

The Universe Is Watching Us!

[3]

-The Origin of Sin & the Great Issues in the Battle Between Good & Evil-

** Remember to Pray for Wisdom Before You Begin*

- 1.) Did Jesus' death on the cross accomplish more than the salvation of the human race in this world? Colossians 1:20 And, having made _____ through the _____ of his cross, by him to reconcile _____ things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in _____. **NOTE: The power and influence of the cross according to this verse went beyond the benefit of the human race in this world. It says not only "things in earth," but also "things in heaven." But you may ask, "how would anything in heaven be affected by what Jesus did on the cross for us!?" Keep studying on and you will be amazed at what God's Word has to say. You will see things from the Bible that will amaze you that you may have never realized before!**

- 2.) What other passage of scripture in Paul's writings indicate the "Universal Impact" of the Cross of Christ? Ephesians 1:10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might _____ together in _____ things in _____, both which are in _____, and which are on earth; even in _____: **NOTE: Why would Christ Jesus be required to gather or unify all things unto Himself EVEN the things which are in heaven? Weren't things in heaven already perfect and only the things of this world affected by sin? Obviously this question demands an answer and the inspired Word of God wouldn't state this if it didn't also provide answers elsewhere in the scriptures. Let's study this out to find some answers!**

- 3.) Is there more than just our one world? Hebrews 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his _____, whom he hath appointed heir of _____ things, by whom also he made the _____; **NOTE: Notice the "s" on the end of the last word on this verse. The Greek word [aiones] for "worlds" in both texts (Heb. 1:2; 11:3) might be debatable in some circles of scholars but a number of modern translations render this word "worlds" plural. A few translate it "universe" and a few translate it "ages." One point seems to be clear. There is a vast cosmos out there with seemingly countless stars and planets!**
Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the _____ were _____ by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.
NOTE: Does it make any sense that our world would be the only world out there amongst the vast massive universe?! Since God is a God of love, He loves to create intelligent life that will respond to His heart of love and serve and give glory to Him. Also the fact that He is from all eternity with no beginning, He probably has been establishing worlds with intelligent beings from eons in the past. The powerful Hubble Space Telescope reveals absolutely vast stretches of the universe that seem to go on unendingly and filled as far

as they can see with seemingly countless galaxies!! And each galaxy can contain considerably more than fifty billion stars or suns and who knows how many planets (or worlds) around each of them. Even if there were only one inhabitable planet or world per galaxy there would be numerous worlds out there with life on them. It is not reasonable that God would waste all these starry systems without purposeful life in them! Anyway let's see what God's Word has to say about other inhabitants of the "heavens."

- 4.) Is there life or created beings in the heavens? Nehemiah 9:6 *Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; thou hast made _____, the heaven of heavens, with all their _____, the earth, and _____ things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of _____ thee. [See also Isaiah 45:12] NOTE: Obviously there are intelligent beings in the heavenly universe. And if any one doubts the word "hosts" as being interpreted as mere stars or planets then the last part of this verse would refute that. "the hosts of heaven worshipeth thee." Only animate intelligent beings can worship God. Let's study more!*
- 5.) What does 1 Kings say about the "hosts of heaven?" 1Kings 22:19 *And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the _____ sitting on his throne, and all the _____ of heaven standing by him on his _____ hand and on his _____.*
- 6.) According to the apostle Paul, is there a family in heaven? Ephesians 3:14 *For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole _____ in _____ and earth is named, NOTE: Again we see from the Apostle Paul's writings that God also has a family of beings in the heavens or universe. God is not alone up in the heavens. He has loyal created beings and angels who love and serve Him.*
- 7.) Is this "family in heaven" watching or witnessing what is going on in this world? Deuteronomy 4:26 *I call _____ and earth to _____ against you this day, that ye shall soon utterly perish from off the land whereunto ye go over Jordan to possess it; ye shall not prolong your days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed. Deuteronomy 30:19 I call _____ and earth to _____ this day _____ you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore _____ life, that both thou and thy seed may live: NOTE: Apparently there is an on-looking universe that is watching the drama unfold here on planet earth. This is the one world that has gone astray from God. It is a planet in rebellion! But God provided a solution in the Person of His Son coming down to this world. Maybe you question how the universe can observe or "witness" what's going on in this world. But don't you think that with all the technology that sinful man has with TV, internet, radio, satellite, etc. that unfallen beings through God's infinite power can have access to observe us?*

8.) Are heavenly beings called to witness the rebellion that is going on –on planet earth? Isaiah 1:2 _____, O _____, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have _____ against _____. Psalm 50:4 He shall _____ to the _____ from above, and to the earth, that he may _____ his _____. **NOTE: Not only is the universe able to observe the activities of our world but they have been called to witness the rebellion and the sin problem that exists in our world. Keep tracking this thought as we continue our study and come to a fuller conclusion on the Apostle Paul's first two statements at the beginning of our study.**

9.) What other passages of the Bible confirm what we've seen from the above texts? Deuteronomy 32:1 Give _____, O ye _____, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. Jeremiah 2:12 Be _____, O ye _____, at this, and be horribly afraid, be ye very desolate, saith the LORD. Deuteronomy 31:28 Gather unto me all the elders of your tribes, and your officers, that I may speak these words in their ears, and call _____ and earth to _____ against them. **NOTE: Most people that study the Bible seem to overlook these texts and particularly the little seemingly insignificant phrases within these texts. Hence when we do this we miss very important truths that God has given us! It is our responsibility to search out these important gems of truth so that we can gain a deeper understanding of God's Word and more deeply understand the real issues at stake in the battle between Good and Evil and the great plan of salvation!**

10.) What verse of scripture indicates that our world is the only one infected with the deadly virus of sin? Revelation 12:12 Therefore _____, ye _____, and ye that _____ in _____. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the _____ is come down unto _____, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. **NOTE: You can see here that the "heavens" and all "that dwell in them" are told to rejoice but a "woe" is pronounced on our world –and why? You can see the contrast here because we are the ones who have been infected with sin and have the enemy of God, the devil like a roaring lion who wants to devour us! But you may be puzzled and ask, "Why would the cross of Jesus be needed for the on-looking universe if they are free from sin and its woes? Good question! Let's look more deeply into this.**

11.) What happened in the scenario with Job, God and Satan? Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to _____ themselves before the LORD, and _____ came also among them. 7 And the _____ said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan _____ the LORD, and said, From going _____ and _____ in the _____, and from walking up and down in it. 8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou _____ my servant _____, that there is none like him in the earth, a _____ and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth _____? 9

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for _____? **10** Hast not thou made an _____ about _____, and about his _____, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast _____ the work of his hands, and his substance is _____ in the land. **11** But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will _____ thee to thy face. **12** And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in _____ power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went _____ from the presence of the LORD. **NOTE: Here we see an interesting dialogue between the devil and God somewhere up in heaven as there were other beings (“sons of God”) represented there. The devil or Satan was challenging God about Job’s motives of loyalty and obedience. As we know from this story, God allowed Job to be tested to the max! Job’s relationship to God proved to be genuine! Since this dialogue occurred up in heaven you can be certain that there were many in heaven watching the outcome of all this!**

12.) How did a high-ranking angel of God become Satan or the Devil? Ezekiel 28:14 Thou art the anointed _____ that covereth; and I have _____ thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of _____. **15** Thou wast _____ in thy ways from the day that thou wast _____, till _____ was found in thee. **16** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast _____: therefore I will _____ thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. **17** Thine heart was _____ up because of thy _____, thou hast _____ thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: **NOTE: God created a perfect angel with free choice and Lucifer made a devil out of himself. Verse 17 says pride welled-up in his heart. This became his downfall. He campaigned among the angels of heaven and deceived and persuaded a third of the angels of heaven (see Rev. 12:4). They were finally cast out of heaven. We will see this more clearly in additional scripture coming up. Notice this last part of verse 17. I will _____ thee to the ground, I will _____ thee before kings, _____ they may _____ thee. Isaiah 14:12** How art thou _____ from _____, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst _____ the nations! **13** For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into _____, I will exalt _____ throne _____ the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be _____ the most _____. **15** Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. **NOTE: Satan coveted God’s position. Obviously he didn’t want to be controlled by God and probably deceived himself and the other angels that he could do a better job at running the universe. But notice verse 16 & 17 that many will see and observe and eventually come to a conclusion about Satan’s true character. 16** They that _____ thee shall narrowly _____ upon _____, and _____ thee, saying, Is this the man that made the _____ to tremble, that did shake _____; **17** That made the world as a wilderness, and _____ the cities thereof; that opened _____ the house of his _____? **NOTE: The very fact that one third of the angels of heaven (see Rev.**

12:4) were deceived and taken in by Satan tells us that at first he must have been very convincing in his subtle trafficking!

13.) Why didn't God destroy and annihilate Satan and his angels right from the very start?

Matthew 13:24-30 Another _____ put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of _____ is likened unto a man which sowed _____ seed in his field: **25** But while men slept, his _____ came and sowed _____ among the _____, and went his way. **26** But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the _____ also. **27** So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow _____ seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? **28** He said unto them, an _____ hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and _____ them ____? **29** But he said, _____; lest while ye _____ up the _____, ye _____ up _____ the wheat with them. **30** Let _____ grow _____ until the harvest: and in the _____ of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together _____ the tares, and bind them in bundles to _____ them: but gather the wheat into my barn. **NOTE: When Jesus starts his parable with "the kingdom of heaven is likened unto," He is sharing very important principles of how God manages the issues of good and evil and especially how He runs His government of love. God is supremely wise and His character is love. He sees the beginning from the end. While the entrance of sin was very subtle and deceptive to begin with, if God had immediately destroyed Satan, it would have immediately raised questions in the minds and hearts of the loyal angels or other beings that maybe Satan was right in his arguments about God. Not only that, but if you step out of line from God, all He will do is immediately zap you! Then they would have served God out of fear or even worse yet –the rebellion might have spread throughout the universe! This whole sin question needed plenty of time so that its real fruit could be seen in its character. Weed seedlings when they first spring up sometimes can look very similar to the real crop that is purposely planted, so time is needed to discern which is what. The great deceiver needed to be unmasked!! Hence, in the parable above when the servants asked their master if they could just go right away and pull up the weeds (tares), the master said "no, let both grow to maturity at harvest time (the end of the world), otherwise you could pull up the good with the bad."**

14.) What finally happened to Satan and his angels after they rebelled against God?

Revelation 12:7 And there was _____ in heaven: Michael and his angels fought _____ the dragon; and the _____ fought and his _____, **8** And prevailed not; neither was their _____ found any more in _____. **9** And the great dragon was _____ out, that old _____, called the Devil, and _____, which _____ the whole world: he was cast out into the _____, and his angels were cast out _____ him.

15.) What did Jesus say about the true character of Satan? John 8:44 Ye are of your father the _____, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a _____ from the

beginning, and abode _____ in the truth, because there is no _____ in him. When he speaketh a _____, he speaketh of his own: for he is a _____, and the _____ of it.

NOTE: 1 John says if we have hate in our heart toward someone we actually have the seed of murder in us! When the crucifixion of Christ actually took place, the witnesses of an unseen universe could finally see the ripened fruit of Satan's character. He was a murderer of the precious Son of God! He definitely couldn't be trusted to manage the universe. He was also seen to be a liar because of all his misleading deceptions. In essence, the universe is being vaccinated so-to-speak so it won't desire to rebel or be contaminated with sin again. The Bible says affliction will not rise the second time (Nahum 1:9). When Jesus comes again, sin and evil will be seen for what it really is. How important that we give our hearts to Jesus and truly repent of our sins and get ready to join His Kingdom!

16.) As followers of Jesus, are we being watched and observed? 1Corinthians 4:9 For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a _____ unto the world, and to _____, and to men. NOTE: The Greek word for "spectacle" means = [a place for public show ("theatre"), i.e. general audience-room; by implication.] This means we are on display even before the universe as we have seen not only from this text but a number of others from the Old Testament.

17.) What three instances in the life of Jesus was our Salvation hanging in the balances? [All from book of Matthew] 4:8-10 Again, the _____ taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the _____ of the world, and the glory of them; 9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, __ thou wilt fall down and _____ me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, get thee _____, Satan: for it is written, thou shalt _____ the Lord thy God, and him _____ shalt thou serve. 26:36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is _____ sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be _____, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless _____ as I will, but as thou wilt. 27:41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. ___ he be the King of Israel, _____ him now come _____ from the cross, and we will believe him.43 He trusted in God; let him _____ him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. NOTE: On any one of these three points Jesus could have failed or chosen not to go through with the plan to save us. Thank God He stood firm and resisted temptation and in the Garden of Gethsemane He chose to go through all the suffering and anguish so that we wouldn't be lost. If there were any times that the universe was anxiously watching, it was during these critical moments when the Son of God was battling it out with the prince of darkness! But when it was seen that Jesus was victorious over sin and loved the human race so much that He was willing to make any sacrifice just so we could

be saved, the universe was able to see a beautiful demonstration of love that proved to everyone that God is wholly good, just & perfect!

18.) What final celebration and thunderous acclamation at the very end of time will declare the final verdict of God's goodness and His character? Revelation 15:3,4 *And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, _____ and _____ are thy works, Lord God Almighty; _____ and true are thy _____, thou King of saints.*4 _____ shall not _____ thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou _____ art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made _____. **Romans 14:11** *For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, _____ knee shall _____ to me, and every _____ shall confess to God. NOTE: If the citizens of a country or nation are happy and pleased with their rulers and king, this means they will be secure and there is little or no danger of any revolt or uprising which could threaten the nation. So it is with God's kingdom. Once sin has fully demonstrated itself and the instigators (Satan & his angels) and his followers and sympathizers (sinful & unrepentant people) are punished and destroyed -the universe will be safe and secure once again. The Cross of Christ is the potent antidote that proves God is absolutely good and trustworthy of our deepest love and adoration! IN THIS WAY IT RECONCILES THE UNIVERSE IN A DEEPER WAY TO THE KING OF HEAVEN!!*

19.) Let us now look again at the first two scriptures by Paul at the beginning of the lesson. In light of what we've seen and pieced together from above –These two texts we started out with from the beginning now make more sense. **Colossians 1:20** *And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.* **Ephesians 1:10** *That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:*

Brief Quiz

Circle One

- 1.) True/False – This world of ours is the only one in the universe.
- 2.) True/False -- The cross of Christ was beneficial only to this world.
- 3.) True/False – The angels or any other inhabitants of the universe have little or no interest in what is going on in our world.
- 4.) True/False -- Sin and rebellion was so subtle and deceptive at the beginning that it took time for its true character and hideousness to be seen for what it was.
- 5.) True/False – The cross of Jesus was so powerful in its demonstration of love that the whole universe was impacted in a positive way.
- 6.) True/False – God should have destroyed Satan from the beginning.
- 7.) True/False – The Word of God adequately explains the origin of sin and resolutely warns

us about it and the solution for it.

8.) True/False – Satan will never be destroyed, so we will have to learn to put up with him.

My Response

I have gained a clearer understanding on the issues of the battle between good and evil and realize that it involves more than just our world. I see that God's character is truly good and that Jesus was willing to sacrifice everything so that I could be saved and make the Universe secure against sin and rebellion. I accept Jesus' wonderful sacrifice for me just now!

Signed _____