

Revelation

S P E A K S



*Messages
of Hope
for a
World in
Turmoil*

Lesson 13

The Source of Evil

[This chapter is based on Revelation, Chapter 12]

As we came to the end of the last lesson, we found a beautiful picture of a compassionate God who loves every person with a never-ending love. A God who is anxious and able to provide us with never-ending happiness! Through sorrow, suffering, and disappointment, God has been with His people through the ages. He has guided His church through history's darkest hours.

From this glowing picture of an Almighty God depicted so dearly in the Bible, it seems that we should be living in a perfect world inhabited with perfect people. But, sad to say, that is not the case! We see gross injustice, innocent people suffering, millions going to sleep hungry and homeless. We see little children abused and neglected, unwanted babies aborted, and violence across the land. What happened to the perfect world? How can Planet Earth be so hid if God is so good? To find the answers to these questions, we must go back to Genesis, where the story begins. We will take a little detour in our chronological study of the Book of Revelation to find how it happened, and then we will return to Revelation, where we find the ending to this strange drama of human history.

READ: Revelation 12:1-12.

1. At the end of the first six days of creation, what was God's assessment of what He had made? Genesis 1:31.

NOTE: What a beautiful place our earth must have been! Adam and Eve must have thought so, as God gave them a tour of their Edenic home. What a joyous place to live!

There was not a discordant note in all the universe! Well, almost none! There was a mysterious, supernatural power operating in the universe, and God gave instructions to Adam and Eve so they would be able to avoid a battle with that sinister being (Genesis 2:7-9, 15-17). Let's find out about this evil being: who he is, where he originated, and how he operates in human affairs.

**2. What power is pictured as making war against God and His people?
Revelation 12:3, 4.**

NOTE: In symbolic prophecy, a pure woman represents God's church, or people. In Old Testament times the children of Israel were spoken of as a woman. At other times God's people were called "Zion" (Isaiah 51:16), and a "bride" (Revelation 21:2).

**3. What other names are listed for the "great red dragon" of Revelation 12:9;
Isaiah 14:12.**

**4. What did the rebellion instigated by the devil cause in heaven? Revelation
12:7, 8**

NOTE: "Michael, the archangel" is actually Jesus. Jesus is not a mere angel, He is *over* the angels: an archangel. Our president is Commander-in-Chief of the Army, but we are not saying that He is a soldier! Lucifer was one of the "covering cherubim" who stood by God's throne.

**5. Where did the devil and his angels go when they were cast out of heaven?
Revelation 12:9,12.**

**6. How is Lucifer, symbolized as the King of Tyrus, described in the Old
Testament? Ezekiel 28:12-15.**

7. What was God forced to do because of Satan's rebellion? Ezekiel 28:16.

8. Why did this leader among angels start a rebellion in heaven against God? Ezekiel 28:17.

9. What high goal had Lucifer set for himself? Isaiah 14:12-14.

NOTE: God had graciously blessed this angel, Lucifer, with great honor and power, prestige, and beauty! But that wasn't enough for Lucifer-he coveted the very throne of God! No created being could ever replace his Creator! No created being can equal God, because he does not have divine power. Lucifer coveted the homage and honor due God alone!

10. After creation, what position of honor did God give to Adam? Genesis 1:27, 28.

NOTE: He was to be the ruler of this world, with dominion over the earth and all that was in it.

11. What did God place in the Garden of Eden to test man's loyalty and allegiance, and what instruction did God give him? Genesis 2:15-17.

NOTE: That seemed fair enough! Perhaps they felt quite secure. However, man is most vulnerable when he is caught completely off guard!

12. Did Adam and Eve pass the test successfully? Genesis 3:1-6.

NOTE: Evidently Satan used the same deceitful, persuasive technique on Eve that he used on the angels of heaven. This is Satan's way of dealing with mankind. Is it any wonder Satan is called "the father of lies"? Satan had hijacked a planet. From that moment he laid claim to dominion of this newborn world and assumed the title,

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"Prince of the World" (John 12:31)-the ruler of a planet in rebellion! That was the most tragic day in the history of Planet Earth!

13. What gracious words of hope did God give His wayward children after the fall? Genesis 3:15.

NOTE: On the very day that Adam and Eve sinned, God gave them a beautiful promise of hope for the future. He said he would send Jesus (the seed) to bruise the serpent's head (destroy Satan) and in so doing, Jesus would receive a bruise to His heel.

14. What does prophecy say the dragon would try to do to the man-child? Revelation 12:4.

NOTE: King Herod, working under the influence of Satan, sent out the decree to slay all boy babies two years of age and under. Everyone knows the Christmas story. Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus and fled into Egypt.

15. List three specific instances when the dragon, or Satan, attempted to deceive and destroy Jesus, the man-child.

a. Matthew 2:7-16

b. Luke 4:1-13, 28-30

c. Matthew 27:26-35

NOTE: Satan thought he had gained the victory by instigating the death of Christ, but he only signed his own death decree by this act!

16. What right did Jesus gain by dying on the cross? Hebrews 2:14.

17. What will Satan do to try to destroy God's followers? Revelation 12:12, 13, 17; 1 Peter 5:8.

18. How do Satan and his agents work to mislead? 2 Corinthians 11:13-15.

19. What will soon happen to the devil? Revelation 20:1-3.

20. What will happen at the end of the 1,000 years of imprisonment? Revelation 20:7-10.

NOTE: With Satan as their Commander-in-Chief, the unsaved nations stream in from all directions and surround the city, hoping to overthrow the "beloved city." It is truly amazing that Satan and his followers would be so foolish. However, all sin is foolish, and Satan commits the final folly.

21. What will be the end of this wicked angel and his followers? Ezekiel 28:16-19.

22. How can we gain the victory over this wicked angel? Revelation 12:11.

My Response

 I want to gain the victory over Satan and be inside the "beloved city" when the fire falls.

 I desire to be baptized and live with Jesus now and forever.