

Quarter One: God's Love and Justice

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Lesson 9—The Cosmic Conflict

Thursday: The Nature of the Cosmic Conflict

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- **Last Week:** “Free Will, Love and Divine Providence”
 - God's sovereignty & omnipotence
 - God's love & free will
 - God's providence: some things caused by Him and some by us (or free will)
- **This Week:** “The Cosmic Conflict”
 - Study of the Great Controversy
 - Is it Scriptural?
 - What is this nature of this conflict?

Memory Text: “‘And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.’” (Gen 3:15, NKJV)

The week in brief:

- 1. **Sunday:** An Enemy Has Done This (James)
 - Matt 13 – tares sown into the wheat field; Satan infiltrating this world / church; God allows it to grow together until the harvest
- 2. **Monday:** The Origin of the Controversy on Earth (SQ)
 - Gen 3 – the entrance of sin on earth; Satan's deceptive nature
- 3. **Tuesday:** The Origin of the Controversy in Heaven (Daniel)
 - Eze 28 & Isa 14 – the origin of sin with Lucifer in Heaven
- 4. **Wednesday:** If You Worship Me (John L)
 - Matt 4 & Luke 4 – the temptation of Christ & the use of Scripture to counteract him
- 5. **Thursday:** The Nature of the Cosmic Conflict (Jill)
 - John 8 & Rev 12 – this conflict is over the character of God: is He good, is He loving? And Satan's deceptions & twisting of God's character

Thursday: The Nature of the Cosmic Conflict

John 8:44, 45; Rev 12:7 – 10; John 18:37; 1 John 3:8; Heb 2:14

- What is the nature of the cosmic conflict?
 - A battle between Christ & Satan?
 - A battle between good & evil?
 - How is this battle played out?
 - A physical battle? A battle of power?
 - A spiritual battle?
 - An intellectual battle?
 - A battle over souls
 - At its heart, the GC is a battle over the character of God

- Is God love?
- Can God be trusted?
- Satan has misrepresented the character of God

Comparison Qualities: Satan & Jesus

- **1. Satan = a liar**
 - **Satan lies**
 - 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
 - **God tells the truth**
 - By contrast, Jesus = 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;..”
 - God’s Word = Truth
 - John 17:17 – “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”
 - John 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”
 - If Jesus = the Word & the Word is truth; Jesus = the truth
- **2. Satan is a deceiver**
 - **Satan deceives others**
 - Rev 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.
 - War = polemos = “war of words” / ideas
 - **Jesus reveals the truth**
 - John 8:12 – “...I am the Light of the world, He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”
 - Don’t need to be in the darkness / confusion of deception
 - The light dispels darkness
 - John 8:32 – “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
 - **How does Satan deceive?**
 - 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
 - John 8:32 – “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
 - 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 #2:** God is true & trustworthy – Satan is a liar
 - John 14:6 – I am the Way, the Truth, & the Life
 - John 8:44 – “You are of your father the devil...he is a liar and the father of it.”
 - **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
 - 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
 - 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

- When Satan says
 - Who do you think you are? Speaking for God? You're nothing but a sinner
- You say
 - The Word says I was a sinner but I am forgiven, justified, sanctified in Jesus
- When Satan says
 - Your sins are too great to be forgiven!
- You say
 - The Word says if I confess my sins He is faithful & just...
- When Satan says
 - There must be sin in this person's life, that's why they became sick / died
- You say
 - The Word 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 says that God's law is a law of liberty
- When Satan says
 - God doesn't want you to be happy
- You say
 - The Word 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
- **3. Satan is an accuser**
 - **Satan accuses / slanders others**
 - Rev 12:10 – “Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.’”
 - Job – Satan still entered into heaven, to accuse God's people before God
 - When Jesus died on the Cross, Satan was forever banished from returning to heaven
 - John 12:31 – “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”
 - Zech 3 – Joshua standing b4 God & Satan (adversary) standing at his right hand to accuse him / oppose him
 - **Jesus loves & encourages us**
 - Merriam-Webster: opposite of slander = praise, respect, commendation
 - 1 John 3:1 – He bestows His love on us and calls us His children
 - 1 John 3:8 - Jesus came to destroy the “works” of the devil

- Counter the lies & slander of Satan (the enemy)
 - Ultimately, He destroyed the devil & his power
 - Because, what you believe has power over you
 - Word for “devil” in Greek = means “slanderer”
- Rom 8:1 – no condemnation to those in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit
- Rom 8:15 – we rec’d the spirit of adoption (not fear)
- John 6:37 – whoever comes to Me, I will never cast out
- Jer 29:11 – God knows the plans He has for us – to prosper & not to harm
- **3 comparison qualities**
 - 1. Satan = a liar: Satan lies; God tells the truth
 - 2. Satan = a deceiver: Satan deceives; Jesus reveals truth
 - 3. Satan = an accuser: Satan accuses others; Jesus encourages others