



**THE COSMIC CONFLICT  
OVER GOD'S CHARACTER**



**“If the veil which separates the visible from the invisible world could be lifted, and the people of God could behold the great controversy that is going on between Christ and holy angels and Satan and his evil hosts concerning the redemption of man; if they could understand the wonderful work of God for the rescue of souls from the bondage of sin, and the constant exercise of His power for their protection from the malice of the evil one, they would be better prepared to withstand the devices of Satan. Their minds would be solemnized in view of the vast extent and importance of the plan of redemption and the greatness of the work before them as colaborers with Christ. They would be humbled, yet encouraged, knowing that all heaven is interested in their salvation”**

E.G.W. (Counsels for the Church, cp. 65, pg. 350)

### ❖ The Great Controversy.

- Lucifer’s rebellion.
- God is accused.

### ❖ God is vindicated.

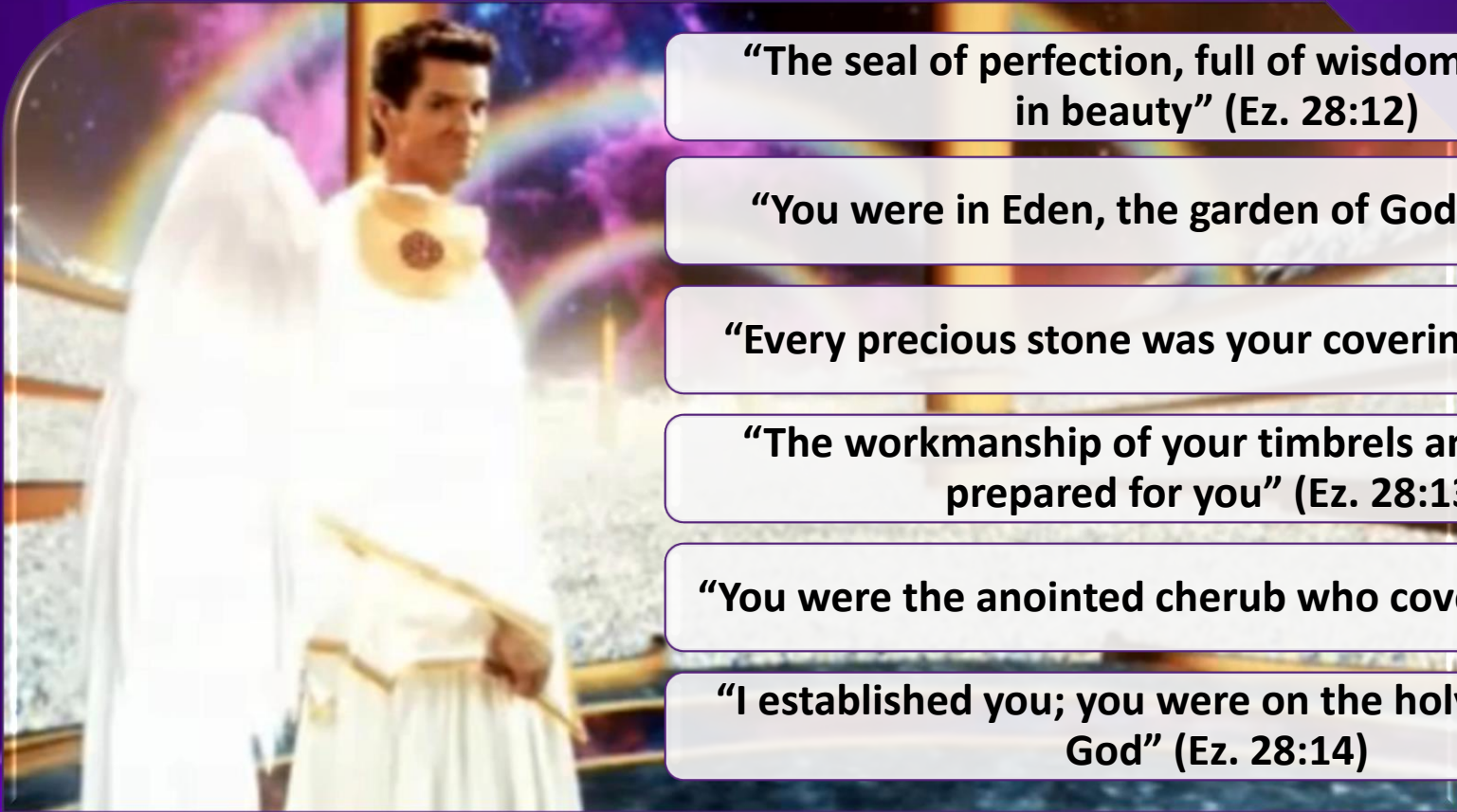
- Vindication at the cross.
- Vindication at the Judgment.

### ❖ Witnesses to the Controversy.



# LUCIFER'S REBELLION

Ezekiel 18:12-17 and Isaiah 14:12-15 detail Lucifer's rebellion in Heaven.



**“The seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty” (Ez. 28:12)**

**“You were in Eden, the garden of God” (Ez. 28:13)**

**“Every precious stone was your covering” (Ez. 28:13)**

**“The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you” (Ez. 28:13)**

**“You were the anointed cherub who covers” (Ez. 28:14)**

**“I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God” (Ez. 28:14)**

**God created Lucifer as a perfect being, extremely beautiful and an expert in music. He was given a special mission in the Heavenly Sanctuary as the cherub who covers at the Throne; he conducted the heavenly praises.**

# LUCIFER'S REBELLION

## THE REBELLION



- “You were perfect... till iniquity was found in you” (Ez. 28:15)
- “By the abundance of your trading... you sinned” (Ez. 28:16)
- “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty” (Ez. 28:17)
- “You defiled your sanctuaries” (Ez. 28:18)
- “I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation” (Is. 14:13)
- “I will be like the Most High” (Is. 14:14)



## THROWN OUT FROM HEAVEN

- “I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God” (Ez. 28:16)
- “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!” (Is. 14:12)



## THE FUTURE DESTRUCTION

- “I brought fire from your midst; it devoured you” (Ez. 28:18)
- “You shall be brought down to Sheol” (Is. 14:15)

Lucifer inexplicably wanted to be like his Creator and to substitute the divine government by his own.

God had to dismiss him from the Heavenly Sanctuary and to throw him out from the Heaven. Lucifer will finally be destroyed because of his sins.



# GOD IS ACCUSED

Satan (“adversary”) accused God of injustice and attacked His Law in Heaven. His accusations are still attacking God on Earth.



## ○ At Eden (Gn. 3:1-5)

☞ He accused God of being arbitrary with His laws so no other could be like Him.

## ○ Job’s case (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7)

☞ He accused God of bribing men to make them obey Him by personal interest and not for love.

## ○ Joshua’s case (Zec. 3:1-2)

☞ He accused God of being unfair because He forgives the sins of people.



Both in the vision of the High Priest Joshua and in the resurrection of Moses, Jesus did not counter Satan’s accusations. He just said, “The Lord rebuke you!” (Judas 9) God didn’t defend Himself from the accusation, but He waited the right time to be vindicated.



# VINDICATION AT THE CROSS

Vindicate is to clear from guilt, accusation, blame, etc., as by evidence or argument, so the slandered person can get what he lost back.

The first evidence in God's case was the death of Jesus at the cross. There He showed His love and justice.

*"The Lord is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works"*

*(Psalm 145:17)*

**"The fact that the only-begotten Son of God gave His life because of man's transgression, to satisfy justice and to vindicate the honor of God's law, should be constantly kept before the minds of children and youth. The object of this great sacrifice should also be kept before them; for it was to uplift fallen man degraded by sin that this great sacrifice was made. Christ suffered in order that through faith in Him our sins might be pardoned"**

E.G.W. (Fundamentals of Christian Education, cp. 45, pg. 369)

**“But the plan of redemption had a yet broader and deeper purpose than the salvation of man. It was not for this alone that Christ came to the earth; it was not merely that the inhabitants of this little world might regard the law of God as it should be regarded; but it was to vindicate the character of God before the universe. To this result of His great sacrifice—its influence upon the intelligences of other worlds, as well as upon man—the Saviour looked forward when just before His crucifixion He said: “Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all unto Me.” John 12:31, 32. The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would justify God and His Son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. It would establish the perpetuity of the law of God and would reveal the nature and the results of sin”**



# VINDICATION AT THE JUDGMENT

"Far be it from You to do such a thing as this, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous should be as the wicked; far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?"  
(Genesis 18:25)



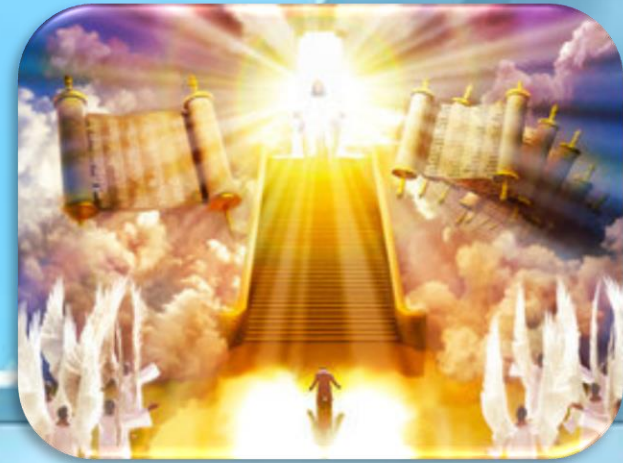
The Bible states that God is fair when He judges (Ps. 96:10; 2Tim. 4:8; Rev. 19:2). That is part of His character (Ps. 98:14)

Knowing who is going to be saved is not the only goal of the Judgment. God's character is vindicated at the Judgment; His Name is cleansed of all the lies Satan used to attack Him.



## WITNESSES TO THE CONTROVERSY

**“And I will sanctify My great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I am the Lord,” says the Lord God, “when I am hallowed in you before their eyes” (Ezekiel 36:23)**



**God declares that once the Judgment would be over, “Every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God” (Romans 14:11)**

**During the Investigative Judgment, all Heaven (angels and non-fallen worlds) will admit God’s justice and His character will be vindicated.**

**During the millenium, the saved ones will review that Judgment and will also admit God’s character and justice.**

**At the end of the millenium, Satan and his angels, and the impious ones will also admit his just condemnation.**

**God’s character will then be vindicated before all His creatures.**



**“Satan sees that his voluntary rebellion has unfitted him for heaven. He has trained his powers to war against God; the purity, peace, and harmony of heaven would be to him supreme torture. His accusations against the mercy and justice of God are now silenced. The reproach which he has endeavored to cast upon Jehovah rests wholly upon himself. And now Satan bows down and confesses the justice of his sentence”**

E.G.W. (The Great Controversy, cp. 42 “The Controversy Ended, pg. 670)

**“In sparing the life of the first murderer, God presented before the whole universe a lesson bearing upon the great controversy.... It was His purpose, not merely to put down the rebellion, but to demonstrate to all the universe the nature of rebellion....The holy inhabitants of other worlds were watching with the deepest interest the events taking place on the earth... The act of Christ in dying for the salvation of man would not only make heaven accessible to men, but before all the universe it would justify God and His son in their dealing with the rebellion of Satan. The whole universe is watching with inexpressible interest the closing scenes of the great controversy between good and evil. Our little world is the lesson book of the universe”**

E.G.W. (Last Day Events, cp. 2, pg. 29)