

Quarter Two: The Great Controversy  
Lesson 1—The War Behind All Wars  
Monday: Lucifer Deceives: Christ Prevails  
April 1, 2024

- **Last Quarter:** “The Psalms”
- **This Quarter:** “The Great Controversy”
  - The theme of the GC runs throughout the Bible
    - Heart of the issue = Who is God?
      - What is His character?
      - Is He truly loving?
    - This quarter: study history of world from God’s perspective
      - Explore central issues in the conflict between Christ & Satan
      - Discover the faith of the martyrs, who followed Jesus, in spite of everything
      - Rekindle our faith in the destruction of sin & the new heaven & earth
  - Author: Mark Finley
- **This Week:** “The War Behind All Wars”
  - Questions of philosophy and existence:
    - If God is good, why is the world so bad?
    - How can a God of love allow so much evil to exist?
    - Why do bad things happen to “good” people?
  - Topics to explore:
    - The origin of evil & God’s longsuffering with this problem of sin
    - xsLove and free will

**Memory Text:** “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them any longer.” (Rev 12:7, 8, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** War in Heaven (Ryan)
  - Rev 12:7 – 9; Eze 28 / Isa 14 – origin of evil in heaven & the conflict that begin
- 2. **Monday:** Lucifer Deceives: Christ Prevails (Jill)
  - Rev 12:4 – Satan’s deception of the angels; free choice given to all; choose Jesus
- 3. **Tuesday:** Planet Earth Becomes Involved (James)
  - Gen 3 – entrance of sin on this earth & the effects of sin (sickness, suffering, death)
- 4. **Wednesday:** Love Finds a Way (Daniel)
  - Gen 3:15 – plan of salvation; Christ’s perfect life & death revealed justice & mercy (satisfied the claims of the law while offering forgiveness & redemption for sinners)
- 5. **Thursday:** Our High Priest (John L)
  - Heb 4 & 7 – Christ’s intercessory work on our behalf

# Monday: Lucifer Deceives: Christ Prevails

Rev 12:4; Rev 12:8, 9; Gen 2:15 – 17; Ex 32:26; Josh 24:15; 1 Kings 18:20, 21; Rev 22:17

- Ryan's day
  - Origin of sin in a perfect place
  - Lucifer's desire for self-exaltation; pride & resistance to surrender to God
    - Satan's pride ripened into rebellion against his Creator
  - Rebellion Lucifer stirred up amongst the angels
- Satan's deceptive power
  - Rev 12:3 – “And another sign appeared in heaven; behold, a great, fiery red dragon...”
    - Dragon = Satan
    - Rev 12:9 – “So that 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.
      - Deceives = Gk, “deceive, err, seduce, wander”
  - Rev 12:4a – “His tail (the red dragon / Satan's tail) drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth...”
    - Rev 1:20 – stars = angels
      - Satan deceived 1/3 of the angels in heaven
- **How does Satan deceive?**
  - **1. He deceives by outright lies**
    - Satan = a liar & the father of it
      - John 8:44 – “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
      - Satan = a murderer
      - Satan = a liar
        - There is no truth in him
        - Lies & deception come from him, nobody else
      - Christ = a Savior
        - Luke 19:10 – He came to seek & to save that which was lost
      - Christ = the Truth
        - John 14:6 – I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, no one...
        - Num 23:19a – “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent;..”

- **2. He deceives by attributing to God his own character / casting doubt on God's character**
  - GC, p. 498 – “In His dealing with sin, God could employ only righteousness and truth. Satan could use what God could not—flattery and deceit. ...Satan had made it appear that he himself was seeking to promote the good of the universe...The discord which his own course had caused in heaven, Satan charged upon the law and government of God. All evil he declared to be the result of the divine administration.”
  - Does this happen today?
    - Tornado / flood – insurance claims it's an act of God
  - Misrepresentation of the character of God – Satan's plan from beginning
    - **Lie #1:** God is restrictive – “Has God said you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”
    - **Truth #1:** God is freedom / freeing – sin is restrictive, sin places in bondage
      - 2 Pet 2:19 – “While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”
    - **Lie #2:** God is a liar / untrustworthy – you shall not surely die
    - **Truth #3:** God is true & trustworthy – Satan is a liar
      - John 8:44 – “You are of your father the devil...he is a liar and the father of it.”
      - John 14:6 – I am the Way, the Truth, & the Life
    - **Lie #3:** God is selfish / looks out for Himself - God knows when you eat of it, your eyes will be opened & you will be like God
    - **Truth #3:** Christ is unselfish / lives to bless others – Satan is selfish
      - from the cradle to the cross, He lived to bless others
      - “At the cross, the infinite love of Christ & the unbounded selfishness of Satan stood face to face.” *The Cross & Its Shadow*, Stephen Haskell
    - **Lie #4:** God causes pain & suffering – or He could stop it and chooses not to
    - **Truth #4:** Christ brings healing & restoration; Satan causes pain & death
      - Satan - John 8:44 – “You are of your father the devil...He was a murderer from the beginning...”
        - Sin & suffering & death is all a result of Satan's work
      - By contrast, Jesus - Luke 4:18 – “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the **poor**; He has sent me to heal the **brokenhearted**, to proclaim **liberty** to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind to set at liberty those who are oppressed...”

- Poor = Gk, one who crouches & cowers; deeply destitute
- Broken = Gk, to break by crushing
- Liberty = Gk, pardon / forgiveness

- **The choice is ours – Whom will we serve?**

- Angels in heaven had a choice – follow Christ (didn't fully understand) or Satan (the deceiver)
- Adam & Eve had a choice –
- Today, we have a choice
  - Joshua 24:15 – “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”
    - Follow because of tradition and upbringing
    - Follow because of peer pressure
  - Ex 32:26 – “Then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, ‘Whoever is on the Lord’s side—come to me!’ And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.”
- When Satan says
  - Who do you think you are? Speaking for God? You’re nothing but a sinner
- You say
  - The Word of God says I might have been a sinner but I am forgiven, justified, sanctified and washed in Jesus
- When Satan says
  - Your sins are too great to be forgiven!
- You say
  - The Word of God says God has cast my sins into the depths of the sea!
- When Satan says
  - There must be sin in this person’s life, that’s why they became sick / died
- You say
  - The Word of God says Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy; Jesus came that we would have life & have it more abundantly
- When Satan says
  - God’s law is restrictive
- You say
  - The Word of God says that God’s law is a law of liberty and Jesus came to set me free!
- When Satan says
  - God doesn’t want you to be happy
- You say
  - The Word of God says that He wants to fill me with all joy and peace in believing that I may abound in hope, by the power of the Holy Spirit