



THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

Ready or not, this planet, as we know it, is about to enter the greatest, most intense series of supernatural events ever to unfold before mankind. A succession of natural and manmade catastrophes, mysterious signs and wonders will escalate which, at their apex, will usher in the long anticipated Antichrist. Satanic strategies leading to the final conflict have been ongoing and deliberate, although unseen and undetected. Our futures are at stake.

In anticipation, the world's political structures have undergone transition toward the establishment of a one-world government. Although on the surface these movements seem a culmination of international cooperation for peace and economic growth, they are instead a well devised scheme to unite the nations under centralized policies and control. The Grand Design will soon be brought to birth.

For over six thousand years, God and Satan (Hebrew: *haSatan*) have been engaged in a great controversy. First initiated in Heaven, Lucifer, the highly honored angel, has long desired the position and stature only due God and His Son Jesus (*Yeshua*). Satan craves to vanquish every being under God's creation and overthrow the plans of the Creator.

Lucifer persuaded other angels to his side by bribery and deceit. Under his rule he surely promised freedom from God's commands. As Creator of all life and ultimate Judge, YHVH could have dealt a crushing blow to the rebellion and immediately silenced the opposition. However, God is a "compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin."¹ He would not eliminate the rebellion without due process. In His omnipotent wisdom, God chose to let Satan's ideas root and grow, which will serve God's ultimate purpose: "The LORD will be King over the whole earth," ruling from the New Jerusalem, and "on that day there will be one LORD, and His Name the only Name."²

What would life be like with total freedom and full license? Is happiness found there? Can God be trusted? Over time, Adonai knew Lucifer's lust for power would be exposed³, and the Creator's love for men and angels would be illustrated on a small planet in the Milky Way Galaxy, in the land of Israel on a lonely hill called Golgotha.⁴

¹ Exodus 34:5-7

² Zechariah 14:9

³ Isaiah 14:13-14

⁴ John 19:17-18



Ezekiel, the Hebrew prophet, wrote concerning Lucifer's high position of honor and his fall from grace: "You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you... You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones," (Ezekiel 28:11-16).

Satan and the insubordinate angels were expelled and Planet Earth became their destination, when controversy stretched across the galaxies and reached our world. However, the quarrel did not end upon their arrival. Here the battle would be played out on the stage of a newly created planet and on earth the answers would be settled for all eternity to questions of sin and rebellion.

In God's foreknowledge He knew mankind would become entangled in the dispute, although the path to an obedient and fulfilling life was made clear. Adonai communed face to face with Adam and Eve, who were dressed in heavenly radiance, and gave them every reason to be loyal and to follow His every word. No human need submit to Satan. The perfect environment was created for man's enjoyment, and citizens of earth would be free to live and rule the domain. Designed in God's image, the first couple was to have children and multiply the earth, and take pleasure in the beautiful scenery and the variety of animals. The LORD asked only that they love Him and love one another.

God had placed in the Garden of Eden a tree which, although simple in nature, would attest of their devotion to the Creator. Because God is love⁵, He would not demand their loyalty; it had to be chosen. So, the forbidden attraction was set before Adam and Eve. The tree would be a visible sign to the couple of the mystical and unseen conflict between good and evil that was threatening universal peace. The Tempter was nearby and waiting for his opportunity to continue the lies; this time to the human race.

There was no apparent reason to eat of this tree since every good and needed source of food was readily available. The evil Serpent used deceptive and artful words to encourage Eve to partake from the branches, promising wisdom like God and causing her to doubt His words of warning. Adam then joined Eve in rebellion, likely in fear of losing her, and their innocence was forever vanquished⁶. By this simple failure the couple, despising the LORD who openly walked with them, submitted to the Challenger who crept among the garden vines.

All the offspring of our first parents were then destined to enter the conflict. No longer could the inhabitants of the earth be protected from the issues that plagued

⁵ 1 John 4:16

⁶ Genesis 3:1-7



the universe. Adam relinquished his position, and this planet became Satan's dominion and the centerpiece where the controversy would escalate until its climactic finale.

Because Adam turned over his rule of the planet to the Adversary, much of the suffering we experience today derives from following the lifestyle promoted by Satan. Total freedom from God's commands does not bring the happy existence promised by the Deceiver. He knows it. However, it is too late for him to turn back. Satan's hatred for God burns within him to the degree that his eager pursuit is to see millions go to their fiery deaths with him.

Although Elohim withdrew from Adam and Eve, He did not fully separate Himself from the rebellious people of earth⁷. God still holds His hand of protection over this planet; otherwise, there would be nothing but disorder and destruction. The plan of redemption, established from the foundation of the world⁸, was set in motion for the recovery of mankind.

To this day humanity feels drawn in two directions. Our natural inclination is to rebel and sin against God in the manner of freedom and license, after the example of the Great Deceiver. Christ, on the other hand, invites us to the better way: to obey the Commandments of God and to hold fast to the testimony of Jesus⁹. The Word of God encourages love and a life of commitment to our Savior. The decision to live by faith in allegiance to the Holy One, to turn from sin and to stand firm in trusting Jesus as LORD will determine our eternal destiny¹⁰.

It is regrettably taught, even in Christendom, that God's Commandments are too demanding. However, 1 John 5:3 sets the standard high: "This is love for God: to obey His commands. And His commands are not burdensome." Jesus declared while on this earth, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled," (Matthew 5:18, KJV). A "jot" is the smallest Hebrew letter about the size of an apostrophe, and a "tittle" is the little decorative hook or serif on some Hebrew letters. Jesus was saying that not the smallest letter or even the smallest part of a letter shall pass away until all is fulfilled. Jesus underscores that we are to take the Word of God very seriously, for the words are His as He inspired the Hebrew prophets to write the sacred scrolls.

Jesus often spoke of Heaven's requirements, which He gave so distinctly on Mt. Sinai centuries earlier when in thunderous voice He declared His will for man. He came peacefully to show by word and example how obedience is lived out in one's life. Jesus claimed He did not do away with the smallest detail which He had

⁷ Revelation 13:8

⁸ 1 Peter 1:19-21

⁹ Revelation 12:17

¹⁰ Matthew 24:13-14



written with His own finger, but men have worked diligently to alter the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) and to challenge its validity. Even so, these ten precepts are so highly esteemed in Heaven that it required the death of God's own Son to atone for sin, which is the transgression of the Law¹¹.

When YHVH relinquished His Son by sending Him into this world, He did not arrive as conqueror with Heaven's armies and riches. Rather, Yeshua lived a simple life. Emerging from Mary's womb a humble and helpless child, His path to victory would be much like ours. He grew up in an ordinary Jewish home in the Middle East, and worked with His hands in His father's carpenter shop. He experienced firsthand the earthly allurements that we all must face. He was tempted at all points like us¹²; yet, He did not sin, but followed His Father's Commandments without reproach. Therefore, He accomplished for us what we could not perform ourselves—perfect obedience to the demands of the Law.

The lashing Jesus received, the spit in His face and the crude nails pierced through His hands and feet, revealed the length to which the Savior would go to redeem humanity.

Not a lie or profane word came from His lips. He did not steal or covet. In every way possible He gave honor to His parents. Never did He bow to any graven image or place any other god before the Father. Each seventh-day Sabbath He kept holy the sacred hours of rest, communing with God and helping the sick and bereaved. Jesus did not think evil of another man or take a life. The Law was complete in His heart and His behavior. He truly loved His Father with all His heart and His neighbor as Himself.

Elohim did not send an excellent angel or high official of His kingdom, rather, His very own Son in human form. Only flesh and blood could conquer Satan and reclaim Planet Earth, for “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness,” (Hebrews 9:22). Therefore, “the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth,” (John 1:14).

It was a solemn time of great risk for the entire universe, but Jesus did not fail. Still a young man, Yeshua prepared in the wilderness by fasting and prayer; then, He successfully overcame the allusive temptations of the Devil¹³. The LORD triumphed where Adam had failed. Jesus then launched a public ministry that continued three and one-half years, and multitudes were healed of both physical and spiritual ailments by His divine touch.

¹¹ 1 John 3:4

¹² Hebrews 4:15

¹³ Matthew 4:1-11



Yeshua's wonderful works of righteousness threatened Satan's powerful stronghold on the human race, so he manipulated the affairs of men to dispose of the Truth. The Evil One could not entrap the Son of Man by fanciful enticements so he schemed to silence His voice once and for all. The Creator of Life was dragged to Pilate's hall to hear the sentence of death. He who touched the multitudes to heal their diseases and who raised Lazarus to life laid down His life willingly, even for His accusers.

The cruel acts of men against Jesus reflected the inner drama of the Lamb of God, who took upon Himself the transgressions of every person who would ever live. Because Christ's life was so intimately connected with the Father, when the wretchedness of the sin separated the Father and Son it crushed the heart of Jesus. He cried, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34).

Messiah son of Joseph¹⁴ willingly offered up His life, spilling His blood on the cross, so that salvation would be made possible for every believing man and woman. The requirements of the Law were met by the sacrificial Lamb. "For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him [Jesus], and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in Heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross," (Colossians 1:19-20). Through His blood, peace was made with God and the demands were met for the recovery of sinful humanity.

Satan, too, dealt his own crushing blow when he plotted the death of Jesus. It demonstrated his wicked heart, while Christ demonstrated His love toward us. The cross exposed the marked differences between Christ and Satan. While Jesus stretched His arms over the cross to yield Himself for all, Lucifer was scheming victory for one.

The lashing Jesus received, the spit in His face and the crude nails pierced through His hands and feet, revealed the length to which the Savior would go to win back mankind. That evil act did not turn God against us. No, it was a demonstration of God's love for us that He allowed His Son to endure the naked shame and spill out His life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life," (John 3:16). Escape has been provided that no one should forever perish in the flames of hell; rather, that all might receive eternal life.

In spite of Satan's apparent victory when Jesus died, the grave could not hold Him. After resting over the Sabbath from His work of redemption, Christ was raised to life on the third day, defeating the hold of death for all time. "When this Priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God. Since that time He waits for His enemies to be made His footstool," (Hebrews 10:12-13).

¹⁴ Isaiah 52:13-15—53:12; Psalm 22



The delay in His return to reign in supreme power proves the grace and patience of Adonai, while it reveals the shortsightedness of man. Not even the cross and the love Jesus has shown can move every soul to turn from sin in allegiance to Christ. However, many through the centuries have accepted Him as LORD and Savior, looking for a better day and the promised arrival of the conquering King. However, the long delay has given opportunity for more individuals to respond to the cross; and, because of God's forbearance, out of the evil days Jesus will harvest a multitude of citizens for His kingdom.

In the meantime, the Word of God abounds with instruction on this controversy and its eventual end. Two thousand years have elapsed since the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. To us, the centuries seem unending. However, this struggle will prove to have its rewards for the faithful and patient saints. For those who have experienced the blight of sin, Heaven will offer a soothing remedy. The ransomed will experience what others in eternity past could never have known before the piercing crucifixion—*God's redeeming love, paid for by the very life and blood of the Most High*. As obedient followers of Christ, we are recipients of God's greatest love gift to any creation or people.

Jesus spoke these convicting words before His departure to Heaven: "As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in My love. If you obey My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father's commands and remain in His love. I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command," (John 15:9-14).

Today, many in this world are oblivious of the long-raging controversy that began in Heaven long ago, which continues to plague mankind. They consider our planet the only one of importance in the universe. They believe life's goal is to live for self and this world's profit, but they have failed to use even reasonable thinking. Nature declares there is a Creator who designed life and brought mankind into existence¹⁵. Hebrew prophets have been visited and inspired with wisdom, and the Scriptures have been written, collected and widely published, showing even further evidence of Divine intervention in the affairs of the human race. Despite God's efforts to gain our attention and to turn mankind from their wicked ways, multitudes ignore His Sacred Word, and by doing so risk their souls.

Now we are reaching the end of this long-standing contest between good and evil, and even religious leaders remain careless to the changes in our world which attest that time is short. Instead of preparing their members for the upcoming conflict, they doze on. Dramatic disasters are about to arouse the whole world from lethargy and into the reality of the day.

The ancient Hebrew prophecies, particularly the visions of Daniel and Revelation,

¹⁵ Romans 1:18-20



lay the foundation for the period of the last days called in Scripture the “appointed time of the end,” (Daniel 8:19). Knowing and understanding the apocalyptic predictions foreshadowed in these books and in God’s Festivals (*Moedim*) would shield the saints against repeating serious blunders of the past. Sadly, a great many in our churches and synagogues today will follow the path of ancient Israel in not discerning the Scriptures and rejecting the prophets’ counsel. This need not be so.

Without large organization and popular platform, present truth will spread like the leaves of autumn around the globe.

Scholars and teachers have, in times past, interpreted the prophecies to correspond to the events of their day, and various ideas and doctrines have been established from centuries of examination. Numerous times the predictions did not come to pass, thereby discouraging the faithful. As a result, a great number of denominations have downplayed the literal return of Jesus, while those outside the faith have forgotten about a coming Messiah (Hebrew: *Mashiach*) altogether.

Skeptics are certainly living up to the prediction that in the last days scoffers will come, following their own evil desires. They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ He promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation,” (2 Peter 3:3-4). The infidel’s heart kept many from entering Noah’s ark, from listening to the prophets through the centuries, and from accepting Jesus when He walked on earth. Doubt has always been the wall that separates man from God. In contrast, faith opens up the heart, motivating us to follow Christ in virtuous living. Biblical faith—a faith that changes one from a disobedient life to righteous submission—results in personal victory over sinful behavior. Such conversions, where heart and mind are given to Christ, will sustain God’s people during the last days; yet, these experiences will be rare. In this context the question is asked, “When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8).

Before the return of Messiah son of David lie a series of events which were penned centuries in advance of the crises. Signs in the world are matching with alarming accuracy the predictions written in Daniel and Revelation. The time has come that God is opening the long hidden messages, which are promised to be unsealed. Daniel was told the mysteries delivered to him would not be understood until “the time of the end,” (Daniel 12:4, 9). Now that the end is imminent, the Spirit of truth is fulfilling the promise, and the book is unsealing before us.

So near are we, in fact, that to human minds it would seem too late for the prophetic warnings to reach around the world. However, during the appointed time of the end, God’s Spirit will be poured out in great measure. Without large organization and popular platform, *present truth* will spread like the leaves of autumn around the globe. The previously hidden segments of prophecy will reveal



the wisdom and foreknowledge of God as they are offered to humanity at this late hour. With a fresh anointing, the power of the Word will be unleashed to counter the claims of Antichrist. The nations will say, “Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?” Christ, with the “sword of the Spirit... the Word of God,” will finish the rebellion. “He is LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS—and with Him will be His called, chosen and faithful followers.”¹⁶

The Foolish Shame the Wise

You will not find the contemporary explanations of prophecy in this book. It does not echo any church’s prophetic prejudices, for truth extends beyond denominational boundaries and theological mindsets. Daniel was a young, yet faithful Hebrew slave chosen by God to receive and pen the prophecies of Daniel. John, a prisoner on the island of Patmos, was chosen to see visions and to write the scroll of Revelation, while the Scribes and Pharisees, the religious leaders of his day, were passed by. The Hebrew Scriptures are pervaded with men of God, chosen not because of wealth, education or clerical position, but for their faith. “God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong,” (1 Corinthians 1:27).

John the visionary wrote, “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near,” (Revelation 1:3). The predictions are to be realized in our day. The movements in the Middle East which count down toward the appointed time have already begun.

As students of prophecy, our best efforts to grasp the solemn events and to write about them will fall short in pinpointing every single event of the last days. Not all has been revealed, for not until the Seventh Angel begins to sound will all the mysteries of God be finished and the final chapter written¹⁷. Even so, last-day prophecy is evidence that El Shaddai is still concerned for His people. Although many end-time events have been hidden since time began, Heaven’s bold unfolding of the predictions and the working of God in the affairs of mankind today can encourage the saints that God is faithful, even to the remnant. Daniel’s prediction is particularly poignant for our day and time: “Many will go here and there to increase knowledge,” about the last-day visions (Daniel 12:4). Indeed, you can be a part of this fulfillment as you seek to understand final events. This is a book about “The Book.” Prophecy will be fulfilled in the appointed time according to the inspired visions relayed in the Biblical prophecies.

The stage is set. The New World Order sets in motion Satan’s final movements. However, his work will not be similar to Christ’s. He will persecute the saints instead of healing their diseases. He will kill instead of offering life. The Wicked

¹⁶ Revelation 13:4; Ephesians 6:17; Revelation 17:14

¹⁷ Revelation 10:7



One will be exposed, when the saints are scattered and God's last restraining force is cut off and taken out of the way¹⁸. At Jerusalem, just before the Day of the LORD, Antichrist will be revealed for who he truly is—a liar and impostor.

By demonic mastery in the final moments of time, Satan, along with Antichrist and False Prophet, will emerge unified, and through signs and wonders the whole world will succumb to the *Evil Triumvirate*. Only those who have fortified their minds with the testimony of Jesus will resist this overwhelming deception.

Jesus said, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God," (Revelation 2:7). In ages past, Noah warned of impending danger, and John the Baptist proclaimed the Kingdom of God is at hand. People in their generations faced important decisions. Today, the life and death decision is ours to make. The world and its leaders will soon say, "Come multitudes, follow us!" Yeshua said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it," (Matthew 7:13-14).

At the great awakening, Antichrist will proclaim that he can bring peace to our troubled planet. Revival of spiritual interest will accompany the beginning of his supernatural reign, but it will be built upon lying wonders and miracles. This should not surprise us; we are forewarned that "many will come in My [Christ's] name... and will deceive many," (Matthew 24:5). It will be deception by those who name the name of Jesus that will lead the nations to ruin; the threat is from within the household of God, as well as without.

The saints would do well to remember the poignant warning Jesus proclaimed against those whose life and work looks righteous on the outside, but whose heart is full of evil within: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'LORD, LORD,' will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but only he who does the will of My Father who is in Heaven," (Matthew 7:21). He added, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God," (Matthew 4:4).

¹⁸ Daniel 9:26; 2 Thessalonians 2:7

