

## Great Controversy

**purpose:** To show that there is a cosmic conflict between God and Satan, that planet earth is its theater, and worship is its center. There are 3 major points. (Long Study ~ 60 min.)

### Origin

- Genesis 1:1-4 +all "good" texts
- Matthew 13:24-30, 37-39
  - *According to vs. 28* who caused the tares to appear? An enemy.
- Luke 13:10-16
  - Hebrew for "Satan" means adversary or enemy. This is the same word as the "enemy" in Matt. 13.
  - Jesus took no responsibility for the woman's condition or for the tares.
- Luke 10:1, 17-20
  - Vs 18- Luke tells us where Satan came from. He fell from heaven!
- Ezekiel 28:12-19
  - Notice # of times the word perfect/perfection is used
  - The angel's proximity to God- in His immediate presence!
  - Vs 16, 18- "multitude of thy merchandise", "traffic" sounds like a salesman. Root word same as the root word for gossiping. The Devil was peddling his lies about God.
- Isaiah 14:12-15
  - How did the one closest to God fall from heaven? There is no answer. It is the mystery of iniquity.
  - Notice the 5 "I will" phrases. It is a battle of the wills.
  - Lucifer wants to get higher and higher, to the position of God Himself.
  - *According to vs. 15* where did Lucifer's desire get him? The bottom.
- Close part one: According to Scripture, evil began in an angelic rebellion against the government of God.

God's government hinges on voluntary loyalty, obedience, and love because love cannot be compelled. Love cannot be forced. God is not a divine rapist.

### Outworking

- 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
  - Antichrist deceiver who wants to be worshiped.

- Opposes and exalts above- sounds like Satan in Isaiah 14.
- Acc to vs 4 this antichrist deceiver goes into the temple of God for what purpose? To be worshipped.
- Revelation 13:1-4 w/ 12:9-
  - Who was the Devil? Satan
  - The Antichrist deceiver is a front man who causes people to worship the dragon- the Devil!- at the end of time.
- Revelation 13 & 14
  - Worship is the centerpiece issue in this conflict.
  - The Dragon wants what he doesn't deserve- worship.
- Matthew 4:1-9
  - Vs 9,10- Satan asks Jesus to worship him. This is the created asking the Creator to worship him- this is insanity!
- Close part two: The longing desire of Satan's heart is for that which he does not deserve- worship. The centerpiece of this conflict is over worship. Who has our worship, our loyalty?

### **Obsolescence**

- Genesis 1,2 & Revelation 21,22
  - Eden to Eden
  - Perfect place/God/people to a perfect place/God/people
  - Everything in between is God trying to get his people back to Eden.
- Philippians 2:5-11
  - Jesus was willing to go down, but in the end God did the opposite for Him.
  - Contrast this with Satan in Isaiah 14.
  - Satan was desiring self-exaltation at the expense of others. Jesus lovingly condescended for the benefit of others.
  - Who do you want to worship?
- 1 Corinthians 4:9 (Joshua 24:15)
  - Look at the word spectacle (theatre). We are a theater to angels and men.

**appeal:** 1 Corinthians 4:9 Your life is a theater for the angels and for men. To whom will you give your loyalty? Joshua 24:15- as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!

defend it:

- Why did God create Satan?
  - Good question. He didn't! He created Lucifer.
  - He gave Lucifer the most dangerous of gifts- the gift of free will.
  - God has two choices. He can wrestle with the rebellious will of man or He can reign supreme over rocks and trees. Love cannot be compelled.
- Why did God make Lucifer if He knew he would fall?
  - What God foreknows is not necessarily what He fore chose.
  - Illustration: Just because you know something, does it mean that you chose it to happen that way? God knows the outcome of our choices, but that doesn't mean He chose what would happen. If God wants genuine love, then He must be willing to risk war.
  - We don't know- it is the mystery of iniquity.
  - "If sin could be explained, it could be excused."
  - The reality is there is no reason.

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