

## THE ORIGIN OF EVIL

The newspaper headline screamed out the news. A rampaging flood had swept Queensland. Many were killed and billions of dollars in damage done as the storm wiped out homes, businesses, and other property. Families wept over their losses and asked, "Why, God? Why do innocent, hardworking people have to suffer?"



This same question has echoed through the centuries. Some writers have called it 'the bigger picture' through which the answer comes "the great controversy." The reason for this title is that God created a perfect world (Genesis 1:31) but another created being in heaven interrupted God's plan. This interruption created a conflict or controversy about who has control over this world and ultimately the whole universe and whether God can allow people, who have sinned, to live forever.

### HIS WORD SAYS

1. The Bible pictures heaven as an amazing place. But what event occurred in Revelation 12:7?

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2. Who was it who daringly challenged the Most High God? Revelation 12:9.

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*War broke out in heaven when Satan rebelled against God's government.*



3. What exalted position did Satan once occupy in the courts of heaven? Ezekiel 28:14.

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*The anointed cherub that covers is the one who stands beside the throne of God (Exodus 25:22). Before his fall Satan was one of the most prestigious and powerful angels in heaven.*

## WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT SATAN

“The thief comes 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

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

4. What was Satan like when he was first created? Ezekiel 28:12, 15.

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*When Satan was first created he went by the name Lucifer, son of the morning (Isaiah 14:12). He is described as being perfect and full of wisdom and beauty. He started life as a happy and holy being.*

5. What higher position did this exalted being covet? Isaiah 14:12-14.

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*Arrogance and pride were Lucifer's downfall. This caused him to become selfish and desire the worship and honour that belongs to God alone.*

6. How many of the angels joined Satan in his rebellion? Revelation 12:4.

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*Satan deceived a third of the angels to side with him against God. The Bible does not give us exact details as to how Satan did this, but if we look at how Satan has been deceiving us and working against God since he has been cast out of heaven we can get a basic idea.*

7. Whom did Satan then seek to deceive and how? Genesis 3:1-6. \_\_\_\_\_

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*Satan used deceit to lead Eve to believe that God was withholding something good from her to prevent her from becoming more enlightened and exalted. He suggested to her that he had something better to offer than God had given.*

8. How else has Satan attacked God's government? Daniel 7:25.

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*The little horn here represents the antichrist which is the organisation that Satan is using to set up a kingdom on the Earth in opposition to God. Not only does it speak out against God and persecute His people, it also challenges the very foundation of God's government; His Law! From the start Satan has lied about God and undermined His authority by attacking His law and right to rule. In this way Satan is trying to set himself up as one who is above God, with a kingdom, government, and law of his very own.*

9. What does Satan, now claim as his? Luke 4:5-6.

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*See also Job 1:6-8. Satan appeared at the gates of heaven claiming to be the representative of the Earth. The "sons of God" mentioned in these verses were the unfallen representatives of other worlds.*

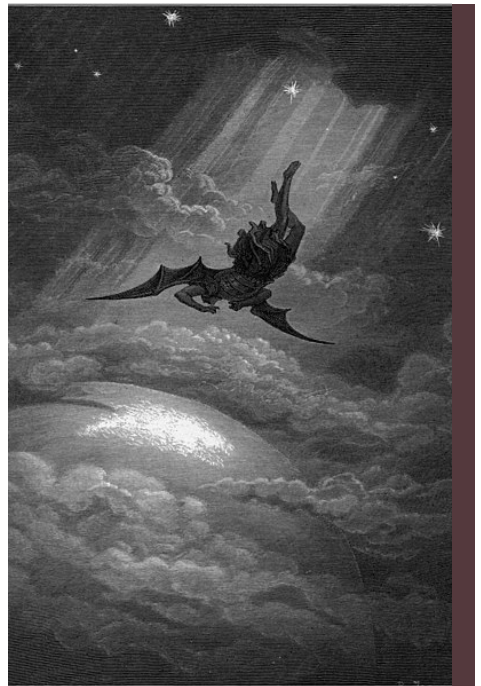
10. Who brings sickness and trouble upon mankind? Job 2:7; Luke 13:16. \_\_\_\_\_

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*We like to blame God for many of the disasters that go on in our world, however, it is Satan who seeks to destroy us and he has the power to bring a great amount of devastation upon us.*

11. How will this evil one finally be destroyed by God? Ezekiel 28:16-19 \_\_\_\_\_

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Satan will be completely destroyed by fire that will devour him out of existence. God will not allow Satan's reign of terror to continue any longer than it needs to for all to see that Satan's claims against God are unjustified. God has permitted Satan's rebellion so

*that all can see that God's law and government are just. If God had immediately blotted Satan out of existence many would have questioned God's justice and a seed of doubt and fear would have been planted. It was necessary that Satan be allowed to develop his case against God so that all could see clearly the outcomes of Satan's "better" system and understand God's justice in ultimately destroying him. God desires us to love and worship Him because He is worthy, not because we are too afraid to do otherwise.*

12. Why does the devil work so viciously now? Revelation 12:12 .

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13. How does Satan work to disguise himself and his activities? 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

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*Satan comes to us mingling truth with error; he hides himself underneath a garb of righteousness. If he were to appear to us as a scary looking being with horns and a pitchfork we would hardly be fooled. For this reason we cannot trust things based purely on their appearance. Knowing God's Word and comparing everything we see and hear with Scripture is the only path of safety.*

14. What is man's only defense against the devil's deceptions? Ephesians 6:11-13.

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15. What is the Armour of God? Ephesians 6:14-17.

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*It is not a physical but a spiritual battle that we face and our only safety comes as we wear the whole armour of God. Satan is powerless against the Word of God.*



16. How did Jesus overcome Satan's temptations? Matthew 4:4, 7, 10

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*Jesus response was always "it is written." As we saw earlier, the sword in the armour of God is the Word. This is our weapon against the enemy when we are going through trials and temptations. From God's Word we can draw strength and hope that even Satan himself cannot overcome.*

17. How can we gain the victory over this arch-enemy? Revelation 12:11.

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Peter warns us, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5: 8. Never have his deceptions been so effective in misleading and destroying men as they are today. He especially directs his anger against those who love and are loyal to God by keeping His commandments.



*The devil sought to overcome the Saviour before He could accomplish His mission of redemption. Christ was victorious in every battle fought with the deceiver. The Bible tells us that Christ did not sin. (Hebrews 4:15) He used the "Word of God" for His guide. By His death on the cross of Calvary He earned the right to deliver those held in bondage by Satan if they will only accept His death in their stead. By instigating Christ's death the devil signed his own death decree. Satan will soon be destroyed with all those who have chosen to yield to his temptations to sin. The Bible assures us that his end will be complete. But now he seeks to deceive even the children of God. The same Redeemer, Jesus, who gained the complete victory in His battle with Satan, is able to give you the victory too if you will place your life in His hands, hands that were pierced for your sins. Trust Him this day, simply ask, and He will give you forgiveness for past sins and victory over future temptations.*

John 8:31-32, 36

Then said Jesus to those which believed on him, If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.



### LIFE QUEST:

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these Questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

### YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

I recognise Christ as my only hope of victory over the enemy.

I am thankful for the Biblical truths on evil and understand where evil originated.

I would appreciate a free copy of the book, "The Great Controversy". (Only available in Australia)

Other \_\_\_\_\_