

Chapter 15

Why The Universe And The Human Race Exist

The reason we are here is to demonstrate that human beings can do what the more powerful angels in Heaven refused to do!

The human race exists because of a rebellion among the angels that erupted in the Heavenly realm before God created the universe! Everything I'm writing is well supported by Scripture. In this article, I'm giving you a summary of the details.

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1)

The first part of His creation was to create the "angelic realm". He also created innumerable angels. He created them so that He could love them. All He asked of them was that they would love Him.

In this eternal Heavenly realm, the highest ranking angel was named "Lucifer", which means "Shining One".

But something went wrong! Lucifer was so magnificent, so powerful, that pride welled up in him. We would say he "got the big head". He was so powerful, so magnificent, that he -- the creature -- believed that he deserved to have his own kingdom where God would have to share His glory with Lucifer and have lesser angels worship him.

But God does not share His Glory with anyone.

“I am the Lord; that is My name; My glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.”

(Isaiah 42:8)

All of us are caught in the crossfire of a conflict that we had nothing to do with starting, but from which we cannot escape!

This conflict erupted in the angelic realm -- the Heavenly realm -- in eternity past, long before the natural realm (the universe) and Adam and Eve even existed.

What Lucifer really wanted was something that only God had:

Independence!

Lucifer intended to exalt himself above God.

“Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18)

Lucifer presented his plan -- his "marketing strategy" -- to all the angels. So enticing was his plan that he persuaded a third of the angels to join him in his rebellion. They demanded the right to set up their own kingdom!

There's a lesson in that for us:

Consider: if Lucifer was that persuasive, that crafty, that cunning in his appeal to the angels (remember: angels are perfect beings, living in a perfect place) and yet they bought Lucifer's lies... we don't stand a chance when we try to live apart from God!

That rebellion turned out to be an incredibly foolish strategy!

That's what pride does to a person. Here was a creature demanding to have all the powers and attributes of the Creator.

Lucifer was given the name "Satan" (which means "accuser") and was cast out of Heaven, along with all of his followers. They were exiled to a watery, formless, dark place called: "Earth"!

Satan and his legions of demons were judged and sentenced ultimately to what Scripture calls "everlasting fire" and "The Lake of Fire". They protested, arguing that their sentence was unfair.

But God was way ahead of them!

Instead of just snuffing these evil, rebellious angelic beings out of existence, God decided to actually use their rebellion in order to demonstrate His omnipotence -- and in the process gain more glory for Himself!

God's plan was to show that He could create a race of lesser beings (the human race) and demonstrate that humans -- by freely choosing to live in obedience to God -- would advance farther with God than did the more powerful angelic beings who chose to rebel.

In so doing, God would embarrass Lucifer and expose him as a fraud!

This entire angelic conflict reduces to one word: Glory!

Lucifer insisted that God must share His glory with him. But as stated earlier, God has declared that He does not share His glory with anyone!

Then God unfolded the next part of His plan:

He created the "natural realm" -- the universe and all that is in it -- including time itself.

We read in the Bible how God caused light to come back to Earth, how God separated the land from the water, and how He created all kinds of plants and animals.

And Then:

God did something spectacular:

He created the first human beings: a man and a woman -- Adam and Eve.

Well... you know what happened:

Satan, appearing to Eve in the form of a serpent, engaged Eve with his smooth talk. Eve chose to believe Satan's "re-interpretation" of God's Word. Thus Satan enticed Eve to disobey God, and she ate the forbidden fruit. The lying snake reassured Eve that there would be no consequences for what was being portrayed by the snake as a trivial, inconsequential little issue. Finally, the

snake influenced Eve's thinking, getting her to use her womanly powers of persuasion to entice Adam to buy in -- and Adam also ate the forbidden fruit.

And so the conflict / contest began:

In order to demonstrate that He was indeed acting fairly, God set up conditions for humans similar to the conditions that the fallen angels failed to uphold.

God put Lucifer in charge over all the angels in heaven. God gave Adam dominion over the whole Earth.

Lucifer and all the angels of heaven were perfectly created beings -- with immortality. Adam and Eve were perfectly created beings -- also with immortality.

God instructed all of the angels as to their assigned tasks. God also instructed Adam and Eve as to what to eat and what not to eat.

Lucifer and all the angels of heaven were in a perfect place in the heavenly realm called "Eden".

Adam and Eve were in a perfect place in the natural realm called "Eden".

Lucifer and all the angels of heaven had a free will, the ability to choose to obey or disobey.

Adam and Eve also had a free will. They were not restrained from choosing against God's command.

Lucifer and the angels had direct, intimate fellowship with God. Adam and Eve walked with God in the cool of the evening.

After Satan and his followers sinned, they were cast out of Eden in the heavenly realm. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were banished from Eden in the natural realm.

One more similarity:

The Bible teaches that the eventual destination for Satan and his fallen angels will be eternal punishment in the "Lake of Fire". Sadly, the Bible also teaches that humans that choose not to accept God's free gift of eternal joy in heaven with Him will get what they wanted on Earth: separation from God. Their destination will also be in the "Lake of Fire"!

"Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire" (Matthew 25:41)

Lucifer found himself in "damage control" mode:

Satan (formerly "Lucifer") heard God say to Adam and Eve that Eve's "seed" -- one of her descendants -- would "crush his head". So, Satan set about trying to take control of Eve's offspring.

A few of Satan's attempts:

Satan stirred up Cain to kill Abel, believing that he had taken care of this "seed" problem. Satan didn't know that Adam and Eve would have a son named Seth, nor that Seth would one day become the father of Enoch -- and at that time people began to call upon the name of the Lord.

When Satan caused people to begin constructing a great tower reaching to heaven (getting to Heaven by "works"), God sowed confusion into their minds by creating foreign languages among the peoples.

Satan went global with his "seed-control" program. He sent his demonic "sons of God" to take control of human men. These demon-possessed men had relations with human women, who gave birth to hideous, wicked giants called "the Nephilim". God's counter-move was to destroy all of them with the great flood. All that is, except one righteous man named Noah. With Noah and his family, God re-started the whole human race.

Satan caused King Herod to slaughter all the male children under the age of two years. But an angel warned Mary and Joseph to take their son, Jesus, and flee to Egypt.

Satan really thought he had won when he arranged for Judas to betray Jesus, then for Jesus to be arrested and falsely accused, then to have Jesus nailed to a cross and crucified.

But:

Satan did not know about grace!

Imagine the shock on Satan's face when he realized how he had played right into God's hands!

The Jews were expecting a powerful leader who would get them out from under the rule of the Roman empire. They had no idea that this messiah had anything to do with atoning for their sins. They believed they would continue sacrificing animals to God as payment for sins.

What Satan didn't know -- and what many people to this day don't seem to know -- is that Jesus Christ's death on a cross was God's plan from the beginning as a means of dealing with the inevitable sins of all human beings. Jesus literally became one of us, so that He could live a totally perfect, sinless life and thus be qualified to be an acceptable sacrifice for all the sins of all humanity! He took upon Himself the sins of the entire human race in exchange for His righteousness before God. Jesus has paid the full price for all the sins of all the people -- for all time: past sins, present sins, and future sins:

“But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified. ”

(Hebrews 10:12-14)

So where does all of this leave us?

So now, we are all born under the curse of Adam's sin. Because of the sin of our first parents, humans gave dominion of the Earth back to Satan.

This angelic conflict continues to this day! The only satisfaction Satan has now is to try to keep human souls from going to heaven. Satan wants to "stick it to Jesus" by taking as many of us into the lake of fire with him as he can.

Satan realizes that he cannot overpower God. So instead, Satan and his legions of demons work tirelessly with the goal of controlling the thinking of every one of us -- and to do so without our awareness!

As I wrote at the beginning of this article:

The reason we are here is to demonstrate that human beings can do what the more powerful angels in Heaven refused to do!

We willingly choose to live under God's authority!!

Besides that, Jesus already won the victory for us.

All we have to do is -- as Paul wrote: "Put on the armor of God, to stand against the schemes of the devil" (Ephesians 6:11)