



The Book of Job Lesson 2 4Q 2016 The Great Controversy

SABBATH

What do you think of with this title? What advantages does thinking through this lens offer to us as we read Scripture?

Is the idea of a Great Controversy taught in Scripture, or something created by the founders of the SDA church, which some people have alleged?

One of our class members received this email from a person that questions the legitimacy of the Great Controversy:

"My main issue of doubt has been EGW's TOXIC Great Controversy dogma. Her whole book is an anthology of atrocities, emphasizing Satan's EVIL, hopefully to persuade the "universe" that God is good.

She portrays a God, so obsessed and consumed with His eventual "vindication" that He uses mankind as his "Guinea pigs" in His grand "experiment" to overcome Satan.

Six thousand years (and counting) of abysmal accumulated atrocities, and an avalanche of anguish, do not seem to have persuaded God's entourage of extra-terrestrials... to vote for God nor to indict Satan.

This, despite EGW enlisting them as the jurors/deciders/arbitrators in this dispute. These extra-terrestrials must have the mental capacity of primitive primates, as depicted in the movie PLANET OF THE APES, not to have reached a definite denouncement nor an adequate arbitration, eons ago.

That we are held hostage to incompetent, inept, space aliens is terrifying. What is even more nightmarish, is if these aliens have the "street smarts" to perceive mankind's misery, but despite this, they remain in total equanimity, uncaring, uncompassionate, totally lacking in concern or commiseration. Surely then, they are complicit with Satan, if they do not clamor for God to end the carnage?

Our fate is in the hands of extra-terrestrials either incompetent, or uncaring, or both-- not a happy prospect! EGW's scenario is as BIZARRE as a STAR WARS movie with space aliens playing the major role. It invites derisive ridicule and does not "hold water"...

What would you say to such a person? What Biblical evidence could you bring to bear? Did EGW and the SDA church make up the controversy between good and evil that transcends humanity and earth,



and extends into the cosmos and in which God and God's methods are at the center, or is that idea THE central issue in Scripture?

What evidence in Scripture is there for a Great Controversy over God's character and method of governing?

- There was “war” in heaven. Michael (Jesus) and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels (Revelation 12:7)
 - Who are the combatants in this war described in Revelation? Are they human?
- What kind of war was this?
 - Would the opponents of the GC idea suggest the war between good and evil is over who is most powerful? Or would they agree God is all powerful—and if God is all powerful, then what kind of war could be waged against Him?
 - It is a war of ideas and false allegations against God. The Greek word in Revelation 12:7 translated “war” is *polemo* from which we get “polemic” or verbal argument. It was a war of words.
- What is the central issue in this war of ideas, according to Scripture?
 - For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.⁴ The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.⁵ We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up *against the knowledge of God*, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. 2Cor 10:3-5
- Where did the false ideas and lies originate?
 - Satan is the “father of lies” (John 8:44). So in the war of words Satan used lies—the primary lies always about God.
- What is the central focus of Satan's lies?
 - God's character and trustworthiness. Do we see evidence of this in Scripture?
 - “Did GOD really say...?” (Genesis 3:1).
 - What was the impact of believing the lies?
 - Lies believed break the circle of love and trust
 - Broken love and trust results in fear and selfishness
 - Fear and selfishness result in destructive actions
 - This is a terminal condition—dead in trespass and sin
 - In whom was fear and selfishness incited?
 - Adam and Eve
 - And what is the problem that believing the lies about God caused Adam and Eve?
 - Their characters were changed to be out of harmony with how God designed life
 - And, what impact on the rest of humanity and why?
 - We are born in sin conceived in iniquity because God created Adam and Eve with the ability to produce beings in their image, thus when they changed themselves, they could only pass along to their children what they possessed, which was fear and selfishness as the primary drive
- What was Satan's agenda in this “war” of words and these ideas misrepresenting God?



- To dethrone God from the hearts and minds of intelligent beings as the one most love and trusted, and enthrone Satan in their hearts
 - Which in turn would destroy the image of God in intelligent beings and put Satan's image where God's should be
- Does Scripture support we war against such non-human enemies?
 - “For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.” Eph 6:12 KJV
 - The stories of:
 - the demoniacs (legion)
 - Jesus' temptations by Satan, etc. we see a controversy raging beyond human beings
 - “For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like men condemned to die in the arena. We have been made **a spectacle to the whole universe, to angels** as well as to men.” 1Cor 4:9
- And does the Bible actually say God is the one on trial?
 - “God must be true, even though every human being is a liar. As the scripture says, ‘You must be shown to be right when you speak; you must win your case when you are being tried.’” Rom 3:4
- How does God win His case?
 - Can God win by use of might and power?
 - Not by might nor by power but by the way the Spirit works says the Lord, Zech 4:6
 - Which is truth and love—only truth and love can win hearts and minds, force and might cannot do this
 - So God wins His case by revealing the truth in love to win us to trust and through Christ providing us a new character, thus we can become partakers of the divine nature!
- Does Scripture include angelic beings in this war and the victories of Christ?
 - “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, **whether things on earth or things in heaven**, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.” Col 1:19,20
- And in the book of Job we see the behind the scenes conflict being waged. What are the issues at stake in the book of Job?
 - Pastor Tim Mesendiek, Chairman of the Sozo Initiative sent me a paper Thursday on his thoughts on the book of Job and he has some excellent insights, which we will be revisiting throughout the quarter.
 - There are several simultaneous things happening in the book of Job: some things are happening in the hearts and minds of the non-fallen beings as they watch—which is what we have frequently emphasized and will again. But while God is winning His case before the universe, Pastor Mesendiek points out what is happening to Job. He notes that God is NOT using Job as a pawn or guinea pig, but God allowed events to transpire that would simultaneously heal and mature Job.



- Specifically, the book of Job is the Great Controversy in miniature. It is about human beings infected with fear and selfishness being restored to love and trust.
 - Chapter one Job is afraid of God and how God relates to others (for his children), this is due to Job, even though trusting God, has misconceptions about God.
 - Chapter two Job is afraid of God and how God relates to him, again because even though Job trusts God, he still has misconceptions about God.
 - Chapter 3 through 37 Jobs friends are afraid of God and have many misconceptions about God and are of no help to Job
 - Chapter 38-41 God finally gets His day in court and immediately takes Job to the evidence of God's Creatorship, which is design law, and that God is not arbitrary or dictator-like. Job is finally freed from his misconceptions about God, which removes his fear, and notice that at that point, when Job's fear is removed, that Job comes boldly before the throne of grace, just as we are instructed to do.
 - Job 42:1-4: *Then Job answered the LORD, and said, I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. (like fearful thoughts about God?) Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I (JOB) will demand of thee (GOD), and declare thou unto me. (What is this BOLDNESS???)*
 - **Heb 4:16** *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*
 - In verse 5 Job sees and experiences God for himself, rather than just hearing about God from others.
 - And in verse 6, having come boldly before God, experiences the truth of God and is brought to repentance, and genuine transformation of character—not only trusts God but is no longer afraid of God
 - And having been delivered from fear to friendship, to love then the channels for restoration are opened and God restores to Job more than what was taken
- When was Satan cast out of heaven and what cast him out?
 - Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to myself." John 12:31,32
 - From *The Remedy*: **Now is the time for the infection of selfishness and sin in this world to be fully diagnosed and revealed as destructive; now, Satan—the prince of this selfish world—will be driven out into the open, out of the shadows, out from behind his lies and distortions about God and God's methods, out where all can see him as the murderer he truly is, and thus out of the hearts of all who love me.** ³² "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all intelligences throughout the universe to me."
 - What does this mean? When did Satan get bound to earth? At the time of Christ's crucifixion—before, during the time of Job, Satan is still going into heaven. So, what bound him to the earth? Did God erect a force field that keeps



Satan here? No, what kept Satan bound here is that the truth about God was fully revealed by Christ such that Satan's lies had no power over any intelligences anywhere in the universe except here on earth. Thus, no intelligent creature will listen to Satan any more!

- Are the angels slow to understand?
 - What has taken so long?
 - The more subtle the lie and the better the liar, the longer it takes to expose them
 - It wasn't until the Cross that Satan's full malignity and the full truth about God's character was revealed

So, is there Biblical evidence for a Great Controversy? Absolutely! All of this evidence is just a small sample of the evidence found in Scripture, not from other writers or sources. The Bible is filled with the truth about a war over God's trustworthiness that began before this earth was created. To deny this is to fail to see the real issue in the war and to misunderstand God, the problem of sin, and God's solution for it.

And if we misunderstand the problem, we misunderstand the solution, and often end up promoting ideas (gospels) that do not work to heal and transform people!

We have demonstrated from Scripture that the central issue in the war focuses on the knowledge of God. What is the central idea that Satan uses to undermine people's trust and confidence in God? God's law, Satan distorts God's law in the minds of beings alleging God's law is no different in quality than the laws made by sinful beings, imposed rules requiring external policing and enforcement. This view of God's law puts God in the position of being the source of inflicted, pain, suffering and death, and thus theologies focus on protecting us from God rather than healing us from sin—deviations from God's design.

Those who see through the level four and below lenses struggle with the question of the Great Controversy, because God is strong and sovereign so how can anyone call Him to question. This is imperialism and human thinking. But design law understands how love actually operates, elevates our understanding to see that God can only win the hearts of His children by truth presented in love and leaving us free!

SUNDAY

Read second paragraph, "Job certainly seems..." What is happening in the opening of this book?

- Is God making a judgment about Job?
 - This is a microcosm of the final judgment.
- What determined God's judgment of Job?
- Was a being interceding with God to beg God to give a good ruling?
- Was evidence presented?



- Was there an accuser?
- Who defended Job to the accuser?
- What caused God to give the verdict about Job that He gave?
 - It was the actual condition of Job's character, heart, mind! Thus, this was a diagnosis, a right revealing of the actual condition of the man himself.
- This is what the final judgment is! The final judgment is nothing more than the final diagnosis of the condition of each person's character/ heart/mind/soul. Have we been won to trust Jesus, such that we open the heart and let in the Spirit which heals and transforms us back into God's image OR have we closed out the Spirit and hardened ourselves in selfishness? This is the question and Job reveals this process.

When God said Job was perfect, what was meant?

- Did it mean Job was sinless?
- Did it mean Job understood all things accurately?
- Did it mean Job had no fear?
- What does it mean Job was perfect?
 - I believe it means, even though Job didn't understand everything, even though he still had growing to do, Job had been converted from distrust to trust—he completely trusted God and had love for others, even though he still had some misunderstandings about God.
 - Do you know a person you trust, but sometimes misunderstand things about them? Are you able to still trust that person?
 - So, just like Abraham, who trusted God, yet still had misunderstandings and maturing to do, Job trusted God and would not be shaken from his trust.
 - When we genuinely trust God we are recognized as being right with God, or being set right, or righteous, which is also called justified. Being justified is not a legal action, it is an actual change in the state of being, from distrust to genuine trust in God. This is what God said about Job.

Of course, after God pronounces the judgment of Job, what does Satan do? He accuses, he makes allegations, which are not primarily about Job, but are about God, that God is lying, that Job really isn't righteous, but acts that way because God is bribing Job to act that way.

This scenario is evidence of the type of war being waged for the minds of heavenly beings. What can we learn from this scenario?

- Angels can't read the secrets of hearts and minds, if they could then Satan could not lie to any of them and Job's condition would be obvious for all the heavenly beings to see and comprehend
- That God's judgments are merely the accurate diagnoses of what is the real condition of each heart
- That Satan doesn't care about reality, but will lie and distort to try and undermine God and trust in God, no matter who is hurt in the process



Read fourth paragraph, “Amid the festivities...” thoughts? How do you read it? Is this a description of what God required and what God is like, or is this a description of Job, what he thought of his children and what he thought about God and what he thought God required?

This is important, when Job later said, “The Lord gives and the Lord takes away,” was Job understanding accurately who was taking away from him? No! Job did not understand accurately all that was happening. Then what did God mean when He said earlier that Job was blameless?

God meant, what EGW meant, that Job’s heart was motivated by love for others, and that Job would sacrifice for the benefit of others, not that God required Job to sacrifice for others. Thus, Job, sacrificed his wealth for concern for His children, this is the right heart, a heart that loves others more than self.

God did not say that Job had all knowledge, understood all mysteries, had all answers, only that he was righteous and blameless, i.e. had a heart no longer controlled by selfishness and that he loved others more than self. This proved to be true.

HUGE distinction to realize, and one many in the penal legal camp miss, because they are often more concerned with right definitions and right rules, than having a heart right with God!

MONDAY

The lesson asks us to read Job 1:6-12, this is from the GNT:

When the day came for the heavenly beings to appear before the Lord, Satan was there among them. ⁷The Lord asked him, “What have you been doing?”

Satan answered, “I have been walking here and there, roaming round the earth.”

⁸ “Did you notice my servant Job?” the Lord asked. “There is no one on earth as faithful and good as he is. He worships me and is careful not to do anything evil.”

⁹ Satan replied, “Would Job worship you if he got nothing out of it? You have always protected him and his family and everything he owns. You bless everything he does, and you have given him enough cattle to fill the whole country. But now suppose you take away everything he has—he will curse you to your face!”

¹² “All right,” the Lord said to Satan, “everything he has is in your power, but you must not hurt Job himself.” So Satan left.

This version uses the phrase “heavenly beings,” NIV states “angels,” KJV states “sons of God.” Do you know what the Hebrew is? It is *ben Elohim*.

Do you remember the movie Ben Hur? *Ben* means son of so the movie is Son of Hur? So *ben Elohim* means more literally sons of God. Why do you think the translators have changed this to angels or



heavenly beings? Do some translators have difficulty with the possibility that there are worlds out in the universe that have intelligent beings, not angels, but some other intelligent life, that are still loyal to God?

What might we lose with that translation? What could be implied by the sons of God translation?

In the genealogy of Christ it says son of, son of, son of, going all the way back to “son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God.” In the genealogy of Christ, who is the only one listed as a son of God? Adam...what *could* be implied by the reference in Job *the sons of God* came before him and Satan came from the earth?

That God has many worlds where He has created life, and the first intelligent being created by God on each of those worlds are the representative heads of those worlds in God’s great heavenly counsel. From earth Adam was supposed to be the one in that heavenly counsel, but Adam forfeited his place and Satan comes claiming Adam’s place, but God says, not so fast. You don’t represent earth. Consider Job, he doesn’t recognize you. And of course, Jesus later comes to earth as the second Adam and becomes the true Head of the race and occupies the place Adam was to have occupied in God’s great counsel, and more than that, Jesus sits on the throne ruling the entire universe.

What does Satan say to the judgment by God of Job’s character? Satan says God is lying. What does God do in response? God allows evidence to demonstrate what is true.

Why does God simply not declare Satan a liar? Why does God give Satan access to Job?

What is revealed by this? Did God restrict the kinds of behaviors Satan could do to Job? Did God limit Satan to do only harm to Job? Was Satan free to bring more praise, wealth, power upon Job? Why didn’t he? What kind of character does Satan reveal in this?

What do we learn about how God wins? God wins by evidence, not by declaration and claims!

Read last part of third paragraph and fourth paragraph, “It’s hard to imagine someone...” Then jump to **THURSDAY**’s lesson:

The lesson points out that we find answers at the cross and that the cross is central to defeating Satan, evil, and sin. How? Why is the cross necessary? What was the purpose of the cross? What did Christ achieve for us and the rest of the universe at the cross? How would you describe what Jesus accomplished for us at the cross?

1. Revealed the truth about the nature of the Father and Himself (Jn 12:32, 17:1-5, Col 1:20)
2. Exposed Satan as a liar and fraud (Heb 2:14)
3. Revealed what humanity is designed by God to be (1Cor 15:47)
4. Christ’s victory in humanity proved that there was no “manufacturer’s defect” in Adam, i.e. Adam’s fall was not because God created Adam defectively



5. Revealed what happens to a being when severed from God (Rom 1:18, 24,26,28, 4:25)
6. Revealed what obedience to the “rules” results in when the heart is not renewed in love (Jews wanted Christ down by sunset to keep the Sabbath rules)
7. Revealed that power does not corrupt God and thus God is safe with all power
8. Revealed that God and Christ are truly selfless (Jn 3:16, 1Jn 3:16)
9. Revealed that God does not execute and kill the sinner, but sin severs from God (the source of life) and results in death. (Mt 27:46)
10. By the exercise of his human brain Christ overcame the temptation to “save self” and restored God’s “law of love” into the human species. In Christ, humanity became what God originally designed it, in Adam, to be. (Mt 26:39, 2Tim 1:9,10, Heb 5:8,9)
11. Christ developed a perfect human nature/character and offers this perfection to all who will accept it. “once he was made perfect he *became* the source of salvation for all who obey him. (Heb 5:8,9) Christ thus becomes the remedy for us. As we see the truth, we surrender in trust and the Holy Spirit takes what Christ achieved and reproduces it in us. (Jn 16:14) Thus we become partakers of the divine nature and it is no longer “I” but Christ lives in us. (2Pet 1:4, Gal 2:20) He actually writes his law of love, his character of love, upon our hearts and minds. (Heb 8:10, 10:16) This is how we are reconciled to God. All through the achievements of Christ!
12. Heb 2:14 By revealing the truth He destroyed the lies of Satan, thus destroying Satan’s power and overthrowing Satan in the minds of all who love truth
13. 2Tim 1:10, By destroying the infection of selfishness and restoring love into humanity He destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light
14. 1John 3:8 by voluntarily surrendering to death and giving His life in love He destroyed Satan’s work (which was trying to implant Satan’s image where God’s should be and effacing the image of God in man), and restored God’s image in humanity
15. Col 1:20 through all of this He reconciles to Himself all things at the cross

The last paragraphs quotes Romans 3 and states “Because of His death on our behalf, Christ could be ‘just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.’ That is, at the cross He refuted the devil’s charges that God could not uphold His law (be just) and still, at the same time, save those who have broken the law (justifier).” thoughts?

TUESDAY

The lesson asks us to read a series of texts to demonstrate a conflict between God and Satan:

- Gen 3:1-4 Satan tempting Eve
- Zech 3:1-3: “In another vision the Lord showed me the High Priest Joshua standing before the angel of the Lord. And there beside Joshua stood Satan, ready to bring an accusation against him. The angel of the Lord said to Satan, “May the Lord condemn you, Satan! May the Lord, who loves Jerusalem, condemn you. This man is like a stick snatched from the fire.”
- Matthew 4: the temptations of Christ
- 1Pet 5:8: “Be alert, be on the watch! Your enemy, the Devil, roams round like a roaring lion,



looking for someone to devour.”

- 1John 3:8: “He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”
- Rev 12:9: War in heaven

From these texts what type of war is being waged? What type of weapons does Satan use? What is Satan’s number one weapon and where is the battle fought?

Satan is the father of lies, and his primary weapon is lies, and the battle is fought in the mind to get us to distrust God and believe any lies. This is how Satan gets power over us, this is how he distorts the character, and this is how he works to destroy the image of God in man and put his image in the mind of man—by getting us to believe his methods and ways.

What does this mean in how we fight the devil?

WEDNESDAY

Read last two paragraphs “Ellen G. White...” The lesson says, when one understands “how closely tied God’s law is to the foundation of His government” that we can make sense of the mystery of lawlessness.

How would you explain that close tie? Why is it tied so closely? What would it mean to change the law of God?

It would mean the destruction of the universe and life as we know it, why? Because God’s law is the protocol upon which the universe is built.

This understanding completely rules out major ideas and theologies taught in Christianity, and even in the SDA church, primarily the idea of a penal legal religion and atonement models.

FRIDAY

Read and discuss questions 1 and 2



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The God-Shaped Brain is now available in Korean and is available at this website:
http://book.naver.com/bookdb/book_detail.nhn?bid=9519886

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase—FREE for ios and android systems.

The Journal of the Watcher is now available as a HARD COVER book at Amazon as well as a movie in itunes for everyone without ios or android in itunes. It is also available as an APP for Apple and Android devices.

October 14-16: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Drakensville, South Africa Campmeeting.

October 19, 20: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Ladismith South Africa (venue to be determined)

October 21, 22: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Somerset West, South Africa

November 4: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC Fall Summit at the Calvary Chapel in Naperville, IL.