



THE HEART OF REVELATION

The book of Revelation is basically divided into two halves: the first deals with the history of the church from the time of John until today while the second half deals with events surrounding and including the return of Jesus. In the heart of the book of Revelation we find the fascinating background to the whole problem of evil.

Revelation 12:7-9 *And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 1182*

"AN ENEMY HAS DONE THIS"

Matthew 13:24-30 *Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way. 26 But when the grain had sprouted and produced a crop, then the tares also appeared. 27 So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' 28 He said to them, 'An enemy has done this.' The servants said to him, 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?' 29 But he said, 'No, lest while you gather up the tares you also uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn." 948*



Sower: _____

Field: _____

Good Seeds: _____

Tares: _____

Enemy: _____

Harvest: _____

Reapers: _____

IDENTIFYING THE ENEMY

Isaiah 14:12-14 *How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." 667*

Ezekiel 28:12, 14-19 *You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty... You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned. Therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God; I destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. 830*

Lucifer was a _____ being who _____ to _____.

Why was Lucifer merely cast out of heaven instead of being blotted out of existence?

Isaiah 14:15-17 Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you and consider you..." 667

Ezekiel 28:17-19 Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you. 18 You defiled your sanctuaries by the multitude of your iniquities, by the iniquity of your trading; therefore I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all who saw you. 19 All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; you have become a horror, and shall be no more forever. 831

Lucifer was cast out of heaven so others could _____ at him and _____ him.

The war in heaven was not a word of _____, but a war of _____.

HEAVEN'S REBEL BECAME EARTH'S RULER

Genesis 1:27, 28 God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." 1

Genesis 3:1-6 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate." 2

Romans 6:16 Do you not know that to whom you present yourself slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? 1089

Luke 4:5, 6 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give you, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. 994



THERE IS NO "NEXT TIME"

Nahum 1:9 What do you conspire against the Lord? He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time. 906

1 John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. 1169

God did NOT _____ the devil and He takes absolutely NO _____ for evil's existence!

Because only God can see the heart, once sin began it had to _____ so that every created being in God's universe could _____ the difference between good and evil.

Once this war between good and evil is finally ended, _____ against God will never happen again.