

NOTES

OPENING THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE

BREAKING THE LAST LINKS OF SYMPATHY

Camp Meeting 2026

By Elder S. Leacock

NOTES

“Satanis an accuser of the brethren, and his accusing power is employed against those who work righteousness. The Lord desires through his people to answer Satan’s charges by showing the results of obedience to right principles.” Christ Object Lessons p. 296.

“Every question of truth and error in the longstanding controversy has now been made plain... The results of rebellion, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, have been laid open to the view of all created intelligences... God’s wisdom, His justice, and His goodness stand fully vindicated. “The history of sin will stand to all eternity as a witness that with the existence of God’s law is bound up the happiness of all the beings He has created.”

“With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: “just and true are Thy ways, thou King of saints.” G.C p. 670.3.

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Cover design and book design by Shamz Creative

APPENDIX D

WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT COMPLETES THE OPENING OF ALL EYES

- “In the day of final judgment, every lost soul will understand the nature of his own rejection of truth.”
- The cross will be presented, and its real bearing will be seen by every mind that has been blinded by transgression.
- Before the vision of Calvary with its mysterious Victim, sinners will stand condemned.
- Every lying excuse will be swept away.
- Human apostasy will appear in its heinous character.
- Men will see what their choice has been.
- Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy will then have been made plain.
- In the judgment of the universe, God will stand clear of blame for the existence or continuance of evil.
- It will be demonstrated that the divine decrees are not accessory to sin.
- There was no defect in God’s government, no cause for disaffection. When the thoughts of all hearts shall be revealed, both the loyal and the rebellious will unite in declaring, “Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? . . . for Thy judgments are made manifest. Rev. 15:3, 4.” DA p. 58.1

APPENDIX C

OPENING THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE PART 4

CLASS OF CREATURES WHOSE EYES MUST BE OPENED	EVENT WHICH OPENS EYES	AGENCY	TIME PERIOD
UNSAVED LIVING	JACOB'S TROUBLE (REV 17: 13-17)	CHRIST THROUGH THE 144,000 (FIFTH ANGEL)	FROM PLAGUE 2 TO 5, 6, 7

OPENING THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE PART 5

CLASS OF CREATURES WHOSE EYES MUST BE OPENED	EVENT WHICH OPENS EYES	AGENCY	TIME PERIOD
SAVED WHO DIED BEFORE FINAL EVENTS OR WITHOUT SEEING THE LIGHT	SPECIAL TEACHING DURING MILLENIUM IN HEAVEN (REV 20)	CHRIST	1000 YEARS OF REV. 20

OPENING THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE PART 6

CLASS OF CREATURES WHOSE EYES MUST BE OPENED	EVENT WHICH OPENS EYES	AGENCY	TIME PERIOD
UNSAVED WHO DIED BEFORE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE	POST MELLENIAL WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT (REV 20)	CHRIST	END OF CONTROVERSY AT GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT

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APPENDIX B

OPENING THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE PART 1

CLASS OF CREATURES WHOSE EYES MUST BE OPENED	EVENT WHICH OPENS EYES	AGENCY	TIME PERIOD
UNFALLEN ANGELS AND INHABITANTS OF UNFALLEN WORLDS	CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS (JOHN 19:30)	CHRIST, HIMSELF	AD 31

OPENING THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE PART 2

CLASS OF CREATURES WHOSE EYES MUST BE OPENED	EVENT WHICH OPENS EYES	AGENCY	TIME PERIOD
THIRD ANGEL'S MOVEMENT AND LOUD CRY MESSENGERS	ADVANCING LIGHT OF THE THIRD ANGEL (HOSEA 6:3)	CHRIST THROUGH HUMAN MESSENGERS (THIRD ANGEL)	1888 TO START OF SUNDAY LAWS

OPENING THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE PART 3

CLASS OF CREATURES WHOSE EYES MUST BE OPENED	EVENT WHICH OPENS EYES	AGENCY	TIME PERIOD
THIRD ANGEL'S MOVEMENT AND LOUD CRY MESSENGERS	ADVANCING LIGHT OF THE THIRD ANGEL (HOSEA 6:3)	CHRIST THROUGH HUMAN MESSENGERS (THIRD ANGEL)	1888 TO START OF SUNDAY LAWS

APPENDIX A

CHART ON OPENING THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE.

OPENING THE EYES OF THE UNIVERSE PART 3 TIME TABLE			
CLASS OF CREATURES WHOSE EYES MUST BE OPENED	EVENT WHICH OPENS EYES	AGENCY	TIME PERIOD
1 UNFALLEN ANGELS AND INHABITANTS OF UNFALLEN WORLDS	CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS (JOHN 19:30)	CHRIST, HIMSELF	AD 31
2 THIRD ANGEL'S MOVEMENT AND LOUD CRY MESSENGERS	ADVANCING LIGHT OF THE THIRD ANGEL (HOSEA 6:3)	CHRIST THROUGH HUMAN MESSENGERS (THIRD ANGEL)	1888 TO START OF SUNDAY LAWS
3 GOD'S OTHER SHEEP IN BABYLON	SETTING UP THE IMAGE AND MARK OF THE BEAST (REV 18:1-4)	CHRIST THROUGH THE LOUD CRY MESSENGERS (FOURTH ANGEL)	START OF SUNDAY LAWS TO CLOSE OF PROBATION
4 UNSAVED LIVING	JACOB'S TROUBLE (REV 17: 13-17)	CHRIST THROUGH THE 144,000 (FIFTH ANGEL)	FROM PLAGUE 2 TO 5, 6, 7
5 SAVED WHO DIED BEFORE FINAL EVENTS OR WITHOUT SEEING THE LIGHT	SPECIAL TEACHING DURING MILLENNIUM IN HEAVEN (REV 20)	CHRIST	1000 YEARS OF REV. 20
6 UNSAVED WHO DIED BEFORE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE	POST MILLENNIAL WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT (REV 20)	CHRIST	END OF CONTROVERSY AT GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT

CHAPTER 1

THE ACCUSER AND THE HOLY LINE WITNESSES

REVELATION 12:7-9

THE SCRIPTURES REVEALS

“In whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
2 Corinthians 4:4-6.

THE ACCUSER OF OUR BRETHREN

When the rebellion started in Heaven, the angels of God who had always been loyal, respectful, and obedient to Lucifer as the Light Bearer, could not tell where he was leading them. When he began to tell lies about God’s character, some seeds of doubt were sown in the minds of one third of the angels who joined him

in his rebellion against God; others had questions but they chose to remain loyal and faithful to God trusting him to answer those questions in His own time and way. Revelation 12: 3, 4.

Satan whose mastermind was bent wholly towards evil, deceived one third of the angels who chose to follow him in his rebellion against God. The lies and deceptions were so great that not even the angelic intelligences of heaven could not fully escape from them.

“Satanis an accuser of the brethren, and his accusing power is employed against those who work righteousness. The Lord desires through his people to answer Satan’s charges by showing the results of obedience to right principles.” Christ object lessons p.296.

“Satan had been so highly honored, and all his acts were so clothed with mystery, that it was difficult to disclose to the angels the true nature of his work. Until fully developed, sin would not appear the evil thing it was.” GC p.497.2

“Satan had made it appear that he himself was seeking to promote the good of the universe. The true character of the usurper, and his real object, must be understood by all.” GC 498.1

“Satan had, at first, concealed his work under a specious profession of loyalty to God. He had claimed to be seeking to promote the honour of God, the stability of his government, and the good of all the inhabitants of heaven. While instilling discontent into the minds of the angels under him, He had artfully made it appear that he was seeking to remove dissatisfaction. When he urged that changes be made in the order and laws of God’s government, it was under the pretense that these were necessary in order to preserve harmony in heaven.”

Endtime Church) and causing many to be overthrown, this tidings out of the East and the North will trouble him. When this final warning message goes to the world, at that time the earth will be lightened with the Glory of God (Character of God), which will be the present truth for that time. The light will penetrate everywhere with eye opening impact.

When human probation closes, then all minds would have been made up/fixed/sealed for God or Satan. The issues will then have been made clear to all. As in the days of Noah, probation will close for the world when they know it not. Revelation 22:11

The final pronouncement of Revelation 22:11 will declare the destiny of the world eternally fixed. Everyone would have been polarized on one side or the other. The wicked receive the mark of the beast in their foreheads or right hand, while the righteous receive the Seal of Living God only in their foreheads. Rev.7.

Just as in Daniel 11:40-44, God waits until the hour of utmost extremity before He springs His surprise attack on the enemy. So, it is in the darkest hour of earth’s history that He causes His light to shine.

“The power attending the message **will only madden** those who oppose it. The clergy will put forth almost superhuman efforts to **shut away the light lest it should shine upon their flocks**. By every means at their command they will endeavor to suppress the discussion of these vital questions.” GC 607.

“All who venture to have their own way, who do not join the angels who are sent from heaven with **a message to fill the whole earth** with its glory, will be passed by. The work will go forward to victory without them, and they will have no part in its triumph.” Review and Herald, December 23, 1890 (vol 2, p 454).

*“These have **one mind**, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.” Rev.17:14.*

“What is it that gives its kingdom to this power? Protestantism, a power which, while professing to have the temper and spirit of a lamb and to be allied to Heaven, speaks with the voice of a Dragon. It is moved by a power from beneath.” 7 BC 983.5

Hence, only when Protestantism is of “one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast”, **will she unite with the beast**, and receive power to persecute God’s true people.

Also in Revelation 17:14 we are told that the **satanic forces are united** against and to make war with the Lamb and **they that are with him**....who are called, and chosen, and faithful, God’s people on the earth.

“These have one mind.” There will be **a universal bond of union**, one great harmony, a confederacy of Satan’s forces. “and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. Thus is manifested the same arbitrary, oppressive power against religious liberty, freedom to worship God according to the dictates of conscience, as was manifested by the Papacy, when in the past it persecuted those who dared to refuse to conform with the religious rites and ceremonies of Romanism.” 7 BC p.983.6.

“In the warfare to be waged in the last days **there will be united**, all the corrupt powers that have apostatized from allegiance to the law of Jehovah...” 7 BC p. 983.7.

In the Endtime, when it seems that the king of the North, spiritual or endtime Babylon is entering the glorious land (God’s

“The inhabitants of Heaven and of the other worlds, being unprepared to comprehend the nature or consequences of sin, could not then have seen the justice and mercy of God in the destruction of Satan.” Great Controversy 499

“Had he been immediately blotted from existence, they would have served God from fear rather than love....Satan’s rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages, a perpetual testimony to the nature and terrible results of sin.... When it was announced that with all his sympathizers he must be expelled from the abodes of bliss, then the rebel leader boldly avowed his contempt for the Creator’s law.” Desire of ages p.22.1

“The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan’s deceptive power was to be broken. This could not be done by force. The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God’s government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded; it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened. To know God is to love Him; His character must be manifested in contrast to the character of Satan. This work only One Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known.”

“With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust his goodness. Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving. Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world.” DA p.21.3

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:6

“This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.” 1 John 1:5.

“Satan determined to be first in the councils of Heaven, and equal with God. He began his work of rebellion with the angels under his command, seeking to diffuse among them the spirit of discontent. And he worked in so deceptive a way that many of the angels were won to his allegiance before his purposes were fully known.” RH Jan 28, 1909.

Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character, nor see to what his work was leading. When Satan had succeeded in winning many angels to his side, he took his cause to God, representing that it was the desire of the angels that he occupy the position that Christ held.

The evil one continued to work until the spirit of disaffection ripened into active revolt. Then there was war in Heaven, and Satan, with all who sympathized with him, was cast out. Satan had warred for the mastery in Heaven, and had lost the battle. God could no longer trust him with honour and supremacy, and these, with the part he had taken in the government of Heaven, were taken from him.

Since that time, Satan and his army of confederates have been the avowed enemies of God in our world, continually warring against the cause of truth and righteousness. Satan has continued to present to men, as he presented to the angels, his false representations of Christ and of God, and he has won the world to his side. Even the professedly

“When the leading churches of the United States, **uniting** upon such points of doctrine as are held by them in common, shall influence the state to enforce their decrees and to sustain their institutions, then Protestant America will have formed an image of the Roman hierarchy, and the infliction of civil penalties upon dissenters will inevitably result.” GC 445.1.

“The line of distinction between professed Christians and the ungodly is now hardly distinguishable. Church members love what the world loves and are ready to join with them, and **Satan determines to unite them in one body** and thus strengthen his cause by sweeping all into the ranks of spiritualism.”

“**Papist, protestants and worldlings** will alike accept the form of godliness without the power, and they will see in **this union** a grand movement for the conversion of the world and the ushering in of the long-expected millennium.” GC 588.3.

“As **America**, the land of religious liberty, **shall unite with the Papacy** in forcing and compelling men to honour the false sabbath, the people of every country on the globe will be led to follow her example.” 6 T 18.2.

“As Satan influenced Esau to march against Jacob, so he will stir up the wicked to destroy God’s people in the time of trouble....he numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. **If he could blot them from the earth**, his triumph would be complete.” GC 618.

“The Protestant churches **will unite with the papal power** in persecuting the commandments-keeping people of God.” LDE 145.2.

under the these three (3) enemies of God's people in the Final Crisis. Rev.16:19. There are :

1. The Dragon—Satan and the state, the kings of the earth. (Rev.12:3,4, 9. Rev.16:14; Rev.17:2). Paganism and spiritualism (miracle -working spirits of devils).
2. The Beast– the Roman Papacy of the past, otherwise called the Antichrist of Bible prophecy or the Little Horn (Dan.7). Rev.13:1—7, and
3. The False Prophet—Apostate Protestantism in the USA when she speaks as a dragon. Rev.13:11—16; Rev.19:20.

It is from these three agencies, before the close of probation, that three (3) unclean spirits like frogs come out of each of their mouths to unite and to deceive. Scriptures reveal that they are the spirits of devils working miracles.

“And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils working miracles.” They go forth unto the kings of earth, and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.” (Armageddon) Rev.16: 13, 14.

“The **Protestants** of the United States will be foremost in stretching their hands across the gulf to grasp the hands of **spiritualism**; they will reach over the abyss to clasp the hands with the **Roman power**; and under the influence of **this three-fold union**, this country will follow in the steps of Rome in trampling on the rights of conscience.” GC 588.2.

Christian churches have taken sides with the first great apostate.

Therefore, the struggle between the seed of the Serpent and the seed of the Woman has played out in history and will come to a culmination in the last days, during the final crisis. (Compare Genesis 3 with Revelation 12 where the same four (4) elements are mentioned. Rev.12 describes the climax of the longstanding conflict. Genesis 3:15 vs Revelation 12:3—9, 13-17.

SATAN'S PURPOSE TO DESTROY THE EVIDENCE OF THE WITNESS OF THE HOLY LINE.

There are four (4) entities which are common to both Genesis 3:15 and Revelation 12. There are

1. The seed of the serpent
2. The seed of the woman
3. Enmity/war
4. The Dragon/old serpent/ devil/ Satan

The dragon's evil intentions toward the woman's unborn child and the holy line have evidenced themselves throughout history. Instances of his hostility against God through the HOLY LINE have surfaced in many instances, namely:

1. Cain's murder of Abel (Gen. 4:8),
2. The corrupting of the line of Seth and the Flood (Gen. 6:1–12),
3. Attempted rapes of Sarah (Gen. 12:10–20; 20:1–18) and Rebekah (Gen. 26:1–18),
4. Rebekah's plan to cheat Esau out of his birthright and the consequent

5. Enmity of Esau against Jacob (Gen. 27),
6. The murder of the male children in Egypt (Ex. 1:15–22),
7. Attempted murders of David (e.g., 1 Sam. 18:10–11),
8. Queen Athaliah’s attempt to destroy the royal seed (2 Chron. 22:10),
9. Haman’s attempt to slaughter the Jews, the people of God (Esther 3–9), and
10. Consistent attempts of the Israelites to murder their own children for sacrificial purposes (cf. Lev. 18:21; 2 Kings 16:3; 2 Chron. 28:3; ps. 106:37–38; Ezek. 16:20).
11. The attack of Herod against the children of Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16) and many other incidents during Jesus’ earthly life, including
12. His temptation, which typify the ongoing attempt of the Dragon to “devour” the woman’s child once He was born (Rev.12),
13. But the greatest and most direct attempt of Satan was, of course, in the temptations and crucifixion of Christ in the wilderness and at the Cross to give up His faith in God and to fail.
14. Satan’s final attempt against God’s church Rev.12:17 will be to blot God’s church from the face of the earth. GC 418. (A deeper analysis of Revelation 12 will be dealt with in a separate chapter).

“While Satan is constantly seeking to blind their minds to the fact, let Christians never forget that they “wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,

CHAPTER 12

TIDINGS OUT OF THE EAST AND THE NORTH, THE FINAL EYE-OPENER

In Daniel 11, the work of the Tidings out of the East and North (the final loud cry work) will trouble and madden the work of the final King of the North (Final Babylon). Hence, he will go forth with fury to seek to destroy the people of God because they are exposing his real intentions. Through the final Loud Cry warning message of Revelation 18:1-5, everyone will be enlightened, Satan’s kingdom of Babylon will finally fall or “come to his (its) end, and none shall help him.” (Dan.11:45).

“But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many.....yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.” Dan.11:44, 45.

Spiritual Babylon or Endtime Babylon is called in Revelation 18:1-4, Babylon the great, the Mother of Harlots. Final Babylon will be a combination of three (3) forces—the Dragon the Beast and the False Prophet (Rev.16). The wicked—are all categorized

It's high time we stop squinting at the true character of God, and start seeing the truth with wide open eyes and full clarity of mind concerning the real issues at stake in the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against wicked spirits in high places. Ephesians 6:12." GC 510.2.

"From the days of Adam to our own time, our great enemy has been exercising his power to oppress and destroy. He is now preparing for his last campaign against the church. All who seek to follow Jesus will be brought into conflict with this relentless foe. The more nearly the Christian imitates the divine Pattern, the more surely will he make himself a mark for the attacks of Satan. All who are actively engaged in the cause of God, seeking to unveil the deceptions of the evil one, and to present Christ before the people, will be able to join in the testimony of Paul, of which he speaks of serving the Lord with all humility of mind, with many tears and temptations." GC 510.2.

CHAPTER 2

THE CHARGES OF SATAN AGAINST GOD

BIBLICAL EVIDENCES...STORY OF JOB, PARABLE OF TALENTS, GENESIS 3, REV. 12:7-9,

- Satan began his rebellion, accusation and charges in Heaven.
- He accused God of seeking to suppress the angels
- Of demanding obedience from his creatures,
- He charged God of selfishness, and
- That His law was oppressive and unnecessary.

In the Garden of Eden (Gen.3), Satan succeeded in getting Adam and Eve to sin. He made accusations and charged God as

- Being a liar (“Ye shall not surely die”)
- Preventing their progress and development as God—keeping them down (Ye shall become as God knowing good and evil)

God’s final generation of living church saints, on the other hand, will fully reflect His harmless character of Love (1 John 4:7-12) and will give to the world “the final and full display of the Love of God”. A.A.p.9. Their victory will open the eyes of all as to the real purposes of Satan all along.

There are several places in Scripture where this truth is highlighted.

In Daniel 7, the judgment renders the verdict in favour of the Son of man and the saints, and as a result, the little horn and its career are destroyed and the saints possess the kingdom.

“Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the Kingdom.” Daniel 7:22.

“But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.” Daniel 7:26.

In Daniel 8, the work of the cleansing of the sanctuary, describes the final day-of-atonement work that prepares a people (God’s army) to stand in the day of God who will vindicate the character of God and bring the great controversy to a close. Daniel 8:14. “Then shall the sanctuary be vindicated or restored” (original Hebrew) to its rightful place, after being trodden down.

The Church will reproduce the work of Christ. The work which Christ began at Calvary, they (the church) will “carry to glorious perfection the work which he has commenced...” 5 SDABC p. 1146.1. See also Gal.2:20. Jesus “destroyed the works of the devil” and He said to His disciples, “greater works than these shall ye do”. 1 John 3:18 and John 14:12. And it will be “eventually through the church that the final and full display of the love of God” will be given.” AA p. 9.

Sure, we might think we are seeing clearly, but without rightly dividing the Word of Truth, our perception is flawed concerning God's real character—distorted by fear, pride, or a misunderstood gospel of His nature. This can be an eye-opening experience for some who have long held the traditional view of His character as an arbitrary, vindictive, destructive Being, who does not recognize the freedom of choice of His creatures. This engenders a performance-based religion or legalism which seeks to impress God rather than express Him.

When the prodigal son “came to himself”, he saw the Father's heart differently and sought to return home. God is seeking true, genuine reformers today who mean business with Him, and are more concerned about honouring God and vindicating His character in their daily lives and, like Job, proving Him right and Satan wrong.

The final battle for the mind's loyalty, will be made manifest in the final conflict when all the persecutory pressure Satan can muster will be unleashed against the people of God who are standing firm for truth and righteousness, and seeking to vindicate God's cause and character. This conflict cannot and will not end until and unless the Character of God stands fully vindicated and is fully reproduced in His final generation of living saints on earth—His final church, the 144000. Ephesians 5:25-27; C.O.L.p. 69; D.A.p.671; Rev. 19: 6-8.

This final battle in the long drawn out war between the forces of good and evil is mentioned in Rev.12:17 and will be manifested as a battle between the final generation of sinners and the final generation of saints.Rev.17:12-14. Satan's final generation of sinners will fully reflect the selfishness and pride of the devil. 2Tim.3:1-5; John 16:1-3.

- He doesn't want your eyes open (Your eyes will be open)
- God not being open and honest with her, not being forthright
- One who cannot be trusted (Yea, hath God said...He knows that if ye eat ye shall become like Him...)
- Deliberately withholding knowledge from them

In the parable of the talents, Satan has leveled certain charges against God via the one-talent man. Mat.25:15-30. He insinuatedly charged

- That God is a hard and unfair task Master,
- That He seeking only his own benefit for selfish considerations,
- That He was having one law for Himself and another for others,
- That He was demanding that which He does not give,
- That God is to be feared,
- That His laws or requirements cannot be kept, and
- That He was demanding that which is not possible.

“Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice,—one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditorthe enemy of good blinded the minds of men, so that they looked upon God with fear...as severe and unforgiving.”

“Satan has represented God as selfish and oppressive, as claiming all, and giving nothing, as requiring the service of his

creatures for his own glory, and making no sacrifice for their good.”

In the book of Job, following the conversations between the Lord and Satan, we see that the devil charges God with

- not being a good God,
- who doesn't know what He is doing, and
- one who can only gain loyalty from a person if he buys them, bribes them or by prospering them.
- He seeks to demonstrate that God does not know how to run the universe.
- He believes that he could do a better job.
- That God is the cause of sickness, suffering, disease, death, calamities and the “fire of God” that fell from Heaven.

“He pictured the Creator as a Being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that he may visit judgments upon them. It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men.” Steps to Christ p. 10.3

In Heaven, before leaving, Satan had charged God with self-centredness. On earth, Satan represents God's law as a law of selfishness, that it cannot be kept, even suggesting that it is abolished, no longer binding upon men today, and hence it cannot be obeyed. See Revelation 14:12 and 12:17. Satan also declared that God is the cause of sin, sickness, suffering, disease and death.

“I saw that the minds of some of the church have not run in the right channel. There have been some peculiar temperaments that have had their notions by which to measure their brethren. And if any did not exactly agree with them, there was trouble in the camp at once. Some have strained at a gnat and swallowed a camel.” Testimony vol.1, page 144.2.

“I saw that many have so much rubbish piled up at the door of their heart that they cannot get the door open. Some have difficulties between themselves and their brethren to remove. Others have evil tempers, selfish covetousness, to remove before they can open the door. Others have rolled the world before the door of their heart, which bars the door. All this rubbish must be taken away, and then they can open the door and welcome the Saviour in.” Testimony vol.1, 143.2.

Here is where the battle needs be fought and won, and where spiritual discernment, divine wisdom and understanding are needed. Often, our eyes are clouded by doubts and uncertainties concerning God's character and the real issues at stake in the great controversy. Our hearts and minds need illumination to truly grasp what are the critical issues. Unless, we can see ourselves as we really are in the sight of God, there is nothing that the Lord can do to remedy our spiritual condition.

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.” Ephesians 1:18.

There is need for a deeper level of perception than mere eyesight. It implies that our hearts, the center of our emotions and beliefs, need to be opened and receptive. This heart-centered understanding encompasses both emotional and spiritual awareness, allowing us to connect deeply with the love and purpose that God has for us.

which will suggest impure thoughts. The mind must not be left to dwell at random upon every subject that the enemy of souls may suggest. The heart must be faithfully sentineled, or evils without will awaken evils within, and the soul will wander in darkness. “Gird up the loins of your mind,” Peter wrote, “be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ... not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” Messages to Young People page 518.2.

“This will require earnest prayer and unceasing watchfulness. We must be aided by the abiding influence of the Holy Spirit, which will attract the mind upward, and habituate it to dwell on pure and holy things. And we must give diligent study to the Word of God. “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy word.” “Thy word,” says the Psalmist, “have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.”—Patriarchs and Prophets, 460.

“If the thoughts are wrong, the feelings will be wrong, and the thoughts and the feelings combined make up the moral character.” Review & Herald, April 18, 1885.

Before the minds of men can be opened, much rubbish needs to be removed so that they can clearly see the real issues. Some have spiritual cataract and glaucoma which is blinding their eyes and preventing clear vision. The blindness of their own faults or the faults of their brethren are piled up against the doors of their understanding.

“It was generally believed by the Jews that sin is punished in this life. Every affliction was regarded as the penalty of some wrongdoing, either of the sufferer himself or of his parents. It is true that all suffering results from the transgression of God’s law, but this truth had become perverted.

“Satan, the author of sin and all its results, had led men to look upon disease and death as proceeding from God,—as punishment arbitrarily inflicted on account of sin. Hence one upon whom some great affliction or calamity had fallen had the additional burden of being regarded as a great sinner. Thus the way was prepared for the Jews to reject Jesus. He who “hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows” was looked upon by the Jews as “stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted;” and they hid their faces from Him. Isaiah 53:4, 3.”

“God had given a lesson designed to prevent this. The history of Job had shown that suffering is inflicted by Satan, and is overruled by God for purposes of mercy. But Israel did not understand the lesson. The same error for which God had reproved the friends of Job was repeated by the Jews in their rejection of Christ. The belief of the Jews in regard to the relation of sin and suffering was held by Christ’s disciples.” DA p.471.

“Christ came to the world to meet these false accusations, and to reveal the Father.” DA p.57.

“Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known.” DA 22.1

The act of Christ in dying for man would not only make Heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would justify God

and his Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin. Remember,

In summary then, it is important for us to know the misrepresentations and accusations with which Satan has charged God. Hence, it was to dispel these errors, charges and accusations that God will have a Final Generation of living saints to answer these charges of Satan.

principal work is to blind or darken men's minds. He does this by keeping them from the study of God's Word, by deranging the powers of the mind through the excesses of body and soul, by wholly occupying the mind through the things of this life, and by appealing to pride and self-exaltation."—Bible Commentary, Volume 6, p. 854.

The lack of knowledge on the part of the lost is not because they could not know. It is because they would not know. Some are "willingly ignorant". Many have had every opportunity to know truth but chose not to believe, and Satan blinded their eyes. Satan's kingdom is a kingdom of darkness. As The SDA Bible Commentary adds,

"The gospel is the only means by which Satan's diabolical schemes and deceptions can be exposed, and by which men can see the way from darkness to light."—Volume 6, p. 854.

Loyalty and trustworthiness of the mind is the crux of the matter. Who has the heart? To whom or where are our loyalties?

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Corinthians 10:5.

"The apostle sought to teach the believers how important it is to keep the mind from wandering to forbidden themes or from spending its energies on trifling subjects. **Those who would not fall a prey to Satan's devices, must guard well the avenues of the soul;** they must avoid reading, seeing, or hearing that

CHAPTER 11

THE BATTLE FOR THE LOYALTY OF THE MIND

Satan desires to have the minds of all darkened until it is but too late. Hence, he knows that the battlefield where the battle is fought and won is in the realm of the thoughts. He well knows that if minds are opened by the truth to his sophistries, accusations and charges against God's character, the power of his deceptions and lies will be broken over their minds.

“The devil who rules (controls) this world has blinded the minds of those who do not believe”. 2 Corinthians 4:3-6.

What does Paul mean when he says that Satan makes people blind? How are their eyes blinded? How are eyes opened? The Greek word for “minds” in 2 Corinthians 4:4 is “noema” . “noema” means our thoughts or understanding.

“The battle between Christ and Satan is a battle for the minds of men. (Romans 7:23,25; Romans 12:2; 2 Corinthians 3:14; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Philippians 2:5; Philippians 4:7-8). Satan's

CHAPTER PART 3

HOW THE BLINDNESS DEVELOPED

“Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.” Ephesians 4:18

In Heaven there was an unspoken law given. Everyone was in complete harmony with this law of love, life, harmony and unity. Psalm 103:20, 21..

“In Heaven itself this law was broken. Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. **Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation.**” DA 21.

“With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men. He led them to doubt the word of God, and to distrust His

goodness. Because God is a God of justice and terrible majesty, Satan caused them to look upon Him as severe and unforgiving. Thus he drew men to join him in rebellion against God, and the night of woe settled down upon the world.” DA 21.

Then war broke out in heaven.

“Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, who fought back with his angels; but the dragon was defeated, and he and his angels were not allowed to stay in heaven any longer. The huge dragon was thrown out—that ancient serpent, named the Devil, or Satan, that deceived the whole world. He was thrown down to earth, and all his angels with him.” Rev.12: 7-9.

SATAN’S FALSE REPRESENTATIONS OF GOD AND HIS SON ARE THE SOURCES OF THE BLINDNESS.

“Satan determined to be first in the councils of heaven, and equal with God. He began his work of rebellion with the angels under his command, seeking to diffuse among them the spirit of discontent. And he worked in so deceptive a way that many of the angels were won to his allegiance before his purposes were fully known.” R & H, Jan 28, 1909.

“Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character, nor see to what his work was leading. When Satan had succeeded in winning many angels to his side, he took his cause to God, representing that it was the desire of the angels that he occupy the position that Christ held.”

Satan had warred for the mastery in Heaven, and had lost the battle. God could no longer trust him with honor and supremacy, and these, with the part he had taken in the government of Heaven, were taken from him.

“Favor is heaped upon favor, gift upon gift. The whole treasury of heaven is open to those He seeks to save. Having collected the riches of the universe, and laid open the resources of infinite power, He gives them all into the hands of Christ, and says, All these are for man. Use these gifts to convince him that there is no love greater than Mine in earth or heaven. His greatest happiness will be found in loving Me.”

“At the cross of Calvary, love and selfishness stood face to face. Here was their crowning manifestation. Christ had lived only to comfort and bless, and in putting Him to death, Satan manifested the malignity of his hatred against God. He made it evident that the real purpose of his rebellion was to dethrone God, and to destroy Him through whom the love of God was shown.” DA 57.

“God has bound our hearts to Him by unnumbered tokens in Heaven and in earth. Through the things of nature, and the deepest and tenderest earthly ties that human hearts can know, He has sought to reveal Himself to us. Yet these but imperfectly represent His love. Though all these evidences have been given, **the enemy of good has blinded the minds of men, so that they looked upon God with fear;** they thought of Him as severe and unforgiving. Satan led men to conceive of God as a being whose chief attribute is stern justice,— one who is a severe judge, a harsh, exacting creditor. He pictured the Creator as a being who is watching with jealous eye to discern the errors and mistakes of men, that He may visit judgments upon them. **It was to remove this dark shadow, by revealing to the world the infinite love of God, that Jesus came to live among men.” Steps to Christ p810.3**

Judge (John 5:22). Here “the judgment was set and the books were opened” (Dan.7:10). It is at this judgment that all eyes are opened and God’s name is cleared of all the blame and charges of Satan.

The Great Controversy theme hinges on a bold claim: that God Himself is on trial before the entire universe. Its outcome is heavily dependent upon what transpires in the heavenly judgment court, where God’s character, fairness, and law are vindicated against Satan’s accusation. This cosmic trial highlights that God is loving, harmless and just, not arbitrary, and is actively addressing the issues of sin and suffering, with the investigative judgment defending God before the fallen and unfallen universe, confirming His righteousness.

The good news in this judgment is the Judge is also your Lawyer, and also your Friend. It is impossible for you to lose your case.

*“The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed **all judgment unto the Son**....we have **an advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...Ye are **my friends** if ye do whatsoever I command you.” John 5:22; 1John 2:1; John 15:14.*

God’s love for His creatures is unconditional and unfathomable. There is nothing that God will withhold from us.

“But the gift of Christ reveals the Father’s heart. It testifies that the thoughts of God toward us are “thoughts of peace, and not of evil.” Jer. 29:11. It declares that while God’s hatred of sin is as strong as death, His love for the sinner is stronger than death. Having undertaken our redemption, He will spare nothing, however dear, which is necessary to the completion of His work. No truth essential to our salvation is withheld, no miracle of mercy is neglected, no divine agency is left unemployed.”

Since that time Satan and his army of confederates have been the avowed enemies of God in our world, continually warring against the cause of truth and righteousness. Satan has continued to present to men, as he presented to the angels, his false representations of Christ and of God, and he has won the world to his side. Even the professedly Christian churches have taken sides with the first great apostate.

“When Christ came to our world, Satan was on the ground, and disputed every inch of advance in his path from the manger to Calvary. Satan had accused God of requiring self-denial of the angels, when he knew nothing of what it meant himself, and when he would not himself make any self-sacrifice for others. This was the accusation that Satan made against God in heaven; and after the evil one was expelled from heaven, he continually charged the Lord with exacting service which he would not render himself”. R & H, Feb 18, 1890.

“Christ came to the world to meet these false accusations, and to reveal the Father.”

We cannot conceive of the humiliation He endured in taking our nature upon Himself. Not that in itself it was a disgrace to belong to the human race, but he was the Majesty of Heaven, the King of glory, and He humbled Himself to become a babe and suffer the wants and woes of mortals.

He humbled himself not to the highest position, to be a man of riches and power, but though He was rich, yet for our sake He became poor, that we through His poverty might be made rich. He took step after step in humiliation. He was driven from city to city; for men would not receive the Light of the world. They were perfectly satisfied with their position.

“The fall of our first parents, with all the woe that has resulted, he charges upon the Creator, leading men to look upon God as **the author of sin, and suffering, and death. Jesus was to unveil this deception.**” DA 24.

Satan asserts that God is a liar, that sin does not produce death but that God kills you when you sin. He claims that the sinner can live happily apart from God’s righteousness. And so, Satan and those deceived by his falsehoods maintain that it is not sin but God who kills sinners.

DOES GOD WORK IN CO WITH SATAN? DOES SATAN TEMPT PEOPLE TO SIN AND GOD DESTROYS THEM WHEN THEY SIN? OR DOES GOD TEMPT THEM TO SIN AND THEN DESTROY THEM WHEN THEY SIN? DOES GOD TELL THEM NOT TO SIN, AND WHEN THEY SIN DESTROY THEM?

“A thief cometh not but for to steal, to kill and to destroy. I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10.

If sin and Satan are not the cause of sickness, suffering, disease, destruction, and death, then it means that God is the one responsible for these. But the inspired word teaches us very plainly that God was in no wise responsible for the results of sin, such as destructive catastrophes and death. Job 1; D.A. 471, 24; G.C.493, 589; James 1:13-15; Lam. 3: 22-24; Mal. 3:6.

“All life-giving power is from Him. When one recovers from disease, it is God who restores him. Sickness, suffering, and death are work of an antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer; God is the restorer.” MH 113.1.

“Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?... Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.” Psalm 73:13, 17.

In Revelation 4, God’s throne room is central to everything that takes place in the scene. It is featured seventeen times in chapters 4-5. Everything in the throne room is portrayed in relation to the throne. “Around the throne” (Rev.4:3-4, 6; 5:11), “from the throne” (Rev.4:5), “before throne” (Rev.4:5, 6,10), or “in the midst of the throne” (Rev.4:6; 5:6). The centrality of the throne in the vision is fundamental to the theology of the scene. The throne of God stands for His ruling authority over the universe. His ruling authority is, however, challenged by an usurping enemy power. The central issue in the ongoing great conflict between God and Satan is who has the right to rule. It has nothing with who has the greater power, but a war of words, who is telling the truth about God versus who is telling the lies about Him. And in Revelation 4, the exaltation of Christ to the heavenly throne because of His sacrificial death on the cross of Calvary, shows the evidence and verdict in favour and vindication of Christ.

THE THRONE ROOM ASSEMBLY

The structure, arrangement and formation of the participants in this throne room gives the appearance of a court room and a judgment scene. The portrayal of the elders as falling down and presenting their crowns before God, who is seated on the throne, reflects the Roman court ceremony where kings presented their crowns before the Emperor as tokens of subordination and respect. It is similar to the Judgment scene of Daniel 7:9 when thrones were cast down (placed). It’s the same as the Judgment seat of Christ where the Father is the presiding Judge and the Son is the deciding

“The very work which he himself was doing, he charged upon the loyal angels...God could employ only such means as were consistent with truth and righteousness. Satan could use what God could not—**flattery and deceit**. He had **sought to falsify the word of God** and had **misrepresented His plan of government**, claiming that God was not just in imposing laws upon the angels; that in requiring submission and obedience from His creatures, **He was seeking merely the exaltation of Himself**. It was therefore **necessary to demonstrate before the inhabitants of Heaven, and of all the worlds**, that God’s government was just, His law perfect. Satan had made it appear that he himself was seeking to promote the good of the universe. **The true character of the usurper and his real object must be understood by all**. He must have time to manifest himself by his wicked works.” PP 42.1.

“But the plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man. **It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth**; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; **but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe**.” PP 68.2.

“Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. **God made them free moral agents**, capable of appreciating the wisdom and benevolence of His character and the justice of His requirements, and **with full liberty to yield or to withhold obedience**.” PP 48.4.

The Psalmist David said that he saw clearly the end of the wicked and God’s way, only when he went into the heavenly courtroom, the sanctuary:

Christ came to destroy the works of the devil by dispelling the darkness that has blinded the minds of humanity and revealing the light of truth.

“The way to dispel darkness is to admit light. The best way to deal with error is to present truth. It is the revelation of God’s love that makes manifest the deformity and sin of the heart centered in self.” DA 498.5.

CHAPTER 4

THE HALLMARK OF EVERY FALSE RELIGION IS USING FORCE AS A LAST RESORT

“Every false religion is of Satan’s originating, and the warning must be given to the world. The truth of God’s word alone is permanent and eternal. The loyal subjects of God’s kingdom will not be found trampling upon His law, pronounced by Inspiration as “ holy, just, and good.” Manuscript 63, 1897, par.32.

Nearly every false religion has been based on the same principle of Cain—that man can depend upon his own efforts for salvation, and that using compulsion is the solution to destroy our opponents.

“Every religion that wars against the sovereignty of man defrauds man of the glory which was his at the creation, and which is to be restored to him in Christ. Every false religion teaches his adherents to be careless of human needs, suffering, and rights. The gospel places a high value upon humanity as the purchase of the blood of Christ, and it teaches a tender regard for the wants woes of men. The Lord says, “I will make a man more precious than the fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir” Isaiah 13:12.” DA 286.4.

“Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.” Rev.15:3.

It is God being judged, although the past choices of men are also being judged which will determine their eternal destinies.

“For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.” Ecclesiastes 12: 13, 14.

“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” 2 Corinthians 5:10.

So, it is not simply that God will judge men, but God Himself is being judged. (See booklet on “The Closure of Human Probation by same author).

In every court case, not only is the accused on trial but the judge is also on trial as to whether He is a fair and just judge, having listened to all the charges and evidences and have used and interpreted the law aright. The eyes of all need to be opened as the reputation of the judge is at stake. **God has been judged as being a thief**, robbing persons of their right to freedom of choice and guilty of killing and destroying them for exercising the very freedom of choice He has given to them as free moral agents. Hence, God’s justice is on trial.

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10.

CHAPTER 10

THE HEAVENLY COURT ROOM IS WHERE THE EVIDENCE IS DISPLAYED

Whenever evidence is used to open eyes concerning a case, the courtroom is the serious place where this activity takes place. Since the judgment of Daniel 7 and Revelation 14 is called the judgment of God, and since God has been falsely accused of charges by Satan, in His own 'backyard' in Heaven, this scene is rightly called THE JUDGMENT OF GOD. In other words, **God is on trial** and has been charged guilty of murder, terrorism and corruption based on circumstantial evidence. Hence, the Scripture posits that God is being judged as to whether He is a fair and just Judge, and whether His verdict is a fair and just one.

“God forbid: let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.” Romans 3:4. See also Ezekiel 36:6 (God’s name profaned); John 17:4, 6,23).

“Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come.” Rev.14: 7

What kind of person is our God? Is He the character of infinite love? Or does He lose patience like us, get angry and hurt His enemies when He is provoked beyond a certain point?

“All that man needs to know or can know of God, has been revealed in the life, character and teachings of his Son.” 8 T p.286.

“We are to observe carefully every lesson Christ has given throughout His life and teaching. He does not destroy; He improves whatever He touches” 1 SM p.118.1.

Most churches, denominations and individual Christians believe and teach that God is an arbitrary, vindictive and destructive being who punishes sinners if they don't submit to what He wants or tells them to do. He tells them to turn or burn and hence many are afraid of Him. He is a terroristic God, and hence many are afraid of Him. We cannot love, admire, adore, respect, serve or worship such a Being that we are afraid of. This is not true religion.

Our loving Father does not want anyone to be afraid of Him or of the judgment. The scriptures say, “Perfect love casts out fear. Fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” 1 John 4:16. It is sin that we should fear, as it produces separation, guilt, fear, doubt, shame and death as it did with Adam when he first sinned. Isaiah 59:2,3. James 1:15-17.

God has told us that sin whenever it is finished produces death, that evil shall slay the wicked, and that the wages of sin is death. James 1: 15-17; Rom.6:23; Prov. 11:5,6; Prov.12:28; Psalm34:21; Rom.5:12; 1 Cor. 15: 56.

Even the eyes of the disciples were blinded and darkened by a wrong concept of Christ's and God's true character.

“James and John, Christ’s messengers, were greatly annoyed at the insult shown to their Lord. They were filled with indignation because He had been so rudely treated by the Samaritans whom He was honoring by His presence. They had recently been with Him on the mount of transfiguration, and had seen Him glorified by God, and honored by Moses and Elijah. This manifest dishonor on the part of the Samaritans, should not, they thought, be passed over without marked punishment.”

“They thought that a grievous wrong had been done Him, and seeing Mount Carmel in the distance, where Elijah had slain the false prophets, they said, “Wilt Thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?” They were surprised to see that Jesus was pained by their words, and still more surprised as His rebuke fell upon their ears, “Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men’s lives, but to save them.” And He went to another village.”

“It is no part of Christ’s mission to compel men to receive Him. It is Satan, and men actuated by his spirit, that seek to compel the conscience..... **There can be no more conclusive evidence that we possess the spirit of Satan than the disposition to hurt and destroy those who do not appreciate our work, or who act contrary to our ideas.**” DA 487.

Whereas selfishness always employs force to compel or hurt others (THE HALLMARK OF EVERY FALSE RELIGION), love never employs force, love never hurts anyone, love always leaves others free to choose and to enjoy or endure the results of their choice (THE ESSENCE OF TRUE RELIGION). And love always tries very hard to save them from the wrong choice and its destructive consequences. Rom. 13:10; 1 Cor. 13:4-8.

guide them through those hard times when Satan will make every effort to deceive and destroy them.

God’s people must keep in mind that today and in the near future they face a formidable and enraged foe. Satan knows that with the loss of his rule over this world, his fate is decided: he has only a short time left. Paul warns us of the endtime “activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness” (2 Thess. 2:9–10). But Satan is already a defeated enemy. As Christ defeated him in the past, so Christ will also defeat him at the time of the end. Ellen White points out the importance of recognizing that our foe has already been defeated:

“There are Christians who think and speak altogether too much about the power of Satan. They think of their adversary, they pray about him, they talk about him, and he looms up greater and greater in their imagination. It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but, thank God, we have a mighty Savior, who cast out the evil one from heaven. Satan is pleased when we magnify his power. Why not talk of Jesus? Why not magnify His power and His love?” Desire of Ages page 493.

The only hope for God’s people is found in Christ. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, God’s people will be able to overcome Satan by the Lamb’s blood and by their faithful witness for Christ and the gospel (Rev. 12:11). We are not to be afraid of the future, because Christ has promised to be with His people forever, even until the end of the age (Matt. 28:20).

The Greek word *loipoi* literally means “the remaining ones.” The term in the Old Testament describes those who have survived destruction to continue as God’s faithful people (Isa. 10:20–22; 11:11–12; Jer. 23:3; Zeph. 3:13). Throughout Old Testament times, as the majority of the nation of Israel apostatized, there were people who remained faithful to God (cf. 1 Kings 19:18). John employs the word “remnant” with reference to the Christians who remained faithful to God in the churches of Thyatira and Sardis (Rev. 2:24; 3:2–3). Now in Revelation 12:17, John employs the same word to tell us that at the end of time, as the majority of people in the world side with Satan and his allies, there will be a people who remain faithful to Christ.

This end-time remnant will have two characteristics. The first is its obedience to God in keeping His commandments. Revelation 13 shows that, at the end of time, the first four commandments of the Decalogue will be central to the endtime conflict. Since the issue in the final crisis will concern worship—regarding whom and when we are to worship—the fourth commandment will become a test of loyalty and obedience to God (cf. Rev. 14:7).

The second characteristic of the end-time remnant is that they have the testimony of Jesus. The phrase “the testimony of Jesus” is clarified in Revelation 19:10, where it is equated with “the spirit of prophecy” (cf. Rev. 22:9). The expression “the spirit of prophecy” was used in John’s day to designate the Holy Spirit speaking through prophets. Thus, the phrase “the testimony of Jesus” refers to Jesus bearing witness to Himself through His prophets, just as He did through John (1:2). The prophets’ role in the Bible is to bear witness to Christ. Revelation shows that, at the time of the end, God’s faithful people will have the prophetic gift in their midst to

God is the greatest respecter of people’s freedom of choice and when men choose sin, He gives them up and over to the consequences of their choice and lets them reap what they have sown. Romans 1:18-24, 26,28.

Satan asserts that God is a liar, that sin does not produce death but that God kills you when you sin. He claims that the sinner can live happily apart from God’s righteousness. And so Satan and those deceived by his falsehoods maintain that it is not sin but God who kills sinners when they sin.

If sin and Satan are not the cause of sickness, suffering, disease, destruction, and death, then it means that God is the one responsible and to blame for these. There is no known Scripture verse that tells us that Satan has ever killed anyone. Yet Jesus said that Satan “was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth” (John 8:44). Where did Jesus get that evidence from?

The inspired word teaches us very plainly that God was in no wise responsible for sin or any of its the results, such as destructive catastrophes and death. Job 1; D.A. 471, 24; G.C.493, 589; James 1:13-15; Lam. 3: 22-24; Mal. 3:6. But Scripture also reveals that “in her (Satan’s endtime Babylon) was found the blood of the prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.” Revelation 18:24.

God highly respects the freedom of choice He has given to His creatures and will never violate that freedom in the least particular. He made them as free, moral beings with the ability to give or withhold obedience. As the God of absolute freedom, He gives us a genuine choice. Righteousness produces life, sin produces death. The choice is ours. And every human being must be allowed to exercise the fullest freedom to make up his or her mind either way. 1 S.M.p.235, D.A.p.57-58.

God cannot give His creatures freedom of choice and then destroy them when they exercise that freedom of choice. Is that true freedom of choice? Instead, He should have made them like robots from the beginning, programmed only to choose his way.

In the endtime, Revelation 13: 11-17 tells us that the lamb-horned beast (USA when she shall speak as a dragon) and all false religions (Final Babylon–Revelation 17) will make an image of the first beast (the Papacy), give life to that image and then command using force as a last resort, that those who do not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

It is wrong to use force to compel anyone to conform in matters of faith, even if the matter is right. It is doubly wrong to use force to compel anyone in matters of faith when the matter is wrong. G.C. p. 614, 591-592.

Therefore, the message of God's character, His wonderful love, righteousness and respect for the freedom of His creatures will be the last warning message for mankind. C.O.L. p. 415; Rev.18:1-4.

The spirit of selfishness will be aroused to anger against the manifestation of the Spirit of love. Therefore, God's people will be severely tested. Satan will unleash all the persecutory pressure which the forces of darkness can muster. The people of God will be blamed for all the calamities which will be coming on the earth (G.C. p. 614-615) and they will seek to rid the earth of the true people of God. That is when Christ will interpose to deliver His people.

“These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for He is Lord of Lords, and King of Kings: and they that are with Him are called, and chosen, and faithful.”
Rev.17:14; Rev.16:12.

conclusion of the 1,260-year prophetic period. However, this earth, which initially protected the church, becomes the frontline of the eschatological showdown, giving rise to the political power that becomes Satan's agent in the final crisis (see Rev. 13:11–18).

SATAN'S ATTACK ON THE REMNANT (12:17)

Up until now, the dragon has not been able to destroy the woman; however, he does not give up. He regroups to “make war with the remnant of her offspring, the ones keeping the commandments of God and having the testimony of Jesus” (Rev. 12:17). In a nutshell, this passage gives us what comes next in the book. It serves as an introduction to Revelation 13, where Satan prepares for the final battle against God's end-time people.

Satan retreats to prepare for his last attack against God's end-time people. However, he decides not to enter the final battle alone. He associates himself with two allies, portrayed in terms of the sea beast (Rev. 13:1–10) and the earth beast (13:11–18). These three form an unholy triumvirate to fight the final battle against Christ and His faithful remnant.

One might observe that, at the end of time, Satan turns his fury on the remnant of the woman's offspring, not the woman per se. Why? The answer is found in Revelation 17, where the church is no longer a pure woman; she has turned into a prostitute sitting on a scarlet beast and seducing the world away from loyalty to Christ. As the world nears its end, the Christian church will eventually turn from her faithfulness to Christ and serve Satan. This is why, at the end of time, Satan goes after what is left of the true church—the remnant that remains faithful to Christ.

than 50 million Christians were martyred for their faithfulness to the gospel. During that time, God's faithful people found a refuge in isolated places to escape persecution and the corrupt influences of the institutional church.

In his effort to destroy the woman, "the serpent poured out of his mouth water like a river after the woman, in order to make her flooded by the water" (Rev. 12:15). This torrent of water from the serpent's mouth is reminiscent of the serpent's deceptive words in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3:1-5). In the same manner, Satan is trying to destroy God's people with a flood of false teaching. In the Old Testament, a flood of water is also often used as a symbol of the enemies of God's people attacking and destroying them (Pss. 69:1-2; 124:2-5; Isa. 8:7-8; Jer. 47:2). In Revelation 17:15, the waters symbolize people and nations in their attack against God's people. The flood of water poured out of the dragon's mouth has two meanings: persecution and false teachings. These are the weapons Satan used against God's people during the prophetic period of 1,260 days in the medieval era.

Providentially, however, the earth rescues the woman by swallowing the waters sent forth by the dragon (Rev. 12:16). Once again, John uses the language of the Exodus. Just as the earth swallowed the Egyptians who were pursuing the Israelites (Exod. 15:12), here the friendly earth swallows the torrent of persecution and false teachings that the dragon used to destroy the woman.

At this point, a new entity is introduced: the earth, friendly to the woman. At the end of the prophetic 1,260 days, a new territory provides protection for the church from Satan's effort to destroy her. Here, the prophecy points to the continent of North America that provided protection and a safe haven to the church at the

Like Job, God will be depending on them to vindicate His character, to prove Him right and Satan wrong. They will have a faith which will endure weariness, delay and hunger. They will love not their lives unto death. Rev.12:11, Job 1:22; Ezek.36: 20-23.

God will have a remnant who will remain harmless, patient, humble, meek, forgiving, non-retaliating, gentle and obedient to God even though the pressure will be at the limit of human endurance. They will love the enemies who will be persecuting and seeking to kill them. Rev.12:17; Rev.14:12; G.C.p. 621-623.

This final and full revelation and display of the character of Jesus through sinful fallen flesh will open the eyes of the wicked and the universe, and will bring their rebellion against God and the great controversy to an end. The wicked will then destroy themselves in desperate fury. Rev.17:15-18; G.C.p. 654-656.

CHAPTE 5

SEEING GOD WITH NEW EYES AS HE REALLY IS

The clearest revelation we have of the character of God is in the life, character and teachings of His Son. Jesus said,

“He that hath seen Me, hath seen the Father.” John 14:9.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doth the Son likewise.” John 5:19.

“I came down from Heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.” John 6:38.

“All that man needs to know or can know of God has been revealed in the life and character of His Son.” 8 T 286.1.

If you want know the kind of person someone is like, look at how they treat, their family members, their friends, their critics and their enemies. After seeing their character displayed under varied circumstances, you would know whether they are trustworthy or not. The key is their consistency of behavior under pressure and unpleasant circumstances.

Satan’s expulsion from Heaven affects the whole earth. Particularly significant in this regard is chapter 13, where Satan’s two associates arise out of the earth and the sea to cause the earth’s inhabitants to side with Satan in the final crisis.

Often, after a person has been humiliated, he pours out his displaced anger upon those closest to him. Similarly, because Satan’s authority over the earth was transferred to Christ and because he was expelled from the heavenly courts, he now pours out all his fury on the church. This is what the next section is about.

WAR ON EARTH (12:13–16)

The story continues: “When the dragon saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman that had given birth to the male child” (Rev. 12:13). Satan could not harm Christ, but he knows how dear the church is to Him. So Satan now turns against the church that represents Christ on earth. However, the church is given “two wings of a great eagle” to fly to the wilderness, where she is cared for by God for a period of “a time and times and half a time” (12:14) or 1,260 days (12:6).

The language used here comes from Israel’s Exodus from Egypt: “You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings” (Exod. 19:4). As God cared for Israel during her wilderness years (Deut. 8:15–18), now He cares for the church in the wilderness during the prophetic period of 1,260 days, representing years (AD 538–1798). During this time, the two witnesses bore their witness to the gospel in sackcloth (Rev. 11:3). This is also the period of the persecution of God’s people by the Antichrist power, stated in Revelation 13:5, during which Satan incited the established church of Western Europe to persecute those who chose to follow the Bible’s teachings rather than tradition. More

However, the situation changed with Jesus's death on the cross, when Satan's true character was revealed before the entire universe. At the enthronement ceremony following Christ's ascension to Heaven, there was a transference of authority and rule from Satan to Christ when the Father "seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come" (Eph. 1:20–21; cf. 1 Pet. 3:22). It was then that Christ was proclaimed the legitimate ruler over the earth.

This transfer of authority obviously did not take place without resistance from Satan, who once again stood in open revolt against God. At that point, Satan and his associates were forever expelled from Heaven. As Ellen White recognized, "The casting down of Satan as an accuser of the brethren in Heaven was accomplished by the great work of Christ in giving up His life." (S.D.A vol 7:793-947) Jesus foresaw this event when he stated: "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out" (John 12:31).

With Satan's expulsion, "the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come" (Rev. 12:10). Since that time, Satan and the fallen angels have been confined to the earth as a prison, until they receive their punishment (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6). Satan no longer has access to the heavenly courts, and he no longer can accuse God's people in Heaven.

While the fate of Satan was decided with his expulsion from heaven, his defeat is not yet complete. He still claims lordship over the earth. That is why heaven gives this warning: "Woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing that he has little time" (Rev. 12:12). The reference to the earth and the sea points to the global dimension of this warning.

We cannot have a true picture of God's character by looking at Old Testament language and manner of expression. Middle eastern, oriental, cultural language and manner of expression often attributes to God, things that He has only permitted. He is said to have caused the action by His mere allowing it to happen. In the Bible, these acts of destruction, which are often attributed to God, are called paradoxes. God did it, yet He didn't do it.

God is said to have hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 7:3, 13), yet Pharaoh hardened his own heart (Exodus 8:15, 32). But God doesn't hardens hearts or blinds people's eyes. A man's heart is hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Ephesians 3:14).

"It is not God that blinds the eyes of men or hardens their hearts. He send them light to correct their errors, and to lead them in safe paths. It is by the rejection of this light that the eyes are blinded and the heart hardened. Often the process is gradual and almost imperceptible. Light comes to the soul through God's word, through His servants, or by the direct agency of His Spirit.; but when one ray of light is disregarded, there is a partial benumbing of the spiritual perceptions, and the second revealing of light is less clearly discerned. So the darkness increases, until it night in the soul." DA 322.2.

So, how am I to understand the Bible when it says God hardened Pharaoh's heart? God left him to his own stubborn ways and he hardened his own heart. There are many such examples of these paradoxes throughout the Bible. God slew King Saul (1 Chronicles 10:13, 14), yet Saul killed himself (1 Chronicles 10:3-5). In Isaiah 53:4 and 10, we are told, that Jesus was "stricken and smitten of God", and that "it pleased the Lord to bruise Him", yet Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, Why hast Thou forsaken Me." Mark 15:34.

So, did God smite and strike Him or was He forsaken of God? It is clear that Jesus took on the sins of the world upon Himself as though they were His very own (Isaiah 53), and the Father had to deal with Him as a common sinner, withdraw from Him and allowing Him to suffer God's wrath upon Him. God's wrath is His respect for creatures' freedom of choice, and His being forced to give them up to the consequences of their choice.

One of the most striking expressions of Old Testament manner of expression is found in Exodus 32 where God told Moses in clear language:

"Now therefore let Me alone, that My wrath may wax hot against them, that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation" vs.10, and Moses said unto God, "Turn from Thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people." And the Scripture states, "And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people."vs.14. How is the Bible scholar supposed to understand this language and manner of expression.

So, we see clearly that human Old Testament oriental language cannot be used to understand God's character. We have to look at the clearest revelation through the life, character and teachings of His Son, as only He who knew God could reveal Him.

"We are to observe carefully every lesson Christ has given throughout His life and teaching, He does not destroy; He improves whatever He touches." 1 SM 118.1.

Satan has sown the seeds of doubt deep into the human psyche, that God is the author of sickness, suffering, disease, and death, and is the destroyer of the lives of men who have exercised their God-given freedom of choice contrary to His commands.

- "The accuser of our brothers has been cast down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night" (12:10). Satan's accusation could not have taken place at the beginning of the Great Controversy, because humans were not yet created. The Old Testament often pictures Satan accusing God's people before God (Job 1-2; Zech. 3).
- Having been expelled from Heaven, Satan realizes that he has a short time left (Rev. 12:12). He recognizes this after Jesus's death on the cross. After his expulsion, Satan starts persecuting the church during the prophetic period of 1,260 days (12:13). This period refers to the time of the Middle Ages that started in AD 538 and concluded with the French Revolution in AD 1798.

All this shows that the war and expulsion of Satan from Heaven portrayed in Revelation 12:7-9 took place after Jesus's death on the cross and His subsequent ascension to heaven.

Satan was first expelled from Heaven at the beginning of his rebellion against God's government. He wanted to take the throne in Heaven in order to be "like the Most High" (Isa. 14:14). He stood in open revolt against God but was defeated and cast down to earth. By deceiving Adam, Satan usurped the rule and dominion of this earth (Luke 4:6). Jesus referred to him as "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). However, after Satan's expulsion, he still had access to Heaven. The book of Job portrays him as attending the heavenly assembly before God and making accusations against Job (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7). Similarly, Zechariah saw him in a vision, accusing Joshua the high priest before the heavenly court (Zech. 3:1-2).

As Christ is taken to Heaven, to the throne of God, the woman, who represents the church, finds divine protection in the desert during the prophetic time period of 1,260 days. During this time, she waits for the return of Christ and the establishment of God's eternal kingdom.

WAR IN HEAVEN (12:7–12)

Revelation 12:7–12 transitions to a new scene in the story. The depiction reveals to us that, at the ascension of Christ and His exaltation to the heavenly throne, a second aspect of this war erupted in Heaven. Michael and his angels fought against Satan and his angels. Michael (a name meaning “who is like God?”) is the commander of the heavenly host. Elsewhere in the Bible, he is identified as the chief prince (Dan. 10:13, 21; 12:1) and the archangel (Jude 9). He is the one who appeared to Joshua at Jericho as the commander of the heavenly host and is equated with the Lord Himself (Josh. 5:13–15). Thus, the biblical information leads to the conclusion that Michael is an eschatological name for Christ. Here in Revelation 12, Christ leads the heavenly army in fighting Satan. Satan and his angels fight back. However, because they are not strong enough, they eventually lose the battle. As a result, Satan and his forces are expelled from heaven and sent to earth (Rev. 12:9).

When did this war in Heaven and the subsequent expulsion of Satan and his angels take place? Clues are given in the anthem heard in heaven following Satan's expulsion (Rev. 12:10–12):

- “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come” (Rev. 12:10). The kingdom of God and the authority of Christ are established after the death of Jesus on the cross.

“Sickness, suffering, disease, and death are work of antagonistic power. Satan is the destroyer, God is the restorer.” MH 113.1.

“God destroys no one. Everyone who is destroyed will have destroyed himself.” COL 84.

The book of Job uplifts the curtain and gives us a glimpse into the unseen world and the conversations between God and Satan. Job is afflicted by Satan, who destroyed his worldly possessions, his cattle, his houses and lands, his wealth, his servants, his children, and then attacked his health. It was even said that “the fire of God” (which didn't come from God) fell from Heaven upon his sheep and servants. But Scripture tells us,

“In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly..” Job 1: 22.

The Bible tells us that “the Lord sent His armies to destroy Jerusalem”. Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman armies. Were they the armies of God? Inspiration reveals :

“The Jews had forged their own fetters; they had filled for themselves the cup of vengeance. In the utter destruction that befell them as a nation, and in all their woes that followed them in their dispersion, they were but reaping the harvest which their own hands had sown. Says the prophet, “O Israel, thou has destroyed thyself,” “for thou hast fallen by thine own iniquity.” Hosea 13:9; 14.1.”

“Their sufferings are often represented as a punishment visited upon them by the direct decree of God, It is thus that the great deceiver seek to conceal his own work. By stubborn rejection of divine love and mercy, the Jews had caused the protection of God to be withdrawn from them, and Satan was permitted

to rule according to his will. The horrible cruelties enacted in the destruction of Jerusalem are a demonstration of Satan's vindictive power over those who yield to his control." GC 35-36.

"When men pass the limits of divine forbearance, that restraint is removed. God does not stand toward the sinner as an executioner of the sentence against transgression: but He leaves the rejectors of His mercy to themselves to reap that which they have sown." GC 36.1.

The clearest and ultimate revelation of God's character was through the life, character and teachings of His Son. So, if we really need to know what God looks like, how He behaves and how He treats sinners, hypocrites and His enemies, Jesus gave us that clean and clear picture about God. Hence, the complete answer and supreme sacrifice, was given by Jesus Christ at Calvary. Jesus died the first eternal death for sinners (Heb.2:9), and took on the sins of the world upon Himself as though they were His very own (Is.53; 1Pet.2:24). And so by the rules of the game, God the Father had to deal with Him or treat Him exactly as he will treat the unrepentant sinners when He gives them up to their choice.

Jesus endured the "wrath of God" for us. The wrath of God is not like the wrath of man.. So, we can never compare God's wrath with the wrath of man. "For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." James 1:20. God's wrath means His giving up and over persons to their choice. See Romans 1:24, 26, 28.

Scriptures mentions that Jesus was "punished", "bruised", "smitten of God and afflicted", the "justice of God" was exercised upon Him, and He fell into the terrible "hands of the living God". Therefore, the meaning of the terms and the words, "wrath",

refer to Satan's false claim of lordship over this world (cf. Luke 4:6). This imagery reveals Satan standing behind the Roman Empire, as he tried to destroy the long-awaited Messiah, Jesus Christ.

John adds another identifying characteristic of the dragon. His tail "dragged the third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth" (Rev. 12:4). In the Bible, the tail is a symbolic instrument of deception (see Rev. 9:10, 19). As he fell from his exalted position in Heaven, Satan seduced and dragged to the earth a great number of heavenly beings, who became evil spirits (Isa. 14:12-15; 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6). These fallen angels have been his associates throughout the great cosmic conflict against God and His sovereignty.

In Revelation, Satan is a real enemy, not some imaginary figure. He stands behind all the evil that transpires on earth. In Revelation 12, he is waiting for the Messiah to be born from the people of Israel, so he may destroy him. How long has he been waiting for the birth of the Messiah? Since God announced that there would come the One born from "the woman" who would crush the serpent's head (Gen. 3:15). Since that time, Satan has been waiting for the Promised Child to be born in order to destroy Him.

Eventually, the Messiah is born. He is to rule the nations with an iron rod, in fulfillment of Psalm 2:7-9—a reference to His judicial role (Rev. 19:15). Although Satan desires to kill this child, he is not able to, because the child is taken to Heaven, to God's throne (12:5). This refers to Christ's exaltation to the heavenly throne after His ascension to heaven (Eph. 1:20-22; 1 Pet. 3:22). The exaltation of Christ serves to introduce the subsequent scene (Rev. 12:7-12). This event ultimately resulted in the permanent expulsion of Satan from Heaven (12:10).

4:31; Mic. 4:10). But above all, the portrayal of a woman enduring the pangs of giving birth to the Messiah is an allusion to Genesis 3:15. Revelation 12 shows the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity through the woman's offspring.

The remarkable woman of Revelation 12 stands as a symbol for the church in both the Old and New Testament. This reality is expressed through her portrayal —clothed with the sun and standing on the moon. The sun, as the source of light, stands for the gospel (2 Cor. 4:6; cf. John 8:12; 12:46). The moon reflects the light of the sun; therefore, the woman stands on the revelation of the Old Testament that reflects the light of the gospel. The twelve stars on her head stand for the twelve tribes of Israel as well as the twelve apostles. In this part of the vision (12:1–5), the woman represents Old Testament Israel bringing the Messiah into the world; however, in verses 6 and 13–17, she represents the Christian church.

THE DRAGON (12:3–6)

Another sign appears in Heaven. This time, John sees a great red dragon that has seven heads with royal crowns and ten horns. In verse 9, John identifies this dragon as Satan, the ancient serpent of Genesis 3 and the archenemy of God and His people. The seven-headed monster was a well-known mythological figure in the ancient world. In portraying the frightening appearance of Satan in terms of this ancient, mythological monster, inspiration wants to impress upon our mind the ferocity of God's archenemy.

The dragon has an earthly manifestation. His seven heads represent the kingdoms in history through which Satan worked to oppose God's plans and purpose in the world and to oppress God's people (see Rev. 17:9–11). The ten horns upon his heads symbolize political authorities (17:12). The seven crowns on the dragon's heads

“punish”, “destroy”, and “justice” when used concerning God, can be clearly understood as not like man's own. Isaiah 53: 4-10; Rom. 4:25; D.A.p.753, 756; G.C.p. 539-540, SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 5,pg 1103, Comments on Mat.27.

The sins of the world separated Jesus from the Father, and it was that separation that killed the Son of God. Mat. 27:46; C.O.L.p.84; G.C.p.35,36.

But the Old Testament itself had told us that God's wrath is His hiding His face from the rejecters of His mercy, because the rejecting of His mercy is asking Him to leave the rejecters alone. Isaiah 54:7,8; Job 22:15-17; Deut.31:16-18; Deut.32: 15-20; C.O.L. p 200.

God highly respects the freedom of choice He has given to His creatures and will never violate that freedom in the least particular. He made them as free, moral beings with the ability to give or withhold obedience. As the God of absolute freedom, He gives us a genuine choice. Righteousness produces life, sin produces death. The choice is ours. And every human being must be allowed to exercise the fullest freedom to make up his or her mind either way. 1S.M. p.235; D.A.p.57-58.

Therefore, the message of God's character, His wonderful love, righteousness and respect for the freedom of His creatures will be the last warning message for mankind to open their eyes to the real truth about His character. C.O.L.p. 415; Rev.18:1-4.

“It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their **knowledge of His character**. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message **illuminating**

in its influence and saving in its power. His **character** is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy, and truth.” {COL 415.3}

“Those who wait for the Bridegroom’s coming are to say to the people, “Behold your God.” **The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy** to be given to the world, is a **revelation of His character of love.** The children of God are to manifest His glory. In their own life and character they are to reveal what the grace of God has done for them.” {COL 415.5}

Therefore, the character of God will be fully reflected to satan’s final generation of sinners. The demonstration will prove that God is Love; that His saints can be truly loving and obedient even under the most intense pain and provocation. It will prove that right is stronger than might, that love is stronger than hate, that freedom is more secure than coercion, that unselfishness is life whereas selfishness is death.

These are just a few examples of how the traditional view of God’s character has blinded the mind of thousands so that their eyes cannot be opened to view God in the right light. The eyes of the entire universe needs to be opened before this great controversy can come to a close and God’s character be vindicated at last.

THE WOMAN AND THE DRAGON (12:1–6)

Before describing the end-time conflict between Christ, Satan, and their respective followers, John first explains the big picture behind this conflict.

THE WOMAN (12:1–2)

In a vision, John sees a great sign in heaven. Something special and remarkable is shown here (cf. Rev. 12:3 and 15:1). The Greek word *semeion* (sign) denotes a symbolic presentation of a real object. This sign is a woman arrayed with the sun, standing on the moon, and having a garland of twelve stars on her head. She travails in labour and is about to give birth to a child. In using the word “sign” for this woman, John shows that she is not an actual woman but a symbol of a spiritual reality.

A woman in the Bible is a symbol for God’s people, whether faithful to God or apostate. In the Old Testament, Israel, as God’s covenant people, is often referred to as the wife of God (Isa. 54:5; Jer. 3:20). When Israel was faithful to her covenant with God, she was called a pure and faithful woman. On the other hand, apostate and idolatrous Israel was portrayed as a prostitute. This concept is also carried into the New Testament and applied to the church (cf. 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:25–32). In Revelation, God’s faithful people are represented as a faithful woman (Rev. 19:7–8; 22:17), while a prostitute symbolizes the apostate and unfaithful (chaps. 17–18).

The picture of a beautifully adorned woman in travail brings to mind several Old Testament passages. For one, it echoes the portrayal of Solomon’s bride, who is as beautiful as the moon and as pure as the sun (Song of Sol. 6:10). It also reflects the passages depicting Israel as a travailing woman (Isa. 26:17–18; 66:7–9; Jer.

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice in heaven saying: “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, because the accuser of our brothers has been cast down, the one who accuses them before our God day and night.

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life to the point of death.

¹² For this reason, rejoice, heavens and those who dwell in them; woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to you, having great anger, knowing that he has little time.”

¹³ When the dragon saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman that had given birth to the male child.

¹⁴ And two wings of a great eagle were given to the woman, so that she might fly into the wilderness, to her place where she was nourished there for a time and times and half a time from the presence of the serpent.

¹⁵ And the serpent poured out of his mouth water like a river after the woman, in order to make her flooded by the water.

¹⁶ And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river which the dragon had cast from his mouth.

¹⁷ And the dragon was angry at the woman and went away to make war with the remnant of her offspring, the ones keeping the commandments of God and having the testimony of Jesus.

CHAPTER 6

BREAKING THE LAST LINKS OF SYMPATHY FOR ANGELS AND UNFALLEN WORLDS

PART 1

The manifestation of God’s character for dispelling the darkness of Satan’s lies, answering his false charges against God, and to open the eyes of all the inhabitants of the universe could only be done by one being in the universe – the Eternal Son of God! And in order to do such a work he had to become man. 1John 3:8; Hebrews 2:9,14,15; 1 John 1:5.

“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.” John 1:18.

“All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.” Luke 10:22.

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

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Hebrews 2: 9, 14, 15.

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Hebrews 2:14, 15.

“In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not (could not put it out).” John 1:4, 5.

“The earth was dark through misapprehension of God. That the gloomy shadows might be lightened, that the world might be brought back to God, Satan’s deceptive power was to be broken....This work only one Being in all the universe could do. Only He who knew the height and depth of the love of God could make it known.” DA p.22.1.

“Satanis an accuser of the brethren, and his accusing power is employed against those who work righteousness. **The Lord desires through his people to answer Satan’s charges by showing the results of obedience to right principles.**” COL 296.

“In stooping to take upon Himself humanity, Christ revealed a character the opposite of the character of Satan. But He stepped still lower in the path of humiliation. “being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” Phil. 2:8.” DA p.25.1.

“Christ was treated as we deserve, that we might be treated as He deserves. He was condemned for our sins, in which He had

² *and she was pregnant and was crying out with birth pains, and she was tormented to give birth.*

³ *And another sign was seen in heaven, and behold, a great red dragon having seven heads and ten horns and upon his heads seven crowns.*

⁴ *And his tail dragged the third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she gave birth to her child, he might devour him.*

⁵ *And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is about to shepherd all the nations with the rod of iron; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.*

⁶ *And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she had there a place prepared by God, so that they might nourish her for 1,260 days.*

⁷ *And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels had to fight against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back,*

⁸ *and he was not strong enough nor was found there a place for them any longer in heaven.*

⁹ *And the great dragon, the ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the one who deceives the whole world, was cast down to the earth, and his angels were cast down with him.*

CHAPTER 9

AN OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF REVELATION 12 SATAN - A DEFEATED ENEMY

REVELATION 12:1–17

Revelation 12 describes a new vision that begins the eschatological portion of Revelation. While the first half of Revelation describes the struggles of the church in a hostile world throughout its history, the primary focus of the second half of the book is on the time of the end and the final events leading to Christ's return. From now on, Revelation focuses on the contents of the open scroll (Rev. 10). God reveals what will happen at the end time, so we might not be surprised.

This section includes three subsections: Satan's attempt to destroy Christ on earth (Rev. 12:1–6); the expulsion of Satan and his angels from heaven (12:7–12); and Satan's efforts to destroy the church (12:13–17):

¹ *And a great sign was seen in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars,*

no share, that we might be justified by His righteousness, in which we had no share. He suffered the death which was ours, that we might receive the life which was His. "With His stripes we are healed." DA 25.2.

So terrible has been Satan's lies and charges against God's character and so dense was the resulting darkness, that it has taken God a long time to penetrate the minds of his creatures with the light of His true character and the truth about Satan's character. St. John 1:5, 9, 10; 1 John 2:8.

When Satan left Heaven he left certain questions, certain sympathies in the minds of the unfallen angels. These have to be fully cleared up. The eyes of the angels have been opened through the love of God revealed in the plan of salvation and the cross. Rev, 12:12.

"Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into." 1 Peter 1:12.

"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly [places] might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:" Ephesians 3:10, 11.

"Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The arch apostate had so clothed himself with deception that **even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion.**" DA 758.

“God’s government included not only the inhabitants of Heaven, but of all the worlds that He had created; and Satan thought that if he could carry the angels of Heaven with him in rebellion, he could carry also the other worlds. He had artfully presented his side of the question, employing sophistry and fraud to secure his objects.”

“His power to deceive was very great, and by disguising himself in a cloak of falsehood he had gained an advantage. Even the loyal angels could not fully discern his character or see to what his work was leading. Satan had been so highly honoured, and all his acts were so clothed with mystery, that **it was difficult to disclose to the angels the true nature of his work.**”

“Until fully developed, sin could not appear the evil thing it was. Heretofore it had had no place in the universe of God, and holy beings had no conception of its nature and malignity. They could not discern the terrible consequences that would result from setting aside the divine law. Satan had, at first, concealed his work under a specious profession of loyalty to God.”

“He claimed to be seeking to promote the honour of God, the stability of His government, and the good of all the inhabitants of Heaven. While distilling discontent into the minds of the angels under him, he had artfully made it appear that he was seeking to remove dissatisfaction....”

“In his dealing with sin, God could employ only righteousness and truth. Satan could use what God could not---flattery and deceit.....therefore it was necessary that he should demonstrate the nature of his claims, and show the working out of his proposed changes in the divine law. His own work must condemn him.”

Forgiveness is available to all who are willing to accept it.

Though sin is offensive to God, and though unconfessed sin can cost us our salvation, if we acknowledge our wrong-doing and change our ways, God will forgive us. No sin is so dark that God won’t forgive. We cannot out-sin the forgiveness of God if we truly repent, confess, and ask for forgiveness.

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9).

At the Cross, the eyes of the Angels and the Unfallen worlds were opened. They saw God at His radiant best and Satan at his manifest wicked worse. With both contrasted, Christ enlightened and vindicated the Character of God before the universe.

Above all, the “they” is a reference to all of us. As we have shown in the previous section, both Jews and Gentiles are complicit in the shameful death of Christ. This includes you and me—those of us who daily crucify Christ afresh by our sins. Like all the others, we also are guilty, even if we are ignorant. But we should have known better—at least we could have known.

Yes, we can identify some of the guilty ones by name: **Judas, Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, Pilate, and Peter**. In addition, the Roman soldiers were also guilty, and so **were the other Jewish leaders—the Pharisees and the scribes who conspired to put Him to death. The unnamed individual in the crowd** at the trial were also guilty. **The spectators who were at Calvary to cheer, laugh, and mock were guilty. The entire nation of Israel and all Gentiles were guilty.** And yes, **we also are guilty.** We are included among the “they”.

Although guilty, Christ prayed for us all, saying, “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”

The significance of Christ’s dying prayer at Calvary is made more explicit in a prophecy recorded in Isaiah 53. In this Messianic prophecy, the prophet Isaiah explains that Christ’s prayer was not just for them—the people who were immediately responsible for His death—but for all of us. “Because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” (Isaiah 53:12).

At Calvary, Christ “bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors”. When the Bible says that Christ bore the sins of “many”, **it means all sinners** who accept His offer of salvation by believing in Him. He made intercession for all sinners—that is, He prayed for all of us. This is the glory of the Christian gospel.

“Even when it was decided that he could no longer remain in Heaven, infinite wisdom did not destroy Satan....the inhabitants of Heaven and of other worlds, being unprepared to comprehend the nature or consequences of sin, could not then have seen the justice and mercy of God in the destruction of Satan. Had he been immediately blotted from existence, they would have served God from fear rather than love.”

“The influence of the deceiver would not have been fully destroyed, nor would have the spirit of rebellion have been utterly eradicated. Evil must be permitted to come to maturity. For the good of the entire universe through ceaseless ages **Satan must more fully develop his principles, that his charges against the divine government might be seen in their true light by all created beings**, that the justice and mercy of God and the immutability of His law might forever be placed beyond all question.” GC 498.

GOD HAS DETERMINED THAT ALL MUST CLEARLY SEE THAT AGAPE LOVE IS LIGHT, WHEREAS SELFISHNESS IS DARKNESS. Isaiah 45:23; Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:10, 11.

“For it is written, [As] I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” Romans 14:11.

“That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in Heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Phil.2:10,11.

“Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, “It is finished.” John 19:30. The battle had been won.

His right hand and His holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a Conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among the angels? All heaven triumphed in the Saviour's victory. Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost."

"To the angels and the unfallen worlds the cry, "It is finished," had a deep significance. It was for them as well as for us that the great work of redemption had been accomplished. They with us share the fruits of Christ's victory".

"Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The arch apostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles."

"Lucifer had been the covering cherub. He had stood in the light of God's presence. He had been the highest of all created beings, and had been foremost in revealing God's purposes to the universe. After he had sinned, his power to deceive was the more deceptive, and the unveiling of his character was the more difficult, because of the exalted position he had held with the Father."

"God could have destroyed Satan and his sympathizers as easily as one can cast a pebble to the earth; but He did not do this. Rebellion was not to be overcome by force. Compelling power is found only under Satan's government. The Lord's principles are not of this order. His authority rests upon goodness, mercy, and love; and the presentation of these principles is the means to be used. God's government is moral, and truth and love are to be the prevailing power." DA p.759.

But, the "they" in Christ's prayer also included **the whole Roman government, with Pontius Pilate as its representative**. Pilate could have changed the outcome. He could have followed his own gut conviction, if not the Roman law. He didn't have to cave in to the pressure of the crowd and the lure of his own ambition. He could have done something, but he didn't. Even when his own wife, warned in a dream, urged him to set Christ free, he didn't. He was guilty.

Included in the "they" are also **the religious authorities and the crowd** at the trial. They were the ones, who, preferring Barabbas over Christ, handed Jesus over to Pilate. They knew, or should have known (like Nicodemus, the ruler of the Synagogue) that Jesus was the Messiah. But when given the opportunity by Pilate to set Jesus free, they cried out, "Crucify Him!" They also were guilty.

And yes, the "they" also **included Judas—the disciple who sold Jesus to the religious rulers**. He was privy to Christ's teachings and had been the object of Christ's personal entreaties. Yet he joined in the plot to kill his Master.

But there is more to the "they". When Christ asked His Father for forgiveness, saying, "they do not know what they are doing" the "they" **also included Christ's own followers—the disciples** who abandoned Him in the hour of His greatest need. They probably could not have changed the course of events in opposition to the Roman arm, the government authority, and the religious leaders. But they could have done something. They could have stood by Him, stayed with Him, been loyal to Him, and showed Him they cared. But they were afraid. They hid themselves away. They closed themselves in, cowering behind locked doors.

Forgiveness is only needed for the guilty. Nobody can forgive an innocent person. So, when Jesus said, “forgive them”, He meant they were guilty.

At the very least, He meant, “they should have known what they were doing”. And they are guilty for not knowing what they are doing. That is why they needed to be forgiven. In other words, “I did not know” is not an excuse to absolve us from wrong-doing. A person may do wrong ignorantly, yet be blameworthy, and therefore need forgiveness. So, there is such a thing as “sinning through ignorance”. Christ taught that “he who did not know, yet committed something deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few.” Luke 12:48.

HOW THE CROSS DISPELLED THE LIES AND CHARGES OF SATAN

THE EXTENT OF GOD’S FORGIVENESS

The second question raised by Christ’s prayer at Calvary is this: **Who was He talking about when He said, “For they do not know what they are doing?”** Who are the “they” He was talking about, and who are the “them” for whom He was requesting forgiveness? This question has to do with the extent of God’s forgiveness.

The immediate context of Christ’s prayer suggest that He was referring to **the Roman soldiers**. They were the ones carrying out the execution. They were the ones doing the dirty work. They were the ones nailing Him to the cross. No doubt they had watched the proceedings of the trial and had seen Christ’s demeanor all through the process. Like one of the soldiers at the cross who “glorified God, saying, “Certainly this was a righteous man!” (Luke 23:47). The soldiers who nailed Christ to the cross could have known that He was innocent. Yet they killed Him, perhaps on the lame excuse that they were just following orders. They were guilty.

REBELLION WAS NOT TO BE OVERCOME BY FORCE

Now if rebellion was not to be overcome by force at the start of the controversy, will God use it (force), during the controversy? How about at the end of the controversy? It would defeat his purpose, because at the outset, rebellion was not/never to be overcome by force.

“Satan led men into sin, and the plan of redemption was put in operation. For four thousand years, Christ was working for man’s uplifting, and Satan for his ruin and degradation. And **the heavenly universe beheld it all.**”

“Could one sin have been found in Christ, had He in one particular yielded to Satan to escape the terrible torture, the enemy of God and man would have triumphed. Christ bowed His head and died, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God.” **DA 761.**

VICTORY AT CALVARY

“Satan saw that **his disguise was torn away**. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had **uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings**. Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ’s brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.” DA p.761.2

“Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. **The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed.** And for the sake of man, Satan’s existence must be continued. **Man as well as angels must see** the contrast between the Prince of light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve.”

“Then the end will come. God will vindicate His law and deliver His people. Satan and all who have joined him in rebellion will be cut off....“This is not an act of arbitrary power on the part of God. The rejecters of His mercy reap that which they have sown. God is the fountain of life; and when one chooses the service of sin, he separates from God, and thus cuts himself off from life. He is “alienated from the life of God.” Christ says, “All they that hate Me love death.” Eph. 4:18; Prov. 8:36.”

“God gives them existence for a time that they may develop their character and reveal their principles. This accomplished, they receive the results of their own choice. 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. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them.” DA 764.

IT WILL BE CLEAR AT THE END!

“At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this. Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; but it would not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin. A doubt of God’s goodness would have remained in their minds as evil seed, to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe.” DA 764.

injustice to turn him against God. He didn’t utter any curses or attack His attackers. He didn’t attempt to save Himself. And He did not blame anyone — although many were to blame.

No one standing near the Cross expected Jesus to offer forgiveness to those who were hurting Him. Yet, He did. The amazing thing at Calvary was that while He was being crucified, He “kept praying” for his murderers that God would forgive them. Coming from His lips only were words of forgiveness explaining the reason for His murderers’ action, “for they do not know what they are doing.”

It is simply amazing. Calvary, the place where human beings did their worse, was also where God did His best. He was virtually saying, “You can treat me as you like, but you can’t stop Me from loving you.”

On the cross, God displayed His love for those who showed their hatred and contempt. It was here that he stretched out His hands inviting all humanity to come unto Him. In His most agonizing moment, Christ prayed for His killers. He would rather die by being killed, than to kill them.

But that act also raises two profound questions.

1. Why forgive a person for what he does not know he is doing? And
2. Who are the “they” for whom Christ prayed?

THE GUILT OF IGNORANCE

Can a person be held accountable for an offence of which he or she is not aware? Although the people “did not know what they were doing”, yet they needed forgiveness, and Christ offered it. This fact reveals that ignorance does not absolve one of moral blame.

CHAPTER 8

THE EYE-OPENING REVELATION OF THE FORGIVENESS OF GOD AT THE CROSS

“FATHER, FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO”. LUKE 23:32

The Bible clearly teaches that God can and does forgive. Christ's dying prayer on the cross of Calvary is the greatest evidence that forgiveness is available to all. His prayer, “Father forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing (Luke 23:32) is proof that not only will God forgive the actions of those involved in the death of Christ—but also every sinner who is willing to accept His offer of forgiveness.

Death by crucifixion was designed to exert maximum pain. During the agony, a dying man might scream, curse, or utter threats. Rarely, would a word of forgiveness be heard from a person being crucified. Jesus, however, responded in a very unusual manner to His own crucifixion. See Luke 23:32-36.

He did not utter a word in his own defence. He didn't condemn those responsible for His death. He didn't proclaim His own innocence. Instead, He said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34. He didn't allow His suffering of

“But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law.”

“Well, then, might the angels rejoice as they looked upon the Saviour's cross; for though they did not then understand all, they knew that the destruction of sin and Satan was forever made certain, that the redemption of man was assured, and that the universe was made eternally secure. Christ Himself fully comprehended the results of the sacrifice made upon Calvary. To all these He looked forward when upon the cross He cried out, “It is finished.” DA 764.

CHAPTER 7

BREAKING THE LAST LINKS OF SYMPATHY

PART 2

OPENING THE EYES OF MAN SAVED AND UNSAVED

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.” Ephesians 1:18--23

“But it is only through a correct understanding of Christ’s mission and work that the possibility of being complete in Him, accepted in the Beloved, is brought within our reach”. 6 BC p. 1113.9

At the cross, both the eyes of the Angels as well as the Unfallen worlds were opened concerning Satan’s accusation and charges against God’s character.. Satan’s disguise or mask was torn away and they clearly saw that Satan was a murderer from the beginning. Then, the last links of sympathy between Satan and the Heavenly world were broken.

So why is Satan still alive?

Even Satan’s eyes are opened.

“Satan sees that his voluntary rebellion has unfitted him for Heaven. He has trained his powers to war against God; the purity, peace and harmony of Heaven would be to him supreme torture. **His accusations against the mercy and justice of God are now silenced.** The reproach which he has endeavoured to cast upon Jehovah rest wholly upon himself.” G.C p.670.2.

“And now Satan bows down and confesses the justice of his sentence(Revelation 15:3,4).....**Every question of truth and error in the longstanding controversy has now been made plain.** The results of rebellion, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, **have been laid open to the view of all created intelligences.** The working out of Satan’s rule in contrast with the government of God has been **presented to the whole universe.** Satan’s own works have condemned him. God’s wisdom, His justice, and His goodness **stand fully vindicated.** It is seen that all his dealings in the great controversy have been conducted with respect to the eternal good of His people and the good of all the worlds that He has created...Psalm 145:19.”

“The history of sin will stand to all eternity as a witness that with the existence of God’s law is bound up the happiness of all the beings He has created.”

“With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: “just and true are Thy ways, thou King of saints.” G.C p. 670.3.

“The Wicked see that they have been deluded”...Those who crucified Christ see why they are lost. False shepherds see why they are lost. Papists, priests and prelates see why they are lost. The rich and mighty see why they are lost. Finally Satan and his evil angels see why they are lost forever. Great controversy p.654.

Unfaithful pastors have prophesied smooth things; they have led their hearers to make void the law of God and to persecute those who would keep it holy. Now, in their despair, these teachers confess before the world their work of deception. The multitudes are filled with fury. “We are lost!” they cry, “and you are the cause of our ruin;” and they turn upon the false shepherds. The very ones that once admired them most will pronounce the most dreadful curses upon them. The very hands that once crowned them with laurels will be raised for their destruction. The swords which were to slay God’s people are now employed to destroy their enemies. Everywhere there is strife and bloodshed. Great controversy p.655.4

At the great White Throne judgment, after the 1000 year millenium, the great panoramic view occurs. See Rev.20:11,12.

“As soon as the books of records are opened, and the eye of Jesus looks upon the wicked, they are conscious of every sin which they have ever committed.” G.C p. 666.2.

“But the time has now come when the rebellion is to be finally defeated and the history and the character of Satan disclosed. In his last great effort to dethrone Christ, destroy His people, and take possession of the city of God, **the archdeceiver has been fully unmasked.** Those who have united with him **see the total failure of his cause.**” G.C p.670.

There were other issues to be revealed. Man must see what Angels and the Unfallen worlds saw in order that the last links of sympathy between Satan and man may be broken. Hence, it is for man’s sake that Satan’s existence has continued. The eyes of man needs to be opened as well.

“Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the Angels and before the Heavenly universe. **He had revealed himself as a murderer.** By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had **uprooted himself from the sympathies** of the Heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted.” DA 761.1

“Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the Angels as they came from the Heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ’s brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and defilement of sin. **The last link of sympathy between Satan and the Heavenly world was broken.**” DA 761.2.

“Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The Angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. **The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed.** And for the sake of man, Satan’s existence must be continued. Man as well as angels must see the contrast between the Prince of Light and the prince of darkness. He must choose whom he will serve.” DA 761.3

The preaching of the final warning message of the Everlasting Gospel during the Loud Cry under the power of the Latter Rain will illuminate the darkened minds of all on the earth until human probation shall be closed.

“And I saw another mighty angel come down from Heaven; and the earth was lightened with the glory of God.” Rev.18:1.

Through His messengers, God will call His true people whose eyes were blinded by error and darkness from Satan’s accusations and charges against God’s character, out of Babylon, religious confusion, false doctrines and misconceptions.

“Notwithstanding the widespread declension of faith and piety, there are true followers of Christ in these churches (of Babylon). Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth, there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times.” GC 464.

“As the time comes for it (the message) to be given with greatest power, the Lord will work through instruments, leading the minds of those who consecrate themselves to His service.....GC 606.2.

“Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand on the Lord’s side.” GC 612.

With the Mark of the Beast crisis upon the earth (Rev.13:13-17), the world will be divided into two classes, those who will receive the Seal of God, and those who will receive the Mark of the Beast.

“The Lord has shown me clearly that the image of the Beast will be formed before probation closes; for it is to be the great test for the people of God, by which their eternal destiny will be decided....This is the test that the people of God must have before they are sealed.” 2 SM 81.1.

“With the issue thus clearly brought before him, whoever shall trample upon God’s law to obey a human enactment receives the Mark of the Beast; he accepts the sign of allegiance to the power which he chooses to obey instead of God. The warning from Heaven is: “If any man worship the beast and his image, the same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation.” Revelation 14:9, 10.” GC 604.3

By that time, all would have made up their minds for or against God, receiving the Seal of God or the Mark of the Beast. Their minds are irreversibly fixed forever, probation closes for all mankind. (See Booklet on The Closure of Human Probation by author).

After Probation closes (Rev.22:11), the seven last plagues are poured out upon the earth (Rev. 16), and the next event in the line of Bible prophecy is the glorious, cataclysmic Second coming of Christ for His people (Rev.6:13-17).

During the outpouring of the seven last plagues, there will be a great awakening at the 6th and 7th plagues, called the withdrawal of the River Euphrates (water represents people..Rev.17:15). Here is where those who are lost have their eyes opened, see that they have been deluded by their religious leaders, and withdraw their support from the Babylonian system. Rev 17:14-18; Ezek 9; Jer 25:33; Isa 66:16; Isa 26:20, 21; Jer 23

“When the voice of God turns the captivity of His people, there is a terrible awakening of those who have lost all in the great conflict of life. While probation continued they were blinded by Satan’s deceptions, and they justified their course of sin.” G.C p.654.1