

Satan has demonstrated before all the intelligences of the universe what kind of being he is. Standing unseen behind all evil and suffering is the supernatural working of Satan. These tragedies **are not** “acts of God.”...they are acts of the devil.

But not only will he use his powers to destroy, but he will use them **to deceive!** *“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.” II Cor.11:14*

Satan and his fallen angels “can” work miracles! *“For they are the spirits of demons, performing signs...” Rev.16:14*

We are instructed by Scripture not to trust our senses- *“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.” –Matt. 24:24*

The Good News is that God has a rescue plan, for a hijacked world! God has a plan to destroy Satan: *See: Ezekiel. 28:16,18.*

Gone forever will be sin and suffering!

The question is, “Who will you follow?”
See: Matt.11:28; John 6:37

THE VOICE OF PROPHECY SPEAKS

WHAT BIBLE PROPHECY SAYS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE

Lesson #3

WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?

As you see what is happening in the world around you, you soon become aware of an evil force in this old world. Who is responsible for all of the tragedies, sorrow, and suffering? Many people blame God! *“Why did God do this to me?”*

The Bible points out the source of all the evil in this world of ours. Jesus Himself points out the culprit is the devil/Satan in Matthew 13:37-39. The last book of the bible, the book of Revelation tells us how this controversy will conclude. It also informs us that the first war actually occurred in Heaven, not on earth! Rev. 12:3,4 states that Satan caused 1/3rd of the heavenly angels to follow his deceptions.

Ezekiel 28:12-14 uses figurative language to describe him and referring to him as the “King of Tyre”. We see here that he is not a creature with red-skin and a pitchfork. You see, Satan or “Lucifer” was a beautiful angel, created perfect in all his ways. (Ezek.28:15,17) He even challenged the authority of God with arrogant words. *See: Isaiah 14:12-14.* His rebellion spread thru heaven slowly undermining God’s love and justice! God did not eliminate Lucifer at once, otherwise

His creatures would have served Him out of fear! God can only be happy with “loving” relationships with His creation. You see, the adversary of God, “made a devil out of himself!”

Sin and suffering have been allowed to reign for so long because God had to let sin “develop” so that it would demonstrate the true character of sin. It is a mystery that only God in eternity will fully explain.

I Corinthians 4:9 says that this conflict has been transferred to planet earth, “...*a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men*”? The story of Adam and Eve in Genesis is how this came about in human history. Eve was “*deceived*” and that is why Ephesians 6:11,12 tells us to “put on” the full armour of God.

The bible says that one of the results of sin is that people have an aversion or fear of God! “*..I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.*” *Genesis 3:10* Sin will always shatter a perfect relationship. Ever since then, humanity has been blaming God for the suffering that is in the world. Eve said, “*...The serpent deceived me, and I ate.*” What she really was implying was, “It’s the serpent **You made** that got me into trouble!” *Genesis 5:5* proved that what the devil said to Eve in *Genesis 3:2-4* was a lie!

It was Jesus Himself who confirmed this truth when He unmasked the devil as the source of suffering for a crippled woman in *Luke 13:16*.

The Book of Job on the Old Testament provides valuable insights to the contrast in character between God and Satan. In all the suffering that Satan inflicted (and God allowed to answer the accusations of Satan in

Vs.1:8,9,11) on Job, Job **still** trusted in the Lord God his Creator! *See: Job 1:22*

You see, you and I are caught in a bewildering cosmic drama, a conflict between good and evil!

The idea that Satan/Devil is only a myth or an influence leaves us totally unprepared to confront the intelligent being he actually is. “*...Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.*” *Rev.12:12*.

It was Satan who constantly dogged the foot steps of our Lord Jesus Christ when He was here on earth.

- He worked thru King Herod to destroy the Christ child.
- It was Satan who came to tempt Jesus in the wilderness, masquerading as an angel from heaven.
- He was at the cross of Calvary to destroy Jesus there!
- **But**, although there was a Calvary, there was a Resurrection! Praise God!
- Satan is now a defeated foe! Christ by His death earned the right to destroy all evil and suffering. *See:Hebrews 2:14*