

The Individual Conflict: Victory Over Sin

GYC 2013 | Kameron DeVasher

Session 1: Questions Angels Ask

Introduction

Angel Questions

- How are there tares (wickedness) in Your field? (you said, but we see...)
- Why don't You get rid of it immediately?

Christ's Answers

- The owner of the field allowed the tares to grow out of his concern for the wheat.
- It is in the best interest of the righteous that wickedness continue and mature until the harvest.
- Justice *will* be executed and the universe *will* be cleansed of all wickedness.
- This parable reveals the ending of sin as a process rather than an event.
- Our first two sessions will cover the four distinct steps of this process to establish the necessary backdrop for our study and the proper motivation for personal victory over sin.

STAGE 1: SATAN CAST FROM THE COURTS OF HEAVEN

Isaiah 14:12-16

- This jealous, arrogant, selfish discourse was in Lucifer's heart where only God could discern it.
- Lucifer's contemporaries needed an opportunity to see for themselves what God saw

Ezekiel 28:12-19

- Lucifer was an ordained minister in the courts of heaven
 - adornment nearly identical to the earthly high-priest's (Exodus 28)
 - covering cherub established (ordained) by God
- Just like Isaiah 14, Lucifer's sin was hidden within
 - Perfect until iniquity found "in you"
 - "Became filled with violence *within*"
- The initial manifestation of his hidden motives was not overt violence but "merchandise/trading"
 - Ezekiel 22:9 (slander); Leviticus 19:16 (talebearer); John 8:44 (liar from the beginning)
 - *In this place "traffick" is the emblem of corrupt administration. It denotes the bringing of self-seeking into spiritual offices. Nothing in spiritual service is acceptable to God except the purposes and works that are for the good of the universe. To do good to others will redound to the glory of God.* - SDA Bible Commentary, Vol. 4, p. 1163
- Identical reason given for not destroying him immediately: his true character needed to be exposed to the other heavenly beings
 - v17: "I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, *That they might gaze at you*"
 - v18: "I turned you to ashes upon the earth *In the sight of all who saw you.*"
 - v19: "*All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you*" (clearly not humanity)

Revelation 12:7-9

- The war was fought with words, not weapons
 - v7 English "war" is Greek "polemos"
 - "root of English word "polemic": "a strong verbal or written attack on someone or something"
- Again, Satan is merely cast out of heaven instead of being blotted out of existence. The reason, previously established, was so that those who knew him could have the chance to watch and think about his rebellion.

- Illustration: The Thief and the Judge
 - Thief is caught bare-faced breaking into the home of the judge
 - Though the judge knows for certainty of the man's guilt, he still can't render a verdict of "guilty" without going through due process so other can see he is right.
 - In a universe filled with free moral agents, God understand that beyond merely being *right*, it is equally important to be *seen as right*.
 - It matters to God what you think.

STAGE 2: SATAN CAST FROM THE SYMPATHY OF HEAVENLY BEINGS

John 8:37-44

- If someone calls you a liar, "no, I'm not" is an insufficient response.
 - That's what a liar would say!
 - Claims must manifest corresponding evidence.
- Satan was a murderer and liar "from the beginning"
 - Murderer: Matthew 5:21, 22 (Jesus' definition of murder = anger without cause)
 - Liar: Ezekiel 28:16-18 (Liar = lies were the merchandise he was selling in heaven)

Genesis 3:1-6

- Humanity bought the lies Satan had been selling in heaven
- Though originally entrusted with dominion, they now ceded their reign to Satan
 - Genesis 1:26-28 (original dominion)
 - Romans 6:16 (Dominion Principle)
 - Luke 4:4-6 (Satan offers Jesus the dominion "delivered him" by Adam)

Job 1:1-12

"sons of God" = representatives of the sinless worlds

- Gen, 1:26-28; Luke 3:38
- The accusations of Satan required demonstration to prove false
 - Isaiah 56:1
 - 1 John 3:8

Calvary

- John 12:31, 32
- Romans 1:16, 17
- Revelation 12:7-10
- *Could one sin have been found in Christ, had He in one particular yielded to Satan to escape the terrible torture, the enemy of God and man would have triumphed. Christ bowed His head and died, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God. "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night." (Revelation 12:10) 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. Henceforth his work was restricted. Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken. - Desire of Ages, 761*