

Sabbath School Lesson #9 – The Cosmic Conflict – 22-28 February 2025

Christ is the power and wisdom of God that was manifested to resolve the cosmic conflict in Eden. When Adam (and Eve) sinned, the plan of salvation provided not only a way of escape from sin, but the desire to escape. The Lord said to the serpent, “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed” (Genesis 3:15). The Lord implanted in the soul of every man some natural desires for the right; and whenever a man gives himself wholly to sin, he does so only by resisting the strivings of the Spirit of Christ. We are indebted to Christ for every good. So it is that Christ is the “true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9). Thus, it is that Christ is made unto us, the very “wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption” (1 Corinthians 1:30). We may, while patiently continuing in well-doing, exclaim, “God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Galatians 6:14), and we shall in eternity give glory “unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood” (Revelation 1:5).

Sunday: An Enemy Has Done This – Read Matthew 13:24-30. “In the parable of the wheat and the tares, we see the reason why the tares were not to be plucked up; it was lest the wheat be rooted up with the tares. Human opinion and judgment would make grave mistakes. But rather than have a mistake made, and one single blade of wheat rooted up, the Master says, “Let both grow together until the harvest;” then the angels will gather out the tares, which will be appointed to destruction. Although in our churches, that claim to believe advanced truth, there are those who are faulty and erring, as tares among the wheat, God is long-suffering and patient. He reproveth and warns the erring, but he does not destroy those who are long in learning the lesson he would teach them; he does not uproot the tares from the wheat. Tares and wheat are to grow together till the harvest; when the wheat comes to its full growth and development, and because of its character when ripened, it will be fully distinguished from the tares. The church of Christ on earth will be imperfect, but God does not destroy his church because of its imperfection. There have been and will be those who are filled with zeal not according to knowledge, who would purify the church, and uproot the tares from the midst of the wheat. But Christ has given special light as to how to deal with those who are erring, and with those who are unconverted in the church. There is to be no spasmodic, zealous, hasty action taken by church-members in cutting off those they may think defective in character. Tares will appear among the wheat; but it would do more harm to weed out the tares, unless in God's appointed way, than to leave them alone. While the Lord brings into the church those who are truly converted, Satan at the same time brings persons who are not converted into its fellowship. While Christ is sowing the good seed, Satan is sowing the tares. There are two opposing influences continually exerted on the members of the church. One influence is working for the purification of the church, and the other for the corrupting of the people of God” – Ellen White {RH September 5, 1893, par. 1}.

Monday: The Origin of the Controversy on Earth – In Genesis 3:15, what hope can be found for all of humanity? When man sinned, he lost enmity with Satan; Christ in His mercy for Adam's entire race, tells Satan: “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her Seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15). The Seed of the woman is not merely to be delivered from Satan's power but is to crush his head – to destroy him. But who is the Seed of the woman? – It is Christ, you say. Undoubtedly, but the term is unlimited, and therefore it applies to every child born of a woman, whose faith grasps it. The seed of the woman is also the seed of Abraham; and “if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (Galatians 3:29). So, it is given to every son of man to crush Satan? Yes, have you never read, “The God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly?” (Romans 16:20). Christ had to become flesh and blood, like the children of men, in order “that He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil” (Hebrews 2:14). He has “authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man” (John 5:27), and to execute the same judgment “this honour have all His saints” (Psalms 149:5-9). Reading Genesis 3:15, what must we always remember in regard to the first gospel promise? As soon as Adam and Eve

sinned, the Covenant – the promise of God – was made. “The covenant of grace was first made with man in Eden, when after the Fall there was given divine promise that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent’s head. To all men this covenant offered pardon and the assisting grace of God for future obedience through faith in Christ” EG White {PP 370.2}.

Tuesday: The Origin of the Controversy in Heaven – The origin of the controversy in heaven between Satan and Christ was primarily about Lucifer contesting the position of Christ. Before the entrance of sin, “Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God,” we are told, was “the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God” – Ellen White {GC 493.1}. Lucifer, a created being, thought he should enter the counsels of God, and he was angry that God’s Son was taken into counsel but he, Lucifer, was not. In effect, Lucifer had denied the fact that Christ was the literal Son of God. Lucifer wanted to be brought into that counsel to make a “trinity” of three beings worthy of worship and praise, but a created being could never be equal to his Creator. In heaven, Satan had a position next to Christ, he was the Third Being in rank! Before the fall of Satan, heavenly order of Beings was: “God is a moral governor ... the Lawgiver” {12MR 208.2}; “The Son of God was next in authority to the great Lawgiver” {2SP 9.1}; and “Satan was ... next in power to Christ Himself” {CTr 200.2}. After the fall of Satan, he was the third Being who wished to be consulted in creating man. “But when God said to His Son, ‘Let us make man in our image,’ Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he was filled with envy, jealousy, and hatred” {EW 145.1}. In the trinity doctrine, Satan not only poses as the third Being that was consulted, but Satan is worshiped. In heaven, Christ was next in authority behind His Father, and the third highest being was Satan himself. It is no wonder that Satan has since created the trinity to maintain his third position, now as third trinity god! In heaven, Lucifer lost the war against Christ, he was thrown on earth, where he continues the war. “Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and Lucifer, that glorious angel, got upon a warfare over the matter, until he had to be thrust down to the earth” – Ellen White {25LtMs, Ms 86, 1910, par. 29}. Satan’s war consists of denying Christ is the literal Son of God – “This fact the [fallen] angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God” – Ellen White {25LtMs, Lt 42, 1910, par. 3}.

Wednesday: If You Worship Me – We are to worship God, “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me” (Exodus 20:3). Satan showed to Jesus all the kingdoms of the world, and said, “All these things will I give Thee, if Thou wilt fall down and worship me.” But the Saviour said, “Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve” (Matthew 4:8-10). Jesus did not tell Satan that he had no right to offer to Him the kingdoms of this world but simply refused to accept them upon the conditions imposed, thus tacitly admitting that Satan was “the prince of this world” (2 Corinthians 4:4). When Satan presents himself to us in any form, to bring anything between our soul and God, if we confess “that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh” (1 John 4:2), then He says in us and for us, “Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve” “Then the devil leaveth Him,” and so he must leave us when Christ living in us commands him to depart.

Thursday: The Nature of the Cosmic Conflict – The nature of the cosmic conflict is Satan was jealous of Christ. Satan “became jealous of Christ, and falsely accused Him, and then laid blame upon the Father. He was envious of the position that was held by Christ and the Father, and he turned from his allegiance to the Commander of heaven and lost his high and holy estate” {RH October 22, 1895, par. 1}. Satan was jealous because “Christ was the only begotten Son of God” {25LtMs, Ms 86, 1910, par. 29}. When Satan was thrust down, he sought to “obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God” {TDG 128.2}. Satan has since succeeded to obscure the literal Sonship of Christ as a metaphor, for our Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches, in upholding the trinity doctrine, that Christ’s Sonship is merely a metaphor, “the Son is not the natural, literal Son of the Father” (Adventist World, November 2015, p 42). Christ’s Sonship is not a metaphor, it is a fact! If Christ’s Sonship is a mere metaphor, then explain how fallen angels wanted to obscure what was simply a metaphor! That is the nature of the cosmic conflict. Today, through the doctrine of trinity, which at the core denies the literal Sonship of our Lord Jesus Christ, fallen angels are working through our Seventh-day Adventist Church theology to say the Sonship of Christ is mere metaphor.