

Thunder

IN THE
HOLY LAND

LESSON 3

THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

Why does God allow pain and suffering? In the parable of the *Wheat and the Tares*, Jesus used code language from nature to explain why He allows sin as well as how and where sin will end? (Matthew 13:39-41)

Enemy = The Devil

Harvest = End

Reapers = Angels

Tares = All Evil

1. **Matthew 13:29, 30 NKJ** "... 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, ...' "
2. **Ezekiel 28:12 NKJ** "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, "Thus says the Lord God: 'You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.
3. **Ezekiel 28:15 NKJ** You were _____ in your ways from the day you were created ...
4. **Ezekiel 28:14** Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth ...
5. **Isaiah 14:12** How art thou _____ from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!
6. **Isaiah 14:13, 14** For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most _____.
7. **1 Corinthians 4:5** ... _____ nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts ...
8. **1 John 4:19** We love him, because he _____ loved us.
9. **Isaiah 14:14** ... I will be like the most High.
10. **Matthew 11:5** The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
11. **Romans 6:16** ... to whom ye _____ yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness ...

12. **Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?
13. **Genesis 3:2** And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:
14. **Genesis 3:3** But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye _____.
15. **Genesis 3:4** And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:
16. **Genesis 3:5** For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as _____, knowing good and evil.
17. **Genesis 3:6** ... when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she _____ of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.
18. **2 Peter 3:9 NKJ** The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should _____ but that all should come to repentance.
19. **Nahum 1:9** ... affliction shall not rise up the second time.

The Bible is laid out in an interesting pattern.

Gen 1&2	Gen 3	In Between	Rev 20	Rev 21&22
<i>Perfect World</i>	<i>Sin Enters</i>	<i>God's Dealing with Mankind</i>	<i>Sin Ends</i>	<i>Perfect World</i>

Everything in between Genesis 1-3 and Revelation 20-22 is the story of this great battle that's taking place over you and me. And, this is the framework into which every teaching of Jesus and His Word will fit.

So why does God allow the "*In Between*," the pain the suffering, the sadness, death, and loss? So, that all of His on-looking creation can clearly see where the results of rebellion will lead; so all His creation can learn to hate sin and thus, choose to love and serve God of their own free will.

20. **1 John 4:8** ... God is love.

Notes and Questions

The Great Controversy

my impressions

Choose from the following phrases those which best describe your impression of each of the statements below.

- A. Amazing B. How Shocking! C. How Ironic!
D. Interesting E. It boggles the mind!
F. It makes me thankful! G. I'm not sure I get it
H. It fits like a puzzle piece! I. Other _____

1. Sin and war began in heaven! (John 8:44; Revelation 12:7-9; Isaiah 14:14⁶)
2. God did not make a devil at all, but a perfect angel who chose to rebel. (Ezekiel 28:14⁴, 15³).
3. Satan began an ego trip which led him to covet the homage due to God alone. He even challenged his Creator for the rulership of the universe! (Isaiah 14:12-14^{5,6})
4. By allowing sin to continue for a time, God has exposed the differences between the rebel regime of Satan (founded on pride and ambition) and His own government (founded on love and self-sacrifice). (1 John 4:19⁸; John 3:16; 8:38, 44; 1 Timothy 3:16; Job 1:6-22; 1 Corinthians 4:9; Colossians 1:26, 27; Revelation 15:2-4)
5. God could have prevented sin on this planet if He had made man without the power of free choice (simply a robot). Yet He still gives us the freedom to choose who will receive our allegiance. (Deuteronomy 30:19; Joshua 24:15; Ezekiel 18:31, 32; James 1:13; Romans 6:16¹¹; 2 Peter 3:9¹⁸)
6. God and His Son were willing to personally suffer separation, pain, and sacrifice to redeem the human race, and to keep the universe free. (John 3:16; 8:34-36; Romans 6:16¹¹, 22, 23; Philippians 2:5-9)

Choices: Where is your loyalty? Do you wish to follow a loving God or a fallen angel? Jesus says, "Come to Me," and "the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out." Would you like to accept His invitation? _____ Will you join us at our next study?



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