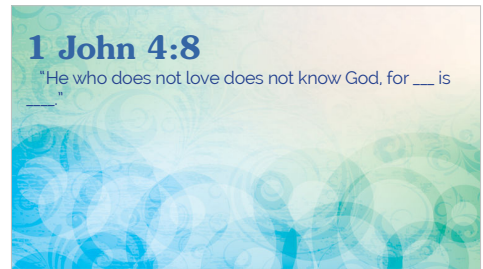




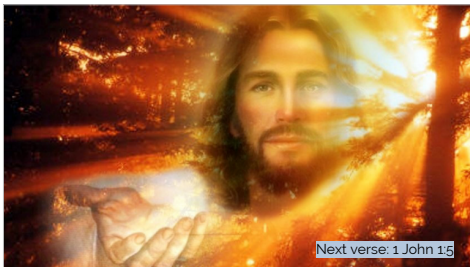
Welcome to our Bible Study on the Great Controversy!



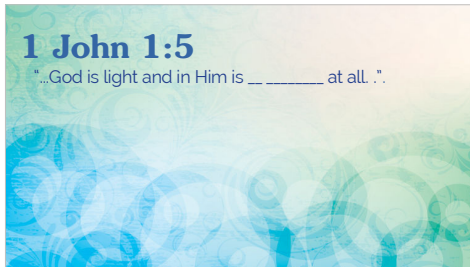
Today our world is full of trouble. There are natural disasters like fires, floods, and storms. People get sick and die. Have you ever wondered, "Why does God allow sin, pain, and suffering in our world?" The Bible has the answers! **What is God really like?**



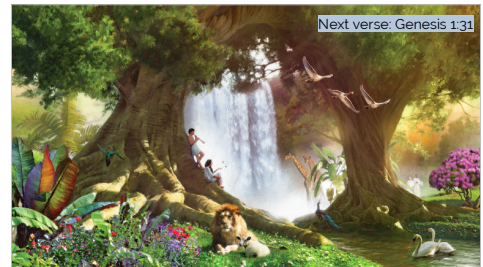
1 John 4:8
He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.



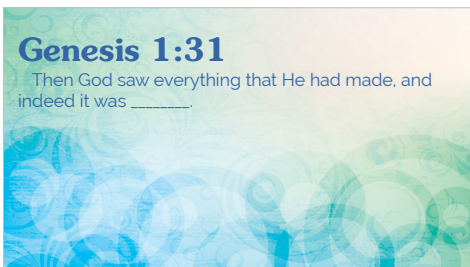
This tells us that God is LOVE. His nature is love. His law is love. He never changes! He is ALWAYS good, just, and holy. He is full of mercy, even when dealing with those who have rejected Him. The history of the whole war between good and evil, from the time when it first began in heaven to the final end of sin and pain, also shows God's love. **Does God have a "dark side"? Did God create evil?**



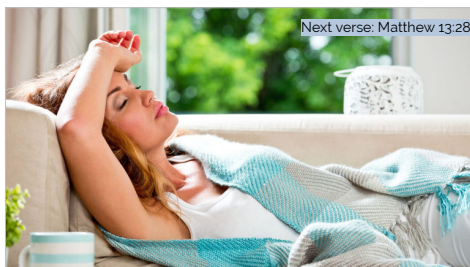
1 John 1:5
...God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.



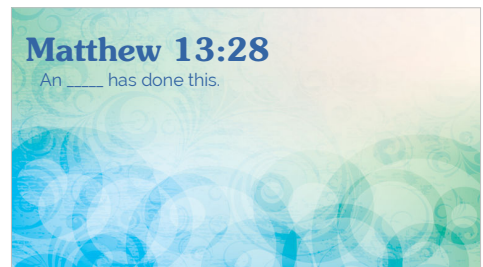
Christ, the Word, the Only Begotten of God, the "brightness of His glory" was one with the Eternal Father from eternity. He shared God's throne. Around Him were "ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousand of thousands" (Rev. 5:11) of angels. Jesus is the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6), and like Him, everything in heaven was peaceful, perfect and beautiful. Through Him, God also created a perfect world for us to live in. **What did God say about His work?**



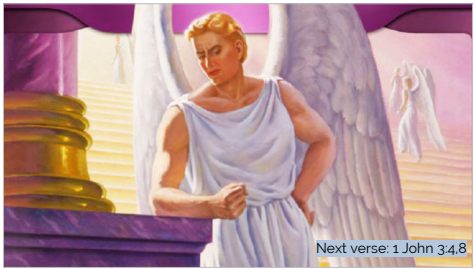
Genesis 1:31
Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good...



So if everything He made was "very good", then why do people get sick or die? Why are there wars and disasters? **Why are there both good and bad people in the world?** Jesus told a story of a farmer who planted good grain in his field. But when the seeds sprouted, there were weeds mixed in with the grain everywhere! What had happened?

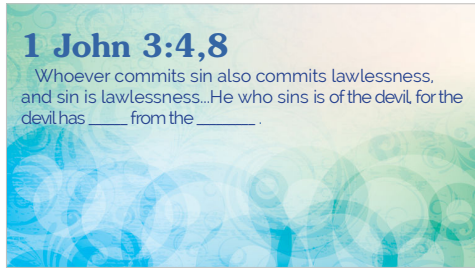


Matthew 13:28
...an enemy has done this.



Next verse: 1 John 3:4,8

While the farmer was asleep, an enemy had planted weed seeds in his field! Sin on this earth also began with an enemy! Who is this enemy? The Bible calls him the "great dragon", "that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world." (Revelation 12:9) **Where did evil start?**



1 John 3:4,8

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness... He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has _____ from the _____.

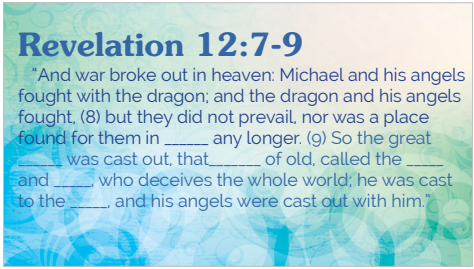
1 John 3:4,8

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness... (8) He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning...



Next verse: Revelation 12:7-9

This verse tells us that the devil sinned from the beginning. He chose to lift himself up against God. He thought he could improve by doing away with God's law and making life better for everyone. He claimed God and His laws were unjust. God could have destroyed him right away. But then people would have served God out of fear instead of love. **What happened in heaven as a result of Satan's rebellion?**



Revelation 12:7-9

"And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, (8) but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in _____ any longer. (9) So the great _____ was cast out, that _____ of old, called the _____ and _____ who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the _____, and his angels were cast out with him."

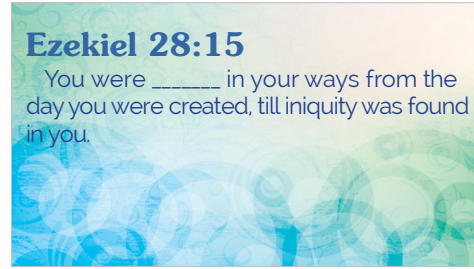
Revelation 12:7-9

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, (8) but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in **heaven** any longer. (9) So the great dragon was cast out, that **serpent** of old, called the **Devil and Satan**, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.



Next verse: Ezekiel 28:15

Did God create a devil? No. Lucifer, "Son of the morning", was highest in power and glory among the angels. He stood in the presence of the great Creator as "the annointed cherub that covereth" and the glory of God was on him. The Bible says he was "full of wisdom and perfect in beauty", that "every precious stone was your covering". He "walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. He had a beautiful voice! The Bible says "the workmanship of your timbels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created." He led the other angels in praise to God. **Was there any sin in him when God created him?**



Ezekiel 28:15

You were _____ in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

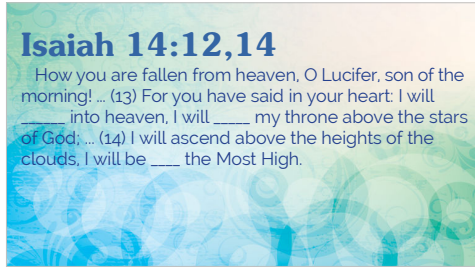
Ezekiel 28:15

You were **perfect** in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.



Next verse: Isaiah 14:12-14

How did he end up being the devil? Was there a reason for him to sin? The Bible calls it a mystery. Little by little he began to believe that his brightness and glory, which came from God, was just him. Even though he was honored above the other angels, he wanted the angels to serve him and be loyal to him instead of God. He wanted to sit in the place of God. The Bible tells about it in Isaiah 14:12-14.

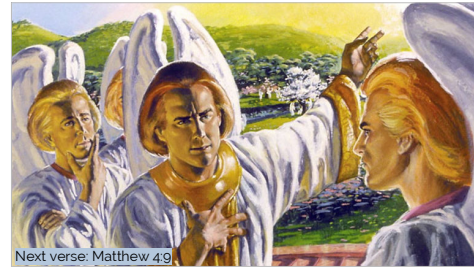


Isaiah 14:12,14

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! ... (13) For you have said in your heart: I will _____ into heaven, I will _____ my throne above the stars of God; ... (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be _____ the Most High.

Isaiah 14:12-14

How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! (13) For you have said in your heart: I will **ascend** into heaven, I will **exalt** my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be **like the Most High**.



Next verse: Matthew 4:9

It was in trying to exalt himself above the Son of God that Satan had sinned in heaven. He envied the glory and honor of God. **In order to get what he wants, what does the devil want more than anything else?**

Matthew 4:9

And he said to Him, All these things I will give You if You will fall down and ____ me."

Matthew 4:9

And he said to Him, All these things I will give You if You will fall down and **worship** me."



Next verse: Philippians 2:3

God is a fountain of life, always loving, always giving, always blessing all created beings. **How does the character of Jesus contrast with Satan?**

Philippians 2:3

...He ____ Himself and became obedient to the point of ____, even the death of the cross.

Philippians 2:8

And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled** Himself and became obedient to the point of **death**, even the death of the cross.



Next verse: Revelation 12:12,17

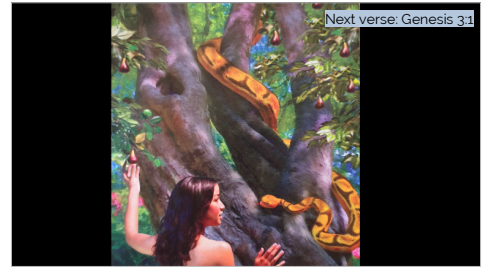
God did not destroy Satan right away. Everyone in the universe needed time to see that Satan was not telling the truth. They needed to see that God is loving and merciful and His law is holy, just and good. Satan was given a chance to show what sin was really like. The war that started in heaven is still continuing today. **After Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven, where did he end up?**

Revelation 12:12,17

Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the ____ and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a ____." (17) And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the ____ of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:12, 17

Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! **Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea!** For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a **short time.**" (17) And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the **commandments** of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.



Next verse: Genesis 3:1

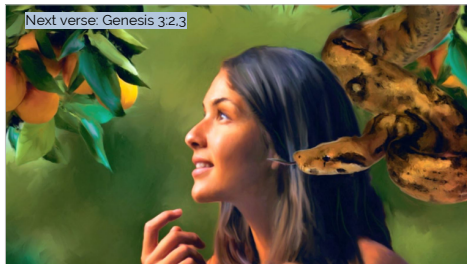
Satan hated God, and when he saw the perfect happiness and peace of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, it reminded him of the heaven he had lost forever. He determined to get them to mistrust and disobey God. He planned to ruin their lives and cause sadness in heaven. **How did Satan get humans to sin?**

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not ____ of every tree of the garden?'"

Genesis 3:1

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not **eat** of every tree of the garden?'"



Next verse: Genesis 3:2,3

Satan tried to make it look like God was holding something back from Adam and Eve, so they couldn't become as wise and powerful as He is. He said that he had eaten the fruit, and it even made him able to talk! He wanted Eve to doubt God's wisdom and love and to believe that good would come to her by breaking God's law. **What did Eve respond to the serpent?**

Genesis 3:2,3

(2) And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; (3) but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not ____ it, nor shall you touch it, lest you ____'"

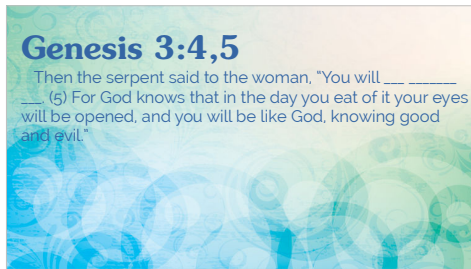
Genesis 3:2,3

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; (3) but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not **eat** it, nor shall you touch it, lest you **die.**'"



Next verse: Genesis 3:4,5

At that tree, Satan began his effort to deceive the whole world. **What was the devil's first lie?**

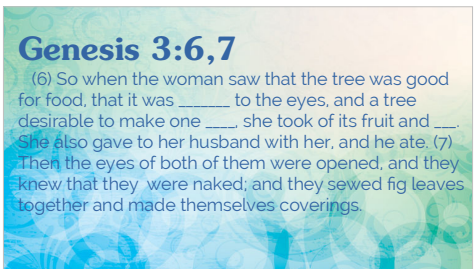


Genesis 3:4,5
Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will _____ (5) For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Genesis 3:4,5
Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will **not surely die**. (5) For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

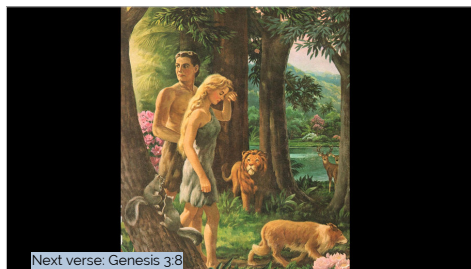


Satan wants people to think that by disobeying God, they will learn and experience wonderful things. Some think they can find God inside themselves, but this is wrong. **Instead of believing God, what did Eve do next?**

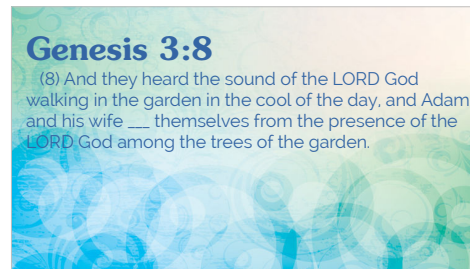


Genesis 3:6,7
(6) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was _____ to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one _____, she took of its fruit and _____. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (7) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Genesis 3:6,7
So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was **pleasant** to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and **ate**. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (7) Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.



Eve imagined that she was becoming wiser. She was excited to share the fruit with Adam. He knew that Eve had sinned, but he couldn't stand the thought of being separated from her, so he quickly ate the fruit. Soon he felt terrified, cold, guilty, and naked. He dreaded what would happen next. **What did Adam and Eve do once they had disobeyed?**



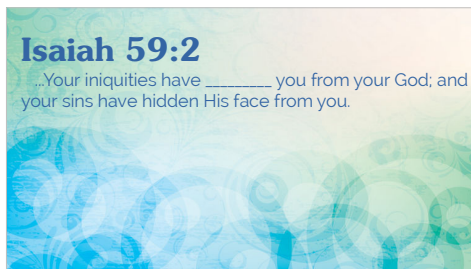
Genesis 3:8
(8) And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife _____ themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:8
And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife **hid** themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.



Next verse: Isaiah 59:2

Always before, Adam and Eve had joyfully looked forward to their visits with God. Now, filled with shame and guilt, they fled in terror and tried to hide deep in the garden. **What does sin do to our relationship with God?**



Isaiah 59:2
...Your iniquities have _____ you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you.

Isaiah 59:1-2
But your iniquities have **separated** you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear..



Next verse: 1 John 3:4

After they disobeyed God, Adam and Eve would be more attracted to sin and have less power to resist it. It would be easier for them to sin again, cutting themselves off from God and His blessings. **What is sin?**

1 John 3:4

Whoever commits sin commmits _____, and sin is _____

1 John 3:4

Whoever commits sin also commits **lawlessness**, and sin is **lawlessness**.



Satan's plan was to destroy all law. Sin is breaking God's perfect law, disobeying His rules for life. God's law protects us from the pain and evil that results from sin. Sin separates us from God, from life, from happiness and peace. All through heaven, there was sadness for the ruin sin had caused. But God's love for us is stronger than death. **What plan did God make?**

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He ____ His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not ____ but have everlasting ____.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He **gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not **perish** but have everlasting **life**.



Jesus came to save us from the power of sin and death. His death is our hope of eternal life! Forever it will be a mystery how Jesus could leave the joy and glory and purity of heaven to come down to live and work in a world with sinful people; how He could have so much sympathy and love for sinners when He hates sin so much. **Was Jesus tempted like we are?**

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot ____ with our weaknesses, but was in all points ____ as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

For we do not have a High Priest who **cannot sympathize with our weaknesses**, but was in all points **tempted as we are**, yet **without sin**.



God freely forgives us and wants to save us. We can't earn or buy His gift of salvation. Only the life of Jesus was enough to pay the price for us. He resisted Satan's temptations and He is able to give us divine power to overcome. **How can we receive God's free gift of salvation?**

1 John 1:9

If we ____ our sins, He is faithful and just to ____ us our sins and to ____ us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

If we **confess** our sins, He is faithful and just to **forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness. .



Someday soon, justice will be met and evil will have a final end. There will be no more violence, no more ruin, no more death. **How will sin and Satan be destroyed?**

Ezekiel 28:18

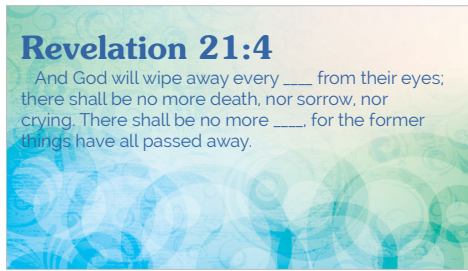
Therefore I brought ____ from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ____ upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you.

Ezekiel 28:18

...therefore I brought **fire** from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to **ashes** upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you.



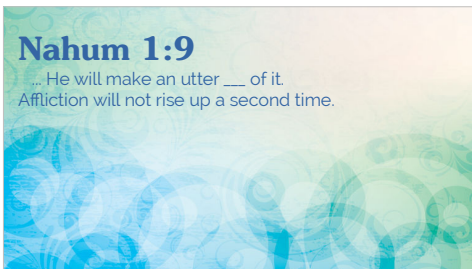
The earth will be created anew, with beautiful streams, green grass, everything perfect and clean. We will see God face to face and live with Him forever. We will make friends with the faithful people from all ages. We will never run out of things to learn or do, or places to explore. Every trace of sin will be gone. **What will that new earth be like?**

**Revelation 21:4**

And God will wipe away every **tear** from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more **pain**, for the former things have all passed away.



Satan's experiment will be over. For six thousand years he has done what he wanted to do, filling the earth with trouble and causing grief all through God's universe. But now he cannot tempt or destroy anyone anymore. The great controversy is over. The earth will be filled with songs of triumph and praise. **Will sin ever happen again?**

**Nahum 1:9**

... He will make an utter **end** of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time.



Forever and always we will praise God for His love. Today, we can make the choice to be on God's side. **Will you choose to spend eternity with Him?**

(Prayer) Dear God, thank You for paying the price for our sins so we could someday be with You in heaven. We choose to let You guide our lives. We love You. Amen.