

The Individual Conflict: Victory Over Sin

GYC 2013 | Kameron DeVasher

Session 2: More Questions Angels Ask

Why Not Destroy Satan the Moment He Murdered Jesus?

More Than Destruction

- If God's only objectives in the Great Controversy were the revealing of Satan's true character and his resultant destruction, Satan could have been executed immediately after Calvary. However, it isn't the "Plan of Destruction," it's the "Plan of *Salvation*."
- Review Matthew 13
 - God allows tares to grow (evil to increase) for the sake of the wheat (righteous)
 - The reapers (angels) are asking God questions about His plan to deal with evil; God knows that until fully developed, the angels can not discern the difference between the righteous and the wicked.

God's Ultimate Goal: The Righteous Reunification of Heaven and Earth.

- Colossians 1:19, 20 19
- Ephesians 1:7-10
- *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... 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*

STAGE 3: SATAN CAST FROM THE SYMPATHY OF THE REDEEMED

Why Should Any Sinners Live?

"If they come here, won't they just mess everything up again? Are they safe to save?"

- 1 Corinthians 4:9; Ephesians 3:10
- Holy intelligences need to see in the lives of those who claim Christ as their Savior that His sacrifice does more than merely call them good on paper but can actually make them good in person; while they are no longer looking for evidence that Satan should die they are looking for evidence that we should live.

Lightning From Heaven (Luke 10:17, 18)

- Satan's fall is like "lightning from heaven," not in the sense of quickness but visibility
- Jesus refers to His own coming from Heaven as "lightning" (Luke 17:23, 24; Revelation 1:7)
- EGW describes Satan's fall like lightning as occurring in four successive steps. DA 490

The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus. He beheld Lucifer as he was first cast out from the heavenly places. He looked forward to the scenes of His own agony, when before all the worlds the character of the deceiver should be unveiled. He heard the cry, "It is finished" (John 19:30), announcing that the redemption of the lost race was forever made certain, that heaven was made eternally secure against the accusations, the deceptions, the pretensions, that Satan would instigate.

Beyond the cross of Calvary, with its agony and shame, Jesus looked forward to the great final day, when the prince of the power of the air will meet his destruction in the earth so long

marred by his rebellion. Jesus beheld the work of evil forever ended, and the peace of God filling heaven and earth.

Henceforward Christ's followers were to look upon Satan as a conquered foe. Upon the cross, Jesus was to gain the victory for them; that victory He desired them to accept as their own.

- Revelation 12:11; 1 John 2:28 (This third stage will be the focus of the remaining sessions.)
- Stage 3 culminates with the close of probation and the subsequent second coming of Jesus.
- Revelation 22:11,12; Revelation 14:14-19; Matthew 13:36-43

STAGE 4: SATAN CAST FROM THE SYMPATHY OF THE WICKED

The Two-Fold Purpose of the Millennium

The Millennium allows the redeemed their opportunity to review the Great Controversy. (Rev. 20:4-6)

- see also 1 Corinthians 6:2-3; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Psalm 149

The Millennium allows the wicked their opportunity to review the Great Controversy. (Rev. 20:7-15)

It is now evident to all that the wages of sin is not noble independence and eternal life, but slavery, ruin, and death. The wicked see what they have forfeited by their life of rebellion. The far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory was despised when offered them; but how desirable it now appears. "All this," cries the lost soul, "I might have had; but I chose to put these things far from me. Oh, strange infatuation! I have exchanged peace, happiness, and honor for wretchedness, infamy, and despair." All see that their exclusion from heaven is just. By their lives they have declared: "We will not have this Man to reign over us." - The Great Controversy, p. 668

But the time has now come when the rebellion is to be finally defeated and the history and 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. Christ's followers and the loyal angels behold the full extent of his machinations against the government of God. He is the object of universal abhorrence.

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 endeavored to cast upon Jehovah rests wholly upon himself. And now Satan bows down and confesses the justice of his sentence. - The Great Controversy, p. 670

Every Knee Shall Bow

- Philippians 2:8-1; Romans 14:10-12; Isaiah 45:22-24

- *"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." Revelation 15:3, 4 - The Great Controversy, 678*