



LIFE ON THE EDGE

Radio Bible Study #3 Study: The Great Controversy

Intent of Study: To show that there is a cosmic conflict between God and Satan.

CENTER IT: God is a God of justice who desires the service of genuine love and genuine loyalty. We can win the battle with evil through His Son Jesus Christ.

Source of Evil

1. Genesis 1 "Good" texts (1-4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31)
2. Matthew 13:24-30, 37-39 esp 27, 39
3. Luke 13:10-16
4. Luke 10:18
5. Ezekiel 28: 11-18
6. Isaiah 14:12-14

Thrust of Evil

7. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
8. Revelation 13:1-4 (w/ 12:9)
9. Revelation 13,14 "Worship" texts
10. Matthew 4:9

Cosmic Battle over you

11. 1 Peter 5:8
12. Revelation 12:7-9
13. 1 Corinthians 15:57 13a. 1 Cor. 1:24
14. John 16:33 (extra)
15. 1 John 4:3,4

Share It:

Source of Evil - a personal angelic rebellion against God

1. **Genesis 1:1-4** According to verse 4, God saw that it was what? *Good*.
The word "good" occurs 7 times in this chapter alone; **4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31**.
When God made the world it was good.

Since God made everything in the beginning good, what happened?

2. **Matthew 13:24-30, 37-39 esp 28, 39**

(Parable: a simple story that illustrates a larger spiritual meaning)

Did Jesus take any responsibility for the bad seed? *No, He said, "An enemy has done this."*

DEVIL

3. **Luke 13:10-16**

Did Jesus take any responsibility for the state of this woman? *No, He said, "Whom Satan has bound."*

Satan = enemy, adversary

Who is the devil? Who is Satan?

4. **Luke 10:18** Where did this enemy come from? *Heaven.*

Does the Bible tell us anything more about Satan? Yes, there are two primary references in the OT that show us behind the curtain or backstage.

5. **Ezekiel 28:11-18**

King of Tyre was an earthly, evil man. In this symbolic vision, God takes Ezekiel behind the scenes of the King of Tyre's life to see who was controlling him, which was Satan. We know it is talking about Satan because it says he was in Eden, and he was the seal of perfection.

"Perfect" is used three times (12, 12, 15) - He was created perfect

14 - "anointed cherub who covers" - sanctuary language. The OT sanctuary consisted of three parts: courtyard, Holy Place, Most Holy Place. In the MHP there was a box, inside were the 10 commandments, the box had a lid, on the lid were two angel figurines that symbolize the angels that stand beside God in heaven. By saying the "anointed cherub who covers" God was telling Ezekiel that this angel dwelt in the immediate presence of God's throne.

15 - Iniquity was found in you

16 - "trading" = to gossip

17 - Does God take any responsibility for this corruption? No, he says, "*Your heart, You, You, You.*"

Does the Bible tell us anything more about how this change happened?

6. **Isaiah 14:12-14**

"Lucifer" = morning star

13 - "I" is the foundation of sin, sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer wanted to be more than what God had appointed him to be.

12 - How did Lucifer become Satan? *He fell.*

*Show all 11 references to upward motion: ascend, Heaven, exalt, above, stars, mount, North, ascend, heights, clouds, high. Satan says, 11 times, I want to go up. "Sit on the mount of congregation" = I want to sit on God's throne.

The Bible fingers a personal angelic rebellion against God as the origin of evil and suffering.

*Illustration: Let me illustrate how this happened. Some people say, "Why did God create this being if He knew he would rebel?" Imagine if a gunman were to come into this auditorium right now and tell us all to stand up or we would be killed, we would stand. If he told us to spin around and bark like dogs, we would spin and bark, etc. What if that same gunman pointed that same gun at you and said, "I want you to love me with all your heart or I will kill you." Could you love him? No, because love and loyalty cannot be forced. No one can love on command. On your wedding day, "I do" is so important and beautiful because, "I don't" is an option. God created Lucifer with free will, the ability to choose to serve, to choose to love, to choose to be loyal or to choose not to.

Thrust of Evil - Satan wants that which he never deserves, the worship that is due only to God

7. **2 Thessalonians 2:1-4** The figure revealed in verses 3, 4 is what the Bible calls, "the antichrist." Don't get confused or overwhelmed by this mention of the antichrist because we will have a whole study on it, but just notice that the antichrist acts a lot like Satan.

4 - What does he do - *Exalts himself*

Who does he pretend to be? *God*

Why? The longing desire of Satan's rebellious heart is to receive worship and honor which he is not due. The text here says that he will do it through this antichrist figure.

Revelation 13 is the antichrist chapter in the book of Revelation. Let's go there and see more about this antichrist and his role.

Symbolic representation of the antichrist himself.

8. **Revelation 13:1-4** (12:9 Dragon is Satan) the way that the dragon is worshipped is by people worshipping the beast. The antichrist is Satan's frontman to receive worship.

*Illustration: Would anyone worship the devil as the devil? *Only a few.* Does the devil know that? Yes. So the devil has to receive worship by deception.

9. **Revelation 13:4,8,12,15; 14:7,9,11** "Worship" These two chapters are the pivotal chapters for Christians living in the end times and worship seems to be the center.

Let's see how badly Satan wants to be worshipped.

10. **Matthew 4:9** - Matthew 4:1-11 is the devil tempting Jesus in the wilderness The created asks the creator to worship him.

The real issue of the problem of evil is not death, disease, murder, rape, etc. these are all symptoms of the real issue: the conflict between God and Satan over who is the rightful ruler of the world.

*If evil could be explained it could be excused.

Cosmic Battle over you

Eden-to-Eden Genesis 1,2 --> Revelation 21,22

Genesis 1,2 Perfect God, in perfect communion with a perfect people in a perfect environment.

Revelation 21,22 Perfect God, in perfect communion with a perfect people in a perfect environment.

All that is between Genesis 2 and Revelation 21 is God trying to bring His people back to perfection. Revelation 22:4 "They shall see His face." Adam and Eve saw His face in the first Eden, God will bring back that face-to-face communication.

11. **1 Peter 5:8** The devil is playing for keeps
12. **Revelation 12:7-9** The forces of evil are fighting the forces of righteousness. This battle is raging over the lives of men and women on this earth. This battle is raging over you!
13. **1 Corinthians 15:57** The only way for us to have victory in this battle with evil is to cling to Jesus. He is our strength to overcome the devil/satan.
14. **John 16:33** (extra text) It is no mystery to every one of us that there is tribulation in this world. There are unexplainable circumstances in our lives that we want to blame on someone. But that someone must never be God. He promises us peace in the middle of our tribulation!
15. **1 John 4:4** Christ has overcome the world and the forces of evil for us. We must rely on Him to keep us safe from the devil/satan.

Appeals: Is it your desire to overcome all that you know to be evil in your life? Have you been struggling with all that is evil in this world? What would keep you from allowing Jesus to make you victorious in your life?

Based on what we've learned today, God's question for you is, do you want to be turned from darkness to light, do you want your eyes to be opened, do you want the forgiveness of sins so you can be with Him for eternity?

Defend It (Difficult Texts):

1. Q: Why did God create Satan?

A: He didn't. God created Lucifer and Lucifer by his own free will and choice, chose to become Satan.

2. Q: Why did God create Lucifer, knowing that he would sin?

A: What God fore-knows is not necessarily what He fore-chose. God would rather take the risk on a real relationship than be alone or be in company of robots. Apparently God would rather wrestle with the often stubborn will of man, than reign supreme over rocks and trees.

*Where sin is not a possibility, freedom is not a reality.

3. Q: Why does there have to be so much evil in the world?

A: We don't fully understand why God has allowed evil to go the distance that it has, however we also know that evil will not have been in vain.

4. Q: Why did God allow Satan to be on the same planet as mankind?

A: Revelation 12:7-12, John 12:31 After the cross Satan only had access to our earth.

Col 2:14,15 "handwriting of requirements" certificate of indebtedness - the wages of sin is death. Jesus on the cross wiped that out. On the cross Jesus disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them.

5. Q: Why didn't God just kill Satan?

A: If someone accuses me of doing something, and suddenly the accuser shows up dead, people would suggest that I had a reason to kill them. It would have appeared that Satan was on to something.