



## 2018 Q2 Preparation for The End Time: - Lesson 14: The Cosmic Controversy

presented by Dr. Wendell Moses

### INTRODUCTION

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- a. How to prepare for the last days
- b. Does this concept / topic / idea cause you heartburn?
  - i. Are you comfortable with the concept of living during the last days?
  - ii. This topic has been a source of fear and frustration throughout my life.
    - (1) My mother would try to prepare her children for what she saw in the future.
    - (2) Many of the devotional talks were fear based
    - (3) The Bible does mention many not nice things about the end times.
- c. My coming to grips with the topic:
  - i. Fear and selfishness are opposite of love
    - (1) If you are working from other centered focus, there will be less time to fear and worry about your personal issues
    - (2) Christ was not happy about upcoming Gethsemane
      - (a) He brought his thoughts to His Father
      - (b) He trusted in His Father's word
      - (c) He rested on assurances given by God and depended on Him for the outcome / future
    - (d) Of anyone who ever lived, Christ most epitomized living in the moment while depending on His Father for the future.
- d. Stories of God's protection and watch care
  - i. Elisha and his servant: 2 Kings 6
  - ii. Balaam: Numbers 22, 23, 24
    - (1) PP 443.4 With great pomp the king, with the chief dignitaries of his

PP 443.4 "kingdom, escorted Balaam to "the high places of Baal," from which he could survey the Hebrew host. Behold the prophet as he stands upon the lofty height, looking down over the encampment of God's chosen people. How little do the Israelites know of what is taking place so near them! How little do they know of the care of God, extended over them by day and by night! How dull are the perceptions of God's people! How slow are they, in every age, to comprehend His great love and mercy! If they could discern the wonderful power of God constantly exerted in their behalf, would not their hearts be filled with gratitude for His love, and with awe at the thought of His majesty and



power?”

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie;  
Neither the son of man, that He should repent:  
Hath He said, and shall He not do it?  
Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?  
Behold, I have received commandment to bless:  
And He hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.  
He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob,  
Neither hath He seen perverseness in Israel:  
The Lord his God is with him,  
And the shout of a king is among them."

Awed by these revelations, Balaam exclaimed, "Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel." The great magician had tried his power of enchantment, in accordance with the desire of the Moabites; but concerning this very occasion it should be said of Israel, "What hath God wrought!" While they were under the divine protection, no people or nation, though aided by all the power of Satan, should be able to prevail against them. All the world should wonder at the marvelous work of God in behalf of His people-- that a man determined to pursue a sinful course should be so controlled by divine power as to utter, instead of imprecations, the richest and most precious promises, in the language of sublime and impassioned poetry. And the favor of God at this time manifested toward Israel was to be an assurance of His protecting care for His obedient, faithful children in all ages. When Satan should inspire evil men to misrepresent, harass, and destroy God's people, this very occurrence would be brought to their remembrance, and would strengthen their courage and their faith in God. PP 449.1

2. Psalms 34:7 "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them."
3. "we must be prepared. How? Perhaps the best answer is found in this text: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him" (Col. 2:6, NKJV). In other words, with so many world events, so many headlines, and so many theories about end times, it's easy to get diverted, focusing too much on the things that we think are leading to Christ's coming instead of on Christ Himself, who alone is the key to our preparation."
4. "This quarter the focus is on the end time, but not totally. The real focus is on Jesus, but in the context of the last days and how to be prepared for them."
5. "The more that we focus on Him, the more we become like Him, the more we obey Him, and the more prepared we will be for all that awaits us, both in the immediate future and in the end, the day when we do enter "the place" that Jesus has prepared for those who love Him."

Memory Text: "And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (Revelation 12:17 NKJV)



## SABBATH

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- a. Read the first paragraph. “The cosmic controversy, sometimes called “the great controversy,” is the biblical worldview. .”
- b. What is the question in the controversy?
  - i. If this is a war, what are the combatants fighting over?
  - ii. Why can’t God just leave Satan alone?
    - (1) (Hint: One day He will, and the end result is death. James 1:13 - 15)
- c. In light of the great conflict, what is the “good news”?
  - i. What is the gospel?
  - ii. Many times the Gospel is depicted as “Christ has died for your sins and now you can be saved.”
  - iii. The last paragraph (in speaking of the great controversy) says: “the good news is that one day it will not only end, but it will end with the total victory of Christ over Satan. The even better news is that, because of the completeness of what Jesus did on the cross, all of us can share in that victory. . .”
  - iv. Is that truly the good news?
    - (1) What did Christ accomplish on the cross?
    - (2) What is the war over?
    - (3) How can God or Satan declare victory?
    - (4) If this is a military like campaign, can God accomplish a victory by display or use of his immense creative / physical power?
    - (5) If God were truly like the person Satan made Him out to be, would you want to live eternally with Him?
    - (6) If God won a physical victory with out answering the question of his character, would there be peace in the universe?
    - (7) So what is the ultimate good news?
    - (8) The lesson says in the last paragraph: “The even better good news is that, because of the completeness of what Jesus did on the cross, **all of us can share in that victory.**”
      - (a) Compare the Great Controversy with a sporting event. Christ’s



- “fans” are not only viewers but participants.
- (b) This is not a spectator sport!
- v. The last sentence of the last paragraph: “Finally, as part of that victory, God calls us to faith and obedience as we await all that we have been promised in Jesus, whose coming is assured.”
- (1) Is that why we have faith? Because God calls?
  - (2) Is that why we have obedience?
  - (3) What is the source of faith and obedience?

## SUNDAY

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### The Fall of a Perfect Being

- d. Covers the fall of Lucifer
- e. Texts: Ezekiel 28:1, 2, 11-17; Isaiah 14:12-14
- f. Unexplained
- g. Reported
  
- h. Read the two central paragraphs: Outside the reality of the free will that God has given all His intelligent creatures, no reason exists for the fall of Lucifer. As Ellen G. White so profoundly stated it: “It is impossible to explain the origin of sin so as to give a reason for its existence. . . . Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin.”—The Great Controversy, pp. 492, 493.

Replace the word sin with evil, and the statement works just as well: “It is impossible to explain the origin of [evil] so as to give a reason for its existence. . . . [Evil] is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be [evil].”

## MONDAY

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### More Than Head Knowledge

- i. What is your favorite bible text?
  - i. Mine: Psalms 8 & Romans 8
  
- ii. Psalms 32:8 - 11 “The Lord says, “I will teach you the way you should go; I will instruct you and advise you. Don’t be stupid like a horse or a mule, which must be controlled with a bit and bridle to make it submit.” The wicked will



have to suffer, but those who trust in the Lord are protected by his constant love. You that are righteous, be glad and rejoice because of what the Lord has done. You that obey him, shout for joy!”

- j. What is your least favorite Bible text?
  - i. Is there a text you avoid?
  - ii. A story you don't like to read?
  - iii. For me: I do not like to read Genesis 3.
  - iv. Story:
    - (1) Friend going to see movie: “A Cry in the Dark” (in USA, “Evil Angels” elsewhere, 1988)
    - (2) Meryl Streep, the story of Lindy Chamberlain
    - (3) “Don't leave your baby!”
  - v. I want to say “Don't go near the tree!” “Don't listen to the serpent!”
- k. The lesson discusses that Eve had all the knowledge she needed for correct behavior.
- l. **Information does not change behavior**
- m. Health care:
  - i. Acute health care issues
  - ii. Intermediate health care issues
  - iii. Chronic health care issues
    - (1) DM
    - (2) Obesity
    - (3) Hypertension
    - (4) Dental health: plaque and tartar
- n. Beliefs in climate change and world view
- o. Sex education:[https://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/does\\_anything\\_work\\_in\\_sex\\_education/](https://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/does_anything_work_in_sex_education/)
  - i. A 2002 study published in the British Medical Journal examined 26 programmes that included school based programmes, multi-faceted programmes, family planning and clinic based programmes, as well as abstinence programmes in the US and Canada. The results: “The interventions did not delay initiation of sexual intercourse in young women or young men, did not improve the use of birth control at every intercourse, or at last intercourse for either men or women, did not reduce pregnancy rates in young women.”[2]
  - ii. Another study of a very well-designed and well-delivered sex-ed programme in Scotland was also published in the BMJ. The result: “When the intervention group was compared with the conventional sex education group, there were no differences in sexual activity or sexual risk taking by the age of 16 years.”[3]



- iii. Then there is Douglas Kirby's 2001 survey of over 300 programmes of all sorts. "Most studies of school-based and school-linked health centers revealed no effect on student sexual behavior or contraceptive use." [4]
- iv. <https://www.mercatornet.com/features/view/do-sex-education-programs-work-no-says-major-new-study/19035>
  - (1) The studies in the Cochrane review were all randomised controlled trials from Europe, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa. Most were of high quality and had follow-ups at between 18 months and seven years. The sex education programmes they investigated included peer and teacher-led education and "innovative uses" of drama and group work.
  - (2) What did the Cochrane Review find?
  - (3) One finding of the review was that providing a small cash payment, or giving away a free school uniform, can encourage students to remain at school, especially in places where there are financial barriers to attending. Such incentives to stay at school reduced pregnancy rates by around a quarter and also reduced sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in both girls and boys.
  - (4) However, the more surprising, and no doubt controversial, finding (to many) will be the admission that the mainstay of the current approach to sex education is not working.
  - (5) School-based sexual and reproductive health programmes are widely accepted and implemented as an approach to reducing high-risk sexual behaviour among adolescents. But the Cochrane review found that sex education programmes do not reduce pregnancy and STIs among the young. In fact, they have no effect on adolescent pregnancy and STI rates.
  - (6) "As they are currently designed, sex education programmes alone probably have no effect on the number of young people infected with HIV, other STIs or the number of pregnancies," said lead author of the review, Dr Mason-Jones.
- p. The original sin for Adam and Eve was not the eating of the fruit, it was the loss of trust of God.
  - i. Tim Jennings: The lies believed leads to the loss of love and trust. Loss of love and trust lead to selfishness and attempts at self-preservation.
  - ii. If we can be diverted away from love and trust to seek our own selfish ways, the battle is lost.



- iii. James 1:14 - 15 “But we are tempted when we are drawn away and trapped by our own evil desires. Then our evil desires conceive and give birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.”

## TUESDAY

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### War in Heaven and on Earth

- q. Revelation 12:1 - 17
  - i. The pregnant woman
  - ii. The red dragon who had brought down 1/3rd of heavenly stars ready to destroy new baby
  - iii. Male child born and woman flees
  - iv. War in heaven, came to war on earth, persecution of God’s people
- r. 4<sup>th</sup> Paragraph: “Lucifer was rebelling against his Maker.”
  - i. This is not an argument over creation vs creator.
  - ii. This is an argument over the character of God and how the universe should be run.
- iii. Read Revelation 12:10 - 12
  - (1) How was the battle won?
    - (a) By the blood of the lamb: which is?
    - (b) By the truth which they proclaim: Which is?
    - (c) This is something so important that people are willing to die for it.
  - (2) God’s people are taken out of the world and are exposed to Satan’s effects and side effects.

## WEDNESDAY

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### With You Always, Even Unto the End

- s. Read bottom paragraph: Persecution and bad things happen to good people.
  - i. John 17:11 - In Christ’s last prayer for His disciples before his crucifixion, Christ prayed: “Keep them safe; don’t take them out of this world. . .”
    - (1) What do you understand this to mean?
    - (2) Is this the same prayer I have for myself, my children, my extended family?



- (3) Did God do what Christ asked?
  - (a) How many disciples died a martyr's death
    - (i) all but one
    - (ii) What happened?

## THURSDAY

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### The Law and the Gospel

- t. The second paragraph:
  - i. "The gospel is . . . ."
  - ii. Is that your gospel?
    - (1) What is good news to you is from your perspective.

## FRIDAY

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### Further Thoughts

- u. Revelation 12:9 - 12
- v. "Why Was Sin Permitted" pp. 33 - 43, in *Patriarchs and Prophets*; Ellen G. White.