



## Lucifer's Rebellion

In the beginning, when God created the world, there was no pain, suffering, death or tears of sorrow. Everything was pure, good and true. There was no sin. "Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good." **Genesis 1:31**. Mankind, created in the image of God (**Genesis 1:26**), was noble, honest, trustworthy and upright in every way. Unfortunately something tragic happened and now we all live in a world of suffering. Many people wonder why there is so much suffering in the world when God is said to be a God of love.



One day Jesus told a parable about a farmer whose field had been sown with good grain. However, when the grain began to sprout it was noticed that although the farmer had carefully prepared his field there were numer-

ous weeds sprouting along with the grain. When his servants asked what happened the farmer replied, "An enemy has done this." **Matthew 13:28**. Jesus later identified who that enemy was when His disciples asked for an explanation. "The enemy who sowed them is the devil." **Matthew 13:39**. Jesus also explained where the devil came from when he said, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." **Luke 10:18**. According to Jesus the devil or Satan is the one responsible for all the suffering in this world. Jesus said, "He [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." **John 8:44**.

Long ago the devil, or Satan, was known by the name Lucifer, which means "daystar". He was a perfect, beautiful, and obedient angel in heaven. He was one of the two angels who stood next to the throne of God (**Ezekiel 28:14-19**), but he became proud and began to envy the glory and position of God (**Isaiah 14:12-15**).

Lucifer began to influence other angels in heaven with his pride and insinuations against God. "His [Lucifer] tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth."

**Revelation 12:4**. The "tail" referred to in this verse are the lies Lucifer used to influence 1/3 of the stars, or angels (**Isaiah 9:14-15** & **Revelation 1:20**) in heaven.



"And war broke out in heaven." **Revelation 12:7**. Eventually, Lucifer was removed from his place next to the throne of God and cast out of heaven. Unfortunately he chose to come to earth to spread his rebellion here (**Revelation 12:4**). The Bible doesn't tell us how long it was from the creation of Adam and Eve until they were tempted into sin, but one day Lucifer took the form of a serpent and appeared in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that God had placed in the Garden of Eden. There were two direct accusations Lucifer made about God when he spoke to Eve. First, he said, "You will not surely die." **Genesis 3:4**. God had said they would die. In this statement Lucifer was accusing God of being a liar. The second accusation Lucifer made was that God did not have the best good of His creatures at heart. "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." **Genesis 3:5**. It is amazing how these two accusations get repeated over and over again. Somehow when people suffer they often say God has let them down, and that if God really cared He wouldn't have let something bad happen. In other words, they are saying God's word can't be trusted and that He doesn't have our best good in His mind.

At this point someone may be asking, "But why did God put the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the garden in the first place?" God has provided freedom of choice for all of His creatures. He knows that without choice there is no freedom, and without freedom there is no love. All through the Bible God allows people to choose their own destinies. In the days of Israel God spoke through Moses saying, "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life,

that both you and your descendants may live.” **Deuteronomy 30:19**. Many years later Joshua admonished Israel in a similar way, “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” **Joshua 24:15**. It is a mark of God’s character that He will not have creatures serve and worship Him because they have to, but because they want to.

Some wonder why God didn’t destroy Lucifer before he brought sin and misery to earth if He knew he was going to rebel. As you can see from the verses we have already studied Lucifer raised questions before the entire universe regarding God’s law, His character, and His trustworthiness. If God had immediately destroyed Lucifer when he rebelled all creation would have served God out of fear rather than love. Love has always been the motive God desires in the service of His creatures. Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep my commandments.” **John 14:15**. God does not expect us to love Him, and thus serve Him, without demonstrating He is worthy of our love and worship. The Bible says, “We love Him because He first loved us.” **1 John 4:19**. In fact, the Ten Commandments begins with this statement, “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” **Exodus 20:1**. Before God gave commandments He demonstrated His love for Israel by releasing them from slavery. Jesus said love was the basis of all of God’s commands, and should be the basis for all of man’s obedience (**Matthew 22:37-40**).



In the first two chapters of the book of Job we are allowed to see what goes on behind the scenes in the suffering of this world. The story of Job illustrates several important points we have studied. First, all suffering, as

Jesus said, comes from Satan (**Job 1:12**). Second, sometimes God allows suffering for reasons we may not understand, but He is still in control, limits the suffering, and He devises plans for our good (**Job 2:6**). Third, Job’s suffering was accomplishing a greater good he could not comprehend at the time of his suffering, but understood later (**Job 1:8**). Fourth, in the end God restored all that Job lost and much more (**Job 42:10**).

Suffering was never part of God’s plan for this world (**Genesis 1:31**), but suffering often accomplishes good because of God’s presence and power. The apostle Paul was given an unnamed affliction that was allowed by God in order to keep Paul humble and close to God (**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**). The Bible says Jesus was benefited by suffering in His humanity as a part of His education process on earth (**Hebrews 5:8**). God promises to limit the amount of suffering that comes to us according to our strength to endure it and His faithfulness (**1 Corinthians 10:13**), and He also promises to bring much good out of our suffering (**Romans 8:28**).

Finally, it must be remembered that this world with all of

its joy and suffering is temporary. Heaven and eternal life are permanent. It is God’s purpose to save His children for eternity and sometimes that means temporary loss. In Isaiah it says, “The righteous perishes, and no man takes it to heart; merciful men are taken away, while no one considers that the righteous is taken away from evil.” **Isaiah 57:1**. There is no doubt that some people die because they are being spared from evil, and saved for eternity.



God promises: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.” **Isaiah 43:1-3**.