

Lesson 1 for October 1, 2022



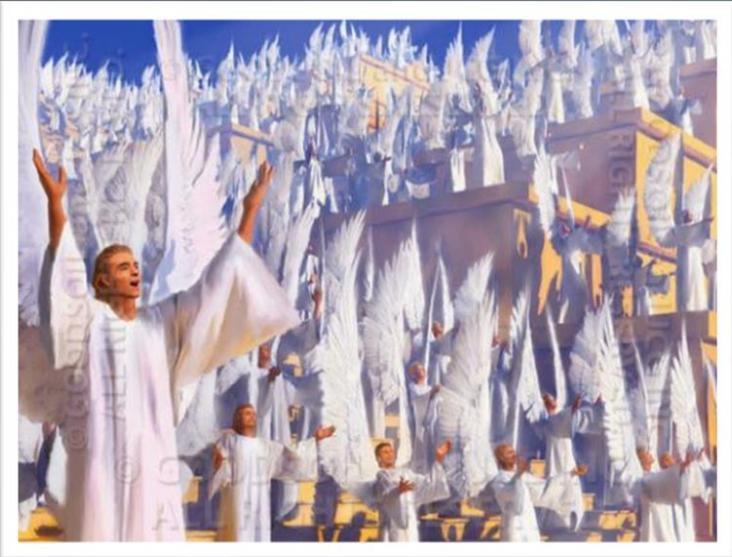
REBELLION IN A PERFECT UNIVERSE

“How you have fallen from heaven, you star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who defeated the nations!” (Isaiah 14:12 NASB)



History is riddled with great uprisings against the tyranny of oppressors. People rebel against injustice.

Imagine a perfect government, perfect and fair laws, and freedom and welfare for everyone... Why would anyone want to rebel? Inexplicably, that happened when Lucifer rebelled against God.



➤ Reasons to be loyal:

- 👉 The love of God
- 👉 Free will

➤ Reasons to rebel:

- 👉 Ingratitude (Ezekiel 28:12-19)
- 👉 Pride (Isaiah 14:12-15)

➤ Reasons to care:

- 👉 The great controversy (Revelation 12)



REASONS TO BE LOYAL

THE LOVE OF GOD

*"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.
God is love." (1 John 4:16 NIV)*



Love must be shown. First, God showed His love between the three people that He is. Then, His loved moved Him to create other beings in order to share His love with them.



All the beings God has created have been given the ability to love and to lavish love on others.

Besides, love is the principle behind all the laws that God has established.

Therefore, sin (rebellion against God's laws) should've never existed, and it couldn't have been created by God.



FREE WILL

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."
(1 John 4:11)

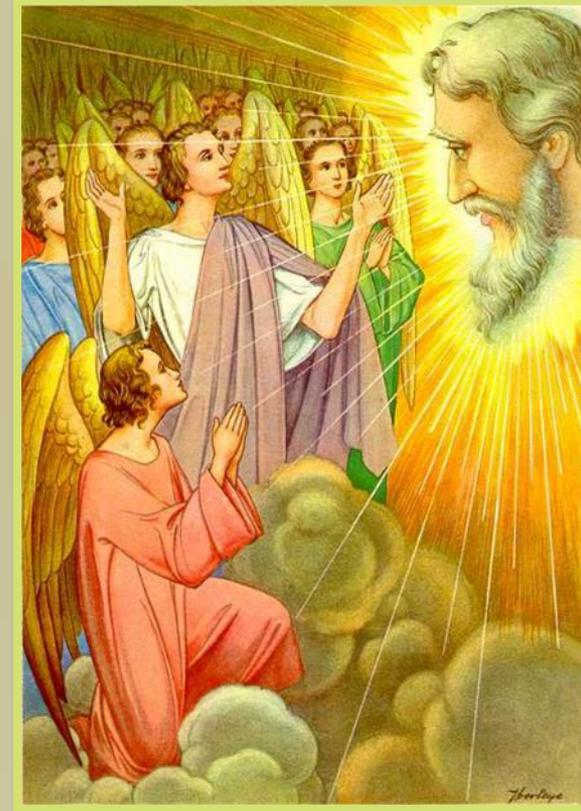
God created the whole universe as a perfect and harmonious environment for His creatures to grow in love and in wisdom.



In addition to the ability to love, all the creatures (from the angels to humankind) have been given something inherent to love: freedom. Nobody is forced to love.

Freedom came with a risk: someone might choose not to love. We cannot understand why it happened, but it happened. This is how sin appeared in the universe.

Although sin is contrary to God's nature, He allowed its existence at an expensive price: the life of His Son (1Jn. 4:10).





REASONS TO REBEL

INGRATITUDE

"You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you." (Ezekiel 28:15)

God explained Ezekiel how rebellion began in Lucifer's heart by using the king of Tyre as an example (Ez. 28:12-19).



He was created perfect and beautiful (12-13)



He was put in a high-ranking position (14)



Iniquity was found in him, so he had to be expelled from Heaven (15-16)



He became vain because of his beauty and wanted to be worshipped instead of God (17-18)

He was no longer thankful to God for having created him. He thought he was more important than he actually was. He used his free will to rebel against his Creator.

PRIDE

"I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High." (Isaiah 14:14)

Isaiah 14:12-15 introduces another reason why Lucifer rebelled against God: pride.

Isaiah used the king of Babylon as an example. Two Babylonian kings (Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar) were punished for their pride.

Lucifer needed his own worshippers to fulfill his goals. In order to get them, he accused God of being what Lucifer actually was: selfish, arrogant, and liar.

This is the mysterious origin of evil in the universe.





REASONS TO CARE



THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.” (Revelation 12:12)

Should we care about what happened in Heaven thousands of years ago?

Of course! Revelation explains that Satan (rebel Lucifer, symbolized by a dragon) “swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth” (Rev. 12:4 NIV).



The controversy in Heaven spread throughout Earth. Satan repeatedly attacked the people of God (symbolized by the woman in Rev. 12:1) to avoid the coming of archangel Michael (Jesus) to Earth (Rev. 12:2, 4).

Jesus got the victory. Satan was defeated by His death and resurrection (Rev. 12:5, 7-11). However, the war has not finished yet (Rev. 12:12-13, 17).



“From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten Son, ‘that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ John 3:16.”

E. G. W. (The Desire of Ages, cp. 1, p. 22)