

## The War in Heaven

**As you go about your life today—walking the dog, shopping,** going to work, talking with friends, and so on—did you know that you are involved in a war? A big war. A war of the worlds. A clash of the titans of heaven. It's a different kind of war, invisible to our sight, but—compared with earthly wars—far more deadly, and *it applies to you*. It is real—more real than you can imagine in your most convincing nightmares.

It began far back in the hidden regions of eternity past, in heaven, before earth came into being. The Bible says, “There was war in heaven,”<sup>1</sup> the nature of which requires some explaining. The word translated “war” or “battle” or “fighting” is from the Greek word *polemos* from which we get our word “polemic.” The *Cambridge Dictionary Online* describes “polemic” as “a piece of writing or a speech in which a person argues forcefully for or against someone or something.” This was an argument of mammoth proportions. Scripture assures us that Deity, the defendant in this war, does not fight with guns and bombs. Rather, “in *righteousness* he [God] doth judge and make war,”<sup>2</sup> letting us know that, because righteousness was God's only weapon, no one died in the war in heaven, but strong arguments of the principals sought to bring heaven's inhabitants to their side.

### Lucifer

The war began when an angel named Lucifer<sup>3</sup> began to feel he was not getting the respect that he deserved. Lucifer must have been influential and highly honored in heaven, for God created him with rubies, emeralds, diamonds, and other valuable gems set in a golden background as his clothing.<sup>4</sup> The Bible says he was the “anointed cherub who covers,” the chief “covering cherub,”<sup>5</sup> wrapped in jewels from head to toe, and adored by the other angels. We can imagine that he may have watched as the other angels came into being—“ten thousand times ten thousand” and “thousands of thousands.”<sup>6</sup> Upward mobility began with him, for the Bible says his ambition was to be God.<sup>7</sup>

When God denied his request, Lucifer did not let it go. Blinded by false pride and jealousy, up to now unknown in heaven, he accused God of keeping secrets. The “truth” was, he said, that all the angels and all created beings were gods in the making. God was protecting His position in an unfair way by not informing them of this. He made it appear that he was working on behalf of the angels, for they would see right through his ruse if he sought “godness” for himself alone. With subtlety worthy of a better cause he fomented discord and rebellion among the angels.

Can you imagine how God must have felt? He could only speak truth to Lucifer. He could only tell him that Deity was not a position one gained through promotion. Deity is like “round.” Either you are or you're not. Could he uphold the universe? Create and sustain life? No? Then he could not be God. He bore long with Lucifer. When finally Lucifer left heaven,<sup>8</sup> he took a third of the angels with him.<sup>9</sup> He lied to our first parents and gained their title as prince of this world. Now they live here among us in the invisible realm, seeking to annoy us, to tempt us, to destroy us, and they continue that great conflict began in heaven, here on earthly soil.

### Violating the Principles of Heaven

When Lucifer accused God, most people don't realize that he was challenging God's Law of Ten Commandments. Was there Law in heaven? Or did Law begin at Mt. Sinai? “[W]here no law is, there is no

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<sup>1</sup> Revelation 12:7.

<sup>2</sup> Revelation 19:11.

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 14:12.

<sup>4</sup> Ezekiel 28:13.

<sup>5</sup> Ezekiel 28:14, 16.

<sup>6</sup> Daniel 7:10.

<sup>7</sup> Isaiah 14:12-14.

<sup>8</sup> Jude 6.

<sup>9</sup> Rev. 12:4.

transgression [sin].”<sup>10</sup> “By the law is the knowledge of sin.”<sup>11</sup> “Sin is the transgression of the law.”<sup>12</sup> “Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”<sup>13</sup> “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”<sup>14</sup> “Thou [Lucifer] wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till *iniquity* was found in thee. . . . and thou has *sinned*.”<sup>15</sup> Since there was sin in heaven and sin and death on this planet *before Sinai*, the Law must have been there, too.<sup>16</sup>

In fact, that law expressed God’s character <sup>17</sup>; it was as eternal as God Himself. God keeps His Law (How can He not?), and Lucifer—now called Satan, the Accuser—said God lied that the angels cannot be God. He accused God of withholding from them their natural destiny to be Gods; therefore, He was a thief. Finally, when God told them they would die of unrepentant sin, Lucifer twisted it to mean that God would kill them. In short, he accused God of breaking His own law. Everything that Lucifer had done, he accused God of doing.

In the Garden of Eden Satan demonstrated his ability to twist a clear statement of God into another meaning. God had told our first parents not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil because “in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”<sup>18</sup> But Satan told them, your death will not result from disbelieving what God has told you. Your death will result because God will kill you. Therefore, he was not backing away from his accusation that God murders.

Thus we can see how the war turned into an issue over God’s character, what God was really like, and whether or not He could be trusted. Jesus’ mission on earth was to show that character and gain back the royal title lost by Adam.

### **How the War Affects Our Life Today**

Even though he lost his title as prince of this world to Jesus on Calvary, Satan fights on against God’s people. The great conflict transcends into this question, asked of everyone born on Planet Earth: Whom do you believe, God or Lucifer?

Just as earthly nations require law to assure justice among its citizens, the heavenly kingdom also needs law in order that justice may flow smoothly throughout its realms.

Aleister Crowley reflects his master, Lucifer, when he says, “Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the law.” Don’t be constrained by rules. And we can see the results of this policy in the world today through violence, deception, homicide, suicide, vice, greed, irreverence for God and many other sins and crimes.

God, on the other hand, says, “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14: 15). God reveals Himself as completely in harmony with His Law and forever good and merciful. How could it be otherwise, since the law of Ten Commandments is just His character written down?<sup>19</sup>

Many have complained that the church teaches only the love of God today, with little attention to judgment, justice and law-keeping. Now we see that when we teach the love of God, we *also* teach judgment, justice and law-keeping *exponentially*, as the true picture emerges. God is not a thief, liar, or murderer. He shelters and protects us from the one who does these things. But when by our actions we express preference for the lawless one and his ways, God must regrettably *leave us* to our choice. Thus Satan has access, and that’s when the killing begins.

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<sup>10</sup> Romans 4:15, NIV.

<sup>11</sup> Romans 3:20.

<sup>12</sup> John 3:4.

<sup>13</sup> James 1:15.

<sup>14</sup> 1 John 3:4.

<sup>15</sup> Ezekiel 28:15, 16, emphasis supplied.

<sup>16</sup> See also Genesis 26:5, Exodus 16:14-30.

<sup>17</sup> Psalm 119:172, Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16.

<sup>18</sup> Genesis 2:17.

<sup>19</sup> Psalm 119:172; Jeremiah 23:6.

Few realize today that the Law, besides being a reflection of God's character, assures the well being of all who volunteer to live within its boundaries.

The same issues that were raised in heaven exist on earth today. We have a role to play in that war. We choose, by our actions, which side we desire to win—God's, by living the Ten Commandments through His grace, or Lucifer's, not constrained by any law. Which will you have?

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## For More Information:

- [www.4Adventists.com](http://www.4Adventists.com)  
Two Books Titled: *Light Through the Darkness: A Vindication of God*, 157 pages, and an *Adventist Supplement*, 72 pages.
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBZfdgggyXw&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBZfdgggyXw&feature=youtu.be)  
(or) <http://youtu.be/hMaItpis72c>  
A Video Titled: *A New Look At the Character of God*
- [www.GodsCharacter.com](http://www.GodsCharacter.com)  
A Book Titled: *Servant God: The Cosmic Conflict Over God's Trustworthiness*, 418 pages
- [www.TeachServices.com/as-he-is-4th-angel-publications-paperback-1si/](http://www.TeachServices.com/as-he-is-4th-angel-publications-paperback-1si/)  
A Book Titled: *As He Is: Issues in the 'Character of God' Controversy*, 334 pages (Contact [straub@direct.ca](mailto:straub@direct.ca) for alternate pricing.)

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