

Just think of it: the infinite, illimitable God of the universe condescended to become a man. More than this, He condescended to die. And even more than this, He condescended to be ridiculed, mocked, and die the ignominious death of a common criminal. What love! What marvelous condescension! What absolute selflessness!

The word condescend has at its root the word _____. The prefix 'con' means _____. So when we speak of God's condescension we are speaking of His *going down together with us*. God did not remain aloof and detached in Heaven when he saw his children spiral into the pit of sin, selfishness, death, and despair. No! He was moved to action. By what? By His incomparable _____. Note John 3:16. This familiar verse tells us that God's _____ was _____ strong that it caused Him to do something—to *act*.

The Cross of Jesus Christ is the very center of it all. The Cross alone enables us to make sense out this troubled and sin-filled world in which we live. The cross utterly demonstrates God's character as a character predominated and characterized by _____.

But it also upholds the principles of His _____ and His eternal _____. (More on this later.) Yes, at the Cross both God's _____ and His _____ were plainly and perfectly demonstrated.

Psalm 85:10 says "_____ and _____ have met together; _____ and _____ have kissed." Nowhere is this more true than in God's character. And God's character was most perfectly revealed at the _____. (See Romans 1:15-17)

God's Solution, Your Weapon

The Cross of Jesus Christ is God's solution to the problem of evil. We can either accept this incredible manifestation of love, and believe God, or we can reject it and believe Satan. The Cross is the fulcrum, the pivot-point for all of human history, more importantly, it is the fulcrum, the pivot-point for every person. What will you do with the Cross, and with the Christ of the Cross?

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 06

Discover: The War Behind the Wars part 2

In the last two lessons we learned that there is a great battle waging between the forces of light and darkness, good and evil. Satan's undiluted fury is being poured out upon this planet. He has already been cast out of Heaven and is now confined to this planet. If we are to withstand the increasing and ongoing attacks of the Devil, then we must have a potent and powerful weapon to employ. Fortunately, the book of Revelation promises just such a weapon! In this lesson we will learn about this important weapon.

The Cross

The Cross is central in Revelation 12. Note especially verse 10, it is all about the Cross of Jesus Christ. "Now _____, and _____, and the _____ of our God, and the power of His _____ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down." All of these things were ushered in when Jesus Christ gained the victory over Satan on the Cross.

The _____ of _____ is Revelation's _____.

Verse 11 makes this truth clearer still! According to this verse, what are the two things that God's people employ in order to overcome Satan?

- 1.
- 2.

That is, the _____ and the individual's _____ with that cross. Compare this verse with v. 17, and notice the similarities, they are powerful!

Cast Out, Yes, But Why Did God Wait

As we discovered last lesson, Satan was cast out of Heaven following Jesus' death on the Cross. Prior to this Satan still had limited access to heavenly beings (see Job 1:6-8); Revelation makes this clear. The Cross convinced the universe that Satan's ideas, plans, and accusations were groundless and false. But why didn't God just destroy Satan right at the beginning? After all, He certainly knew what was going to happen with Satan's rebellion. In order to understand this, we must go back to the parable of the wheat and the tares.

The Parable of the Wheat and Tares, Matthew 13:24-30

It can be difficult to distinguish desirable plants and non-desirable weeds when they first begin to sprout. To the uninitiated gardener, they can look almost identical! Even after weeks of growth, certain weeds prove to be almost indistinguishable from certain plants. Yet, the difference is clear to the seasoned, experienced gardener. Only at _____ can the inexperienced see the true difference between the weeds and the wheat. This is exactly what Jesus' parable is designed to teach. Read it over and over until you see it!

God knew from the beginning the terrible direction that Satan was headed (See John 8:44 and 1John 3:8). But here is an important point: *the angels didn't see it so clearly!* Satan's arguments, ideas and insinuations must have been very persuasive indeed! Don't forget that he deceived a full _____ of the angels. (See Revelation 12:4) God allowed Satan to come to this planet to demonstrate his way of running things, his _____ principles. The angels, and the entire on-looking universe was then invited to "watch and see". The Apostle Paul alludes to this idea in 1Corinthians 4:9. He says we are "a _____ to the world, both to _____ and to _____."

The Two Revelations of the Cross

There are two great truths that shine forth from the Cross:

- 1.
- 2.

The Center of it All

In a very real sense Satan does not want to be *like* God, he only wants the power, privileges, and prerogatives of God. Compare Philippians 2:5-8 with Isaiah 14:12-14. Note carefully the two different directions: Satan wants to go _____; God, in the person of Jesus Christ, is abundantly willing to go _____.

Five Steps: Very Different Directions

This next part of our study is both stunning and easily understood. In a simple comparison of two passages we will see the essence of the character of God as contrasted with the essence of the character of Satan. Prepare to be amazed and humbled by the infinite and illimitable love of God!

Satan's 5 steps _____

1. I will _____ into Heaven.
2. I will _____ my throne.
3. I will sit on the _____ of the congregation in the _____.
4. I will _____ above the _____ of the clouds.
5. I will be like the Most _____.

Jesus Christ's 5 steps _____

1. made Himself of no _____
2. taking the form of a _____
3. came in the likeness of _____
4. became obedient to the point of _____
5. even the death of the _____

The Amazing and Final Result

At the end, however, Satan is _____ and Christ is _____!

One embodies almost reckless _____ for the benefit of _____; the other embodies calculated _____ at the expense of _____.