. They will be consumed by the glory of God which is the consuming fire to the wicked. This will be the end of the wicked, this is how they die.

Finally to purify the earth from the bodies of the wicked dead the Lord will allow the volcanic bed to rupture and break forth from beneath the earth, forming a lake of fire with brimstone.

And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.  
Revelation 20:10

And **death and hell** were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire Revelation 20:14,15

While reading the book of revelation we may feel like God would punish the wicked by torturing them in the lake of fire in a very controlled manner. But this is not the correct understanding. When we read about the lake of fire in the book of revelation, we need to understand as much as the Bible reveals where this fire will come from. John the author of the book of Revelation also uses the words “**the lake of fire**” in the symbolic manner. For example he says in the above verse “**death and hell were cast into the lake of fire**”. It is impossible to understand this verse any other way unless we conclude it is expressed in a symbolic manner.

However, it's possible to conclude that wicked and Satan and his followers will die suffering in the consuming glory of God, which will act as consuming fire during the judgement. But after they have died, their bodies will be burned in the lake of fire and physically annihilated from the earth.

**This is correct due these two reasons:**

1. The sufferings of Jesus on cross correctly reveals how a sinner will be judged and treated. When Jesus was on the cross, he went through immense mental agony due to the weight of the sins of the world. In fact the Bible tells us his sweat turned into blood. In that situation he also felt the separation sin caused between him and the father. That is when he cried "Father why have you forsaken me?" This is exactly how every sinner is supposed to be treated in the judgement. This is exactly what will happen at the judgement.
2. We know that wicked people will not be tortured in a controlled manner by the lake of fire and neither fire will burn forever, because that is not our God's character.

God says, "Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? declares the Sovereign LORD. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?" - Ezekiel 18:23

"I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live." Ezekiel 33:11

These verses show that God's desire is repentance and life, not prolonged suffering. Any interpretation of final judgment has to align with this clearly stated aspect of His nature.

This way or that way, "*Satan, root, branch, and followers, are destroyed.*" (*The Great Controversy*, ch. 42)

The author of sin will become its greatest victim.

The universe will watch—angels and unfallen worlds will continue looking till the end. And then will come the promise that echoes through eternity: "*Affliction shall not rise up the second time.*" (Nahum 1:9)

Never again would doubt darken a mind.

Never again would a tear fall.

Never again would love be questioned.

The scars in Christ's hands would forever testify—not of rebellion—but of redemption.

At last, the controversy was over. Not because God overpowered His enemies—but because truth had been revealed.

Ellen G. White closes *The Great Controversy* with words that feel like the final chord of a long, aching symphony:

*“The great controversy has ended. Sin and sinners are no more... From the smallest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, declare that God is love.”*

And the universe responded—not with fear—but with joy.

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying.”* (Revelation 21:4)

Satan’s work of ruin is forever ended. For six thousand years he has wrought his will, filling the earth with woe and causing grief throughout the universe. The whole creation has groaned and travailed together in pain. Now God’s creatures are forever delivered from his presence and temptations. “The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they [the righteous] break forth into singing.” Isaiah 14:7. And a shout of praise and triumph ascends from the whole loyal universe. “The voice of a great multitude,” “as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders,” is heard, saying: “Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.” Revelation 19:6 {GC 673.2}.

## **Chapter 14 – A Universe at Peace Again**

After the judgement of the wicked a day will come when peace will fill the entire universe. It will not be an empty silence, but a deep and joyful peace—the kind that comes when everything God promises is finally made right. Sin, pain, and rebellion will be gone forever.

The apostle John tells us what he will see: “I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.” Revelation 21:1

The lake of fire that will annihilate the lost will also purify the earth. Every mark of the curse will be removed. There will be no eternally burning hell to keep before redeeming the fearful results of sin.

John says, “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death” Revelation 20:14

This is because Satan was the author of death and hell. With an end to him the concept of death and hell are also destroyed in the lake of fire symbolically. Nothing from the old world will remain to bring fear, sorrow, or pain. The universe will be clean, safe, and at peace.

Only one reminder of sin will remain. Jesus, our Redeemer, will forever bear the marks of His sacrifice. The wounds in His hands, feet, side, and brow will be the only traces of the terrible cost of sin. The prophet describes how Christ will appear in glory:

*“He had bright beams coming out of His side: and there was the hiding of His power.”*  
(Habakkuk 3:4, margin)

From that pierced side once flowed the blood that reconciled humanity to God. Those wounds will become His highest honor. Through all eternity, they will remind the universe of His love, His justice, and His power to save.

Harmony Will Be Restored. God's promise of restoration will be fulfilled: "O Tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto Thee shall it come, even the first dominion." (Micah 4:8)

Ever since Adam and Eve were driven from Eden, God's faithful people have looked forward to this moment—the time of the redemption of the purchased possession (Ephesians 1:14). The earth, which was given to humanity and then lost through sin, will be fully restored by Jesus.

God's original purpose will stand: "Thus saith the Lord... He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited." (Isaiah 45:18)

The earth will again become a home for God's children. "The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever." (Psalm 37:29)

### God Will Dwell With His People

Some have feared that heaven sounds too physical, but Jesus Himself has promised that He is preparing real homes for His followers. God wants His people to know that their future inheritance will be real, though far greater than words can describe.

"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9)

The Bible calls this inheritance a country (Hebrews 11:14–16). God will lead His people to fountains of living water. The tree of life will bear fruit every month, and its leaves will bring healing. Clear rivers will flow beside shaded paths. Wide plains will rise into beautiful hills, and peaceful mountains will stand in quiet strength.

After a lifetime of struggle, God's people will finally be home.

"My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places." (Isaiah 32:18)

Violence will disappear forever: "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land... but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise." (Isaiah 60:18)

People will enjoy the work of their own hands: "They shall build houses, and inhabit them... Mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands." (Isaiah 65:21–22)

Nature will be healed: "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad... and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose." (Isaiah 35:1)

"Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree." (Isaiah 55:13) Even animals will live in peace: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb... and a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6) "They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain." (Isaiah 11:9)

The Universe Will Be Secure Forever. Pain will not exist in heaven. There will be no sickness, no death, and no tears: "There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying... for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4)

No one will say, "I am sick," because all will be healed and forgiven (Isaiah 33:24).

At the center of the new earth, the New Jerusalem will stand: "A crown of glory in the hand of the Lord." (Isaiah 62:3) "Her light was like unto a stone most precious." (Revelation 21:11)

"The nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it." (Revelation 21:24)

God Himself will say: "I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people." (Isaiah 65:19)

"The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them." (Revelation 21:3)

There will be no night: "The Lord God giveth them light." (Revelation 22:5)

There will be no temple building: "For the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." (Revelation 21:22)

What is now seen dimly will one day be clear: "Now we see through a glass, darkly." (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Then God's people will see Him face to face. Love Will Reign Forever

The redeemed will know God fully and will be fully known. Families will be reunited, and angels and saved people will live together as one family (Ephesians 3:15).

They will never stop learning about God's love and power. They will explore creation, visit other worlds, and grow in wisdom forever. With every new discovery, their joy will increase.

At last, all creation will join in praise: "Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." (Revelation 5:13)

The great controversy will come to an end. Sin will be gone forever. The universe will be safe for all time. From the smallest atom to the greatest world, everything will declare one eternal truth: God is love.

## Chapter 15 – Choosing Sides in the Great Controversy

The great controversy between Jesus and Satan is not just a story of angels and the cosmic battle between good and evil. The reality of the controversy can be seen more clearly in our own personal lives. Every one of us faces a daily struggle against sin, selfishness, and the corruption of this world.

It is easy to point fingers at the circumstances around us, at wicked leaders, or at the evils that surround us. Yet the deeper, more decisive battle is often taking place between our two ears.

The Bible reminds us: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9

No person is exempt from sin. Whether we are aware of it or not, the battle is being fought between our desires and God's will, between truth and deception, between love and pride. Our Every thought, every choice, every moment pulls us to Jesus or the other direction.

The choices we make each day are not trivial. They shape our character, influence our habits, and ultimately will determine our eternal destiny. Every decision to resist temptation, to forgive, to act with integrity, or to trust God matters and proves that we are on Christ's side.

The Bible says: "*So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.*" (Romans 14:12)

Even when the enemy tempts, accuses, or overwhelms us, God calls us to stand firm in faith. Every small victory strengthens us and draws us closer to Him.

Victory in this controversy is impossible on our own. Satan is cunning, patient, and relentless. But we are never left to fight alone. God Himself is actively involved in the battle, offering wisdom, strength, and guidance. He promises:

*"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."* (1 Corinthians 10:13)

When we rely on His power rather than our own, the impossible becomes possible. In God, we find strength to resist evil, courage to persevere, and peace amid the trials.

We have immense hope because of Jesus Christ. He has already won the ultimate victory over sin and death, and His righteousness is freely offered to all who trust in Him. In Christ, we are assured that no matter how fierce the battle, our final outcome is secure if we choose to follow Him faithfully.

*"In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."* (Romans 8:37)

We are invited to trust God's character, rest in His promises, and place our hearts fully in His care. Trusting God does not mean the battle ends immediately, but it does mean we are never alone, and we can face each day with courage and confidence.

The great controversy is personal. It is happening in your heart. Every day presents a choice: to side with Christ or with the enemy. Choosing Christ is not just a one-time decision—it is a daily act of surrender and trust.

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28)

From today, you can always choose to surrender your heart to Jesus, to trust Him with your mind, your choices, and your future. Let Him fight the battle in your heart, and rest in His assurance that He is victorious.

The war has already been won in heaven. Now, the choice is yours: which side will you stand on?