The Cosmic Conflict

Lesson 9, 1st Quarter Christ February 22-28, 2025.

Sabbath Afternoon, February 22

Memory Text:

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." KJV — Genesis 3:15

"Fallen man is Satan's lawful captive. The commission of Christ was to rescue him from the power of his great adversary. Man is naturally inclined to follow Satan's suggestions, and he cannot successfully resist the power of his cruel foe except by the strong, Omnipotent, Jewels in him, guiding his desires, and giving him strength. God alone can bind the power of Satan. He is going to and fro in the earth, walking up and down in it, to see what he can do to the children of men. Satan is a powerful, watchful, and untiring foe. He is ever on the watch, to see if there is some point in his favor, some point of weakness, that they may escape his snares. Satan is preparing his temptations, that in his last campaign against the people of God they may not understand what he is. 2 Corinthians 11:14 'Marvel not; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." While some deceived souls are advocating that he does not exist, he is taking them captive, and is working through them to a great extent. Satan knows better than God's people the power that they can have over him when they are clothed with the armor of righteousness. He knows that they are heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, to the right hand, firmly upon Christ, who successfully repulse Satan and all his host. He is not coming to come quietly, boldly, with his temptations; for then the drowsy energies of the Christian would arouse, and he would only upon the strong and mighty Deliverer. But he comes in unprepared, and works in disguise through the children of disobedience who profess godliness." 17 Ms 1

"The Saviour of the world had no compromise with Satan, who was expelled from heaven because he was no longer worthy of place in heaven. He who could influence the angels of God against their Supreme Ruler, and against his, their loved commander, and enlist their sympathy for himself, was dangerous. Our Redeemer, Four thousand years prior to Pentecost warring against the government of God, and had lost none of his skill or power to tempt and deceive." 7SM 275.1

Monday, February 23

An Enemy Has Done This

Read Matthew 13:24-27. How does the parable help us understand evil in our world?

"The teaching of this parable is illustrated in God's own dealing with men and angels. Satan is a deceiver. When he sinned in heaven, even the loyal angels did not fully discern his character. This was why God did not at once destroy Satan. Had he done so, the holy angels would not have perceived the justice and love of God. A doubt of God's goodness would have been as well seed sown in their minds. Satan would have taken advantage of the doubt that God had created him. He would have done the work of sowing tares among the angels. Not until the character of Satan, and of God, HE has begun the infinite Gift of Calvary, rather than leave any to be deceived by the misrepresentations of Satan, or to cast the seed of doubt in the minds of the loyal angels, he let the opposing the precious grain. And shall we not be as forbearing toward our fellow men as the Lord of heaven and earth toward Satan? CG 74.1

Read Matthew 13:26-30 in light of Christ's explanation in Matthew 13:37-43. How does this also shed light on the character of the cosmic conflict?

"Nevertheless Christ's warning, the church had sought to uproot the tares. To punish those who were supposed to be evildoers, the church had recourse to the civil power. Those who differed from the established creed had been imprisoned, put to the torture, and slain, yet the instigator of men who claimed to be acting under the sanction of God was not Christ, but Satan. We are told, that the tares are the children of the wicked one. This is Satan's own work, and it is his world under his dominion. God has been misrepresented through the church by this way of dealing with those who are supposed to be tares." GC 39.1

"Not judgment and condemnation of others, but humility and distrust of self, is the teaching of Christ's parable. The tares of evil are to be left to the Lord of the harvest. The Saviour of the world does not prove them Christians. CSL 74.2

"The tares closely resembled the wheat while the blades were green, but when the field was white for the harvest, the worthless weeds bore no likeness to the wheat that bowed under the weight of its full, ripe heads. Sinners who make a profession of piety single for a time with the true followers of Christ, and the semblance of Christianity is calculated to deceive many, but in the time of harvest, when the harvest is ripening for the garner of God, the tares have proved the church, but who have not proved Christ, will be manifest. CSL 74.

"The tares are permitted to grow among the wheat, to have all the advantage of sun and shower; but in the time of harvest ye shall 'return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between the righteous and the wicked that serveth not him.' Malachi 3:18. The Lord knows what people are worthy to dwell with the family of heaven. He will judge every man according to his words and his works. Profession is as nothing in the scale. It is character that decides destiny." CSL 74.4

Monday, February 24

The Origin of the Controversy on Earth

Read Genesis 1:31. What do God's words reveal about the state of creation when God finished creating, and what is this answer important?

"The creation was now complete. "The heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." "And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was very good." Eden bloomed on earth. Adam and his Maker dwelt in the scene of his work. The tasks of art or studies of death marred the fair creation. "The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38:7. PP 45.1

"The great principle had laid the foundations of the earth; he had dressed the whole world in the garb of beauty and left it with God's glory shining forth in every direction, and filled it with the life and joy of the sea. In six days the great work of creation had been accomplished. And God pronounced it very good. The Lord of heaven and earth, the Ruler of all, had spoken, and the heavens and sky, and earth and its fullness, had come into being. Not a single thing had existed before God made" God looked with satisfaction upon the work of his hands. All was perfect, worthy of his divine Author, and he, the noble, not as mere, but as well pleased with the fruits of his wisdom and goodness and the manifestations of His glory." PP 43.2

Read Genesis 3:1-7. What does this tell us about how evil got here on earth? What light does this shed on the nature of the cosmic conflict? See also Rev. 12:7-9.

"No longer free to sin or unbelieve, Satan's tempters, Satan's enemy against God found a new field to pointing the ruin of the human race. In the happiness and peace of the holy pair in Eden he saw a cause of envy and hatred. He could not bear to witness the joy of the holy beings who had been created by the power of God, who had been given dominion and authority of the world, and who were free to obtain and their songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. He could not bear to see them enjoy the love of God, and delight in the work of his creation, while he, who had been a member of God's family, was cast out from the presence of God, and cause grief in heaven." PP 52.1

"By partaking of the fruit of the tree, Adam and Eve became subject to a more exalted sphere of existence and enter a broader field of knowledge. He himself had eaten of the forbidden fruit, and as a result had acquired the power of speech. And he insinuated that the fruit had jealously desire to withhold it from them, lest they should become equal to angels with Himself. It was because of its wonderful power to impart knowledge that God had forbidden our first parents to partake of it or even touching it. The tempter intimated that the divine warning was not to be actually fulfilled, it was designed merely to intimidate them. How could it be possible for them to dwell they had not eaten of the tree of life? God had been trying to prevent them from reaching a higher development and finding greater happiness. PP 54.2

"Such has been Satan's work from the days of Adam to the present, and he has pursued it with great success. He tempts men to distrust God's love and to doubt His wisdom. He is constantly seeking to excite a spirit of irreverent curiosity, a restless, inquisitive desire to penetrate the secrets of divine wisdom and power. In their efforts to search out what God has been pleased to conceal, many are lost. Satan leads them to dwell upon the mysteries of the Infinite Power, leading them to become bewildered in disobedience by looking them to believe they are entering a wonderful field of knowledge. But this is all a deception. Dazed with their vision of progression, they are drawing away from God's requirements, setting their feet in the path that leads to degradation and death." PP 54.3

Tuesday, February 25

The Origin of the Controversy in Heaven

Read Ezekiel 28:12-19 in light of Isaiah 25:19, 20. What is the nature of this being's fall?

"But there was one who did not keep his place in heaven. Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and who stood higher in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven. Lucifer was the first to cherish feelings of dissatisfaction with God and unofficial. "Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering... Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee." Ezekiel 28:12-15, KJV. 493.3

"Lucifer might have remained in favor with God, believed and honored by all the angels. Had he been faithful to the trust committed to him, he would have been. But he was not. He saw the glory of God, and he was filled with the glory of God, and he was filled with the glory of God, and he was filled with