

# UNLOCKING PROPHECY #3

## Revelation's War in Heaven

---

### Who is responsible for all the sin, suffering, and death?

- † “He [Jesus] presented another parable to them, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to **a man who sowed good seed** in his **field**. But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, “Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?” And he said to them, “An enemy has done this!”” (Matthew 13:24-28a).
- † Matthew 13:37-39- The Sower (Jesus) is the Son of Man, the Son of the Living God. (Mt 16:13-17). The field is the world. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are the angels. The enemy is the devil!
- † **1 Peter 5:8 (NKJV)** — “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”
- † **Revelation 12:17 (NKJV)** — “And the dragon was enraged with the woman [the church- Jer 6:2; Isa 61:16; 2 Cor 11:2), and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” Satan is especially at war with God’s faithful people.
- † As an enemy, the devil, is responsible for sin and rebellion against God. Humans are also responsible because we chose to sin.
- † Questions we will answer tonight: (1) When and where did this war between God and Satan begin? (2) What is God like? (3) Why does God allow bad things to happen to good people?

### War in Heaven

- † “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 a 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” (Revelation 12:7-9).
- † The Bible teaches in Revelation 12:4 that Lucifer led one third of the angels into rebellion against God.

### What was Lucifer’s sin?

- † “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘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**” (Ezekiel 28:12, 14-15).
- † Psalm 99:1- says God dwells between the covering cherubim (angels).
- † “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” (Ezekiel 28:17).
- † “You have set your heart as the heart of a god” (Ezekiel 28:6).
- † “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**” (Isaiah 14:12-14).
  - Lucifer had an “I” problem. The center of sin is “I”.

- Lucifer desired: (1) A higher position, (2) an exalted throne, (3) rulership and dominance, and (4) worship.

### **What is the foundation of God's government?**

- † "Love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God" (1 John 4:7).
- † "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us" (1 John 4:10).
- † "God is love" (1 John 4:8).
- † Love is the foundation of God's government.
- † Ezekiel 28:6—Lucifer set his heart to be as the heart of a god.
- † Lucifer questioned God's authority, God's fairness, and saw God as a rival.
- † God didn't create a bunch of robots. He created us with the freedom of choice. If you take away the power of choice, you take away the opportunity to love. Love can never be forced or coerced. It must come voluntarily from the heart. And if you take away the opportunity to love, you take away the ability to be truly happy. Since God desired the ultimate happiness of all His creatures He gave them the power of choice. He wanted all of His creation to love Him voluntarily.

### **Why didn't God just destroy the devil immediately before he led other angels astray and caused war in heaven?**

- † No one back then, except God, knew what a disaster Lucifer's alternative plan would be. No one knew how much suffering and misery it would create. The universe, including each one of us, had to see for ourselves. We had to know that God is love and His way is best, beyond a shadow of a doubt because that was the only way God could solve the problem of evil once and for all. That's the only way He could ensure that evil would never plague the universe again. He wants every question about His character & government to be answered, every doubt settled.

### **How did planet earth become involved in the cosmic conflict?**

- † The devil deceived Eve into eating from the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1-5). After Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden tree, they were filled with guilt and anxiety. When God came looking for them in the garden, they hid from His face. And we've been running and hiding ever since. Sin produces alienation between us and God (Isaiah 59:2). See also: Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23
- † Sin produces anxiety, fear, suffering, death.

### **Why doesn't God do something?**

- † He did. He sent his Son to die for our sins so we could have eternal life. (Jn 3:16; Rom 5:8, 1 Jn 5:11-12) "And I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed [Jesus]; He [Jesus] shall bruise your [Satan's] head, And you shall bruise His heel" (Genesis 3:15)..

### **How do we overcome Satan and his attacks?**

- † Ezekiel 33:11—By God's power, we turn from our evil ways to Jesus, and follow Him!
- † "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death" (Revelation 12:11).
- † See also Phil 4:13—It is Christ who strengthens us!
- † James 4:7-8- Submit to God, resist the devil, draw near to Jesus, allow Him to cleanse and purify you!
- † Believe in Christ (Acts 16:31, Repent of your sins (Rom 2:4, Acts 3:19), Confess your sins (1 Jn 1:9), and Receive Jesus into your Heart (Rev 3:20)
- † Phil 2:13- Remember that it is God who works in you to do His will and good pleasure!
- † Josh 24:15—Choose life, choose to serve the Lord!
- † Watch this presentation again on Youtube or <https://tinyurl.com/unlockingprophecy>