

# ARISE BIBLE STUDY DOCTRINES

**Study:** The Great Controversy (GC).

Three Components: **Origin**, **Outworking**, and **Obsolescence of Evil**

**Purpose:** To show that there is a cataclysmic cosmic conflict between God and Satan and that Planet Earth is its theater. According to the Bible, evil is a direct result of rebellion against God's law.

**Center It:** God is love. The earth is the theater of the Great Controversy, and the issue of worship is at the center.

**Know It / Mark It:**

1. 1 John 4:8
2. Genesis 1 and 2
3. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-39
4. Luke 13:10-16
5. Luke 10:17, 18
6. Isaiah 14:12-15
7. Ezekiel 28:12-19
8. Matthew 4:1-10
9. Job 1:6-11
10. Luke 8:26-28
11. Revelation 13 and 14
12. Revelation 21:1-4; Revelation 22:1-5
13. Philippians 2:5-11

**Share it:**

1. **1 John 4:8:** God is love. Why is there so much human suffering if the latter is true?
2. **Genesis 1 and 2:** Underline all of the "good" texts. "Good" occurs seven times in this passage . . . *Nobody's answer to this question of evil is exhaustive, but this answer is the best one I can give.*
3. **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-39:** Underline all of the "good" texts. This parable can be reduced to a critically important phrase: "**An enemy has done this.**" Key Question: According to the parable that Jesus tells, how much responsibility does the landowner take for the presence of the weeds? He takes none! When asked by his servants about his culpability in this situation, he responds with the following phrase: "**An enemy has done this.**" The etymology of the word "devil" is this: it becomes evil once the "e" is removed.
4. **Luke 13:10-16:** Key phrase: ". . . **Whom Satan has bound.**" The word "Satan" is a transliteration of the Hebrew word "Saw-tawn", which means "accuser" or "adversary." How much responsibility did Jesus take in this passage? None!
5. **Luke 10:17, 18:** Key phrase: "**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.**" The seventy disciples are jubilant because they consider the demons to be subject to them. However, Jesus says the following with great sadness: "**I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.**" *In verses 19 and 20,*

*Jesus informs the disciples that they should not rejoice because the spirits were subject to them, but that they should rather rejoice because their names are written in heaven. Falling from heaven? This paraphrases a very important Biblical passage that helps clarify the identity of this entity named "Satan" who has committed so many atrocities against the human race . . .*

6. **Isaiah 14:12-15:** Four Aspects:

- a. **Jesus was referencing this passage.**
- b. **There are five "I will" statements – A war of wills . . . .** Underline them *God's will is one will in the universe that is hoping for a certain outcome, but He places Himself on equal footing with those of mortals.*
- c. **12 or so references to upward motion or mobility** (Underline all). This indicates a basic dissatisfaction with one's current position . . .
- d. **Chiastic structure.** A, B, C, C', B', A'. Isaiah charts the information about Satan in a literary structure known as a chiasm, which is a form of recapitulation . . . Stars are obviously angels and clouds are references to multitudes of angels – but we will further discuss this in another Bible study. Does Satan want to be like God and emulate His character? No, absolutely not! He is a megalomaniac who covets the position of authority occupied by the Almighty. *The reason why so many angels believed him is twofold: (1): The inherent mystery involved in the pondering of God's nature and (2): The access; the priviness, that Satan believed he had to the inner workings of God . . . The reason why it seemed that the goodness of the nature of God was because of the absence of sin; in other words, His nature was apparently concealed because there was no standard by which to judge its profundity.*

7. **Ezekiel 28:12-19.**

- a. The word "perfection" appears three times in verses 12 and 15 (underline).
- b. Three Jewish pictures of proximity to God (Verse 14). Satan lost them in verse 16.
  - i. ". . . Anointed cherub." This refers to the Most Holy Place.
  - ii. ". . . you were on the holy mountain of God." Examples: Sinai, Moriah, Carmel, Zion, Calvary, Olives. Biblically, God frequently manifests Himself on mountains . . . This means that Satan was in God's immediate presence.
  - iii. "Fiery stones." This is a reference to sapphire stone. Sea of glass. Like "a sea of glass" in Revelation. *Revelation 15:2 says that the saints were standing on a sea of glass mingled with fire – or fiery stones!* This is another reference to proximity. Sapphire pavement is found in Exodus 24:10. *What Ezekiel does is to give three Jewish metaphors of closeness to God – which we cannot discuss in detail for sake of time. However, any Jew at that time would have recognized these references as referring to the proximity of the beholder to God's throne.*  
**Add information from A God Named Desire . . .**
- c. A seemingly weird word in verses 16 and 18 ("trading"). Rek-oo-lah. This is the Hebrew word here. By your rekoolah . . . The origin of the word rekoolah in the Hebrew is the very same as the word meaning "to tell a lie" or "to gossip". *Satan was trafficking in ideas or lies . . .*
- d. The multiple appearances of "you" and "your" in verses 12 through 19.

8. **Matthew 4:1-10**

- a. Verse 9 is key . . . Verse 9 reveals what the Great Controversy is really about – it is about an irrational lust for worship and adulation that is only due to the Creator . . . Satan wants God’s place and position, but not His personality or the responsibility inherent in such a position.
9. **Job 1:6-11:** Verse 7 involves Satan making a territorial claim – upon planet Earth. However, God refutes his claim by citing Job as one of the righteous men who have refused to join the hosts of the devil. In Verse 9, Satan contradicts God’s statement by claiming that he merely bought his servant Job’s loyalty and that his faith is conditional. Again, the center of this text is worship . . .
10. **Luke 8:26-28:** The fallen angel that is acting through the demoniac begs Jesus not to torment him because he believes the lie about God’s character: That God is nefarious and sadistic . . .
11. **Revelation 13 and 14:** In Romans 1, there is a reference to how God leaves his created beings to the consequences of their sins. By nature, He cannot coerce human beings into worshipping or loving Him . . .
- a. Underline all of the worship texts (8 occurrences) . . . Seven references to false worship (the devil’s false religious system) and a singular reference to true worship (worshiping the Almighty). Revelation 13: Verses 4, 8, 12, and 15 Revelation 14: Verses 7, 9, and 11
- b. There are five references to coercion, suppression, and tyranny (underline) – which describe Satan’s false system of worship and the lie he is propagating about God. Verses 12, 14, 15, and 16. “Cause”, “kill”, “make,” and “tell.”
12. **Revelation 21:1-4; Revelation 22:1-5:** The very fact that there is mention of a terminus event points back to Matthew 13:24-30. The mention of restoration points back to Genesis 1 and 2 . . . This Bible study has now come full circle . . . There is a clear Eden-to-Eden motif in Scripture (from Genesis to Revelation).
- a. **1 Corinthians 4:9 (optional):** “We have been made a spectacle to the world . . .” This word means “theatre.”
13. **Philippians 2:5-11:** Seven downward steps taken by God. Contrast this to the chiastic poem regarding Satan in Isaiah 14:13-15 . . . The necessary step in self-exaltation is to get abased . . . On the other hand, Jesus willingly humbled Himself for the benefit of others and gave Himself for humanity – which brought Him to exaltation instead of abasement as what happened to Satan.
- a. “Being in the form of God . . .” (verse 6)
- b. “Made Himself of no reputation . . .” (verse 7)
- c. “Taking the form of a bondservant . . .” (verse 7)
- d. “Coming in the likeness of men.” (Verse 7)
- e. “Being found in appearance as a man . . .” (verse 8)
- f. “Humbled himself . . .” (verse 8)
- g. “Became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross . . .” (verse 8)

**Appeal:** 1 Corinthians 4:9 . . . What form of government do you prefer: A dictatorship or authoritarian regime in which obedience is based upon coercion and fear? A government and free society constrained by the constitution of love such as that enshrined by God in which the leaders are servants to humanity?

**Defend It:**

How do you know that the king of Tyre is a reference to Satan?

Short answer: Contextually, this passage demands that it is not a man . . . This is a lamentation for the downfall of a real figure who became a metaphor for the downfall of Satan . . .

What is the definition of “perfect”?

Answer: No moral perfection, but in the sense of loyalty to God (Genesis 25:27; Job 1:8)

Why did God create Satan?

Answer: He didn't . . .

Why did God create Lucifer if He had the foreknowledge that he would become Satan, the Archdeceiver?

Answer: Created beings resisted God's will because they were created with a free will and freely used their own wills to resist Him . . . God has a will, I have a will, and you have a will!

**Supplemental Information:**

- The Eternal Mystery: That God would create a being that would resist Him (Luke 7:30).
  - Love requires freedom.
  - Freedom involves risk. (Luke 7:30)
  - Risk entails responsibility
    - Morally superior
    - Morally inferior
  - Moral responsibility makes it possible to grow morally
    - Making the better of two choices and being given the opportunity to make the morally superior choice allows for growth in experience.
      - This is how God allows us the opportunity to make better choices and grow spiritually, morally, and physically . . .

Illustration: If your teenage son / daughter requests the keys and you give them the privilege of driving your car, you have given them freedom. This then entails responsibility on your son / daughter's part . . .

Time is a mystery . . . It can be likened to fish trying to describe water when they have lived out their entire lives in a body of water.

The word sometimes used to refer to God is “timelessness”. When the Greeks used this term, they used it to apply to something that lived outside of the constraints of time.

Sanctuary . . . The hermeneutical key that unlocks the plan of salvation for us. Fernando Kenali says that the sanctuary was (1) a spatial reality and (2) a calendric system. The sanctuary is a spatio-temporal metaphor for God. We are trapped in space and time, yet are moving through time.

How God moves through time is a mystery within a mystery within a mystery within a mystery . . .

Fibonacci's numbers / Fibonacci's sequence . . .

God came to experience life as we are in a finite spatio-temporal dimension . . . He humbled Himself and made Himself of no reputation . . . God was powerful enough to divest Himself of some of His own power – similar to the way that we communicate with babies or pets.

Foreknowing is not causal . . .

If God knows the outcome, this does not detract from our experience because God's foreknowing is not a causal agent in our spiritual outcomes . . .

God cannot change time – grandfather paradox

Changing and knowing are not the same time. To know the past is far different from the ability to change the past . . . God's nature constrains His actions . . .

We can place stakes as to what we know for sure (that God can't change the past, free will, the power of prayer), but articulating the exact point of the truth is difficult to impossible

Illustration:

If God could manipulate the past, this would abrogate the possibility of love – His ability to have a relationship with His created beings

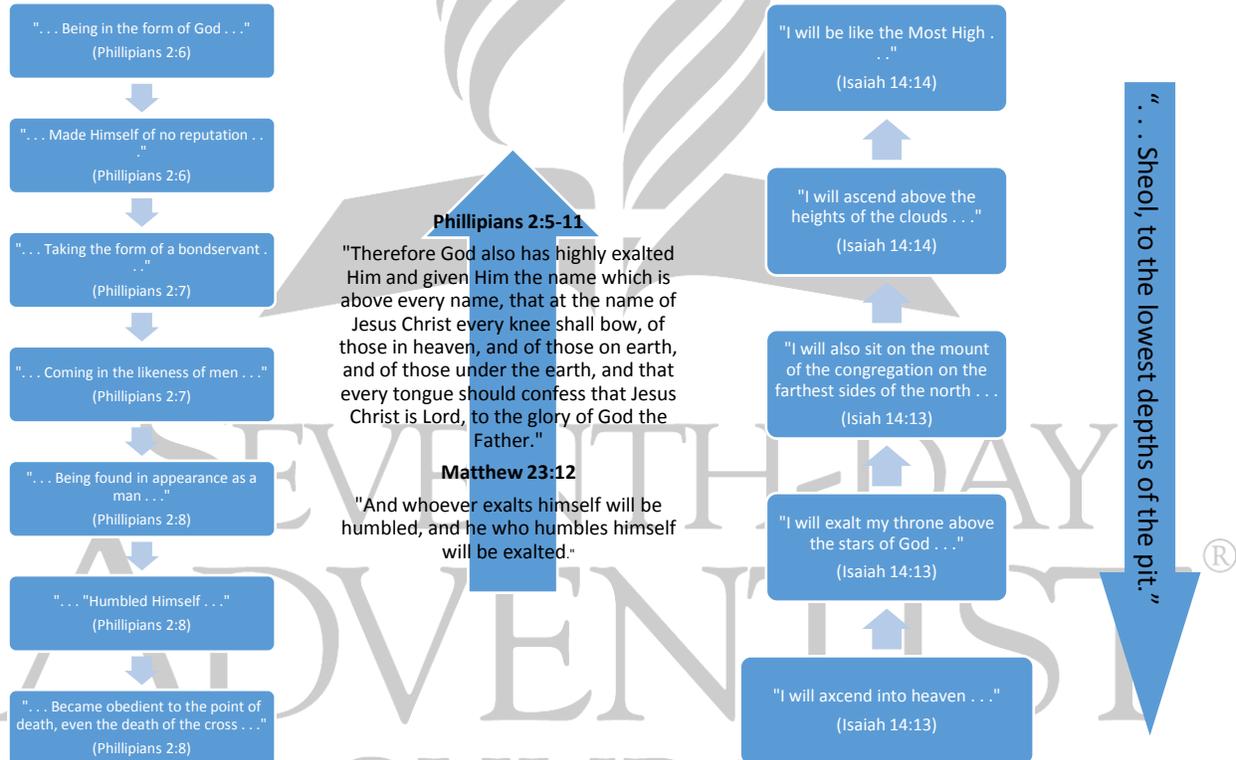


Figure 1. There are seven consecutive steps in Philippians 2:5-8 that Jesus took to put Him at the same level as humanity. Conversely, Satan took the opposite route and exalted himself, a deliberate action that is in clear contradiction with Scripture. In Isaiah 14:15, Satan hits "rock bottom." "Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the pit."