



# d'Sozo

REVERSING THE WORST EVIL



# The Big Question

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT US

# **Our Big Question**

**“Why Was Sin Permitted?”**

*—Patriarchs and Prophets, Chapter One*

# Everyone Else's Big Question

**“Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men....**

*—Desire of Ages, 22*

# **The Beginning...**

**“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”**

**—John 8:44**

# The Beginning...

- ◆ If I don't believe God will take care of me, that's a loss of faith.
- ◆ If I think I can do a better job of taking care of myself than God can, that's pride (and stupidity).
- ◆ If I try taking care of myself in some way other than what God asks me to, that's disobedience.
- ◆ If my influence convinces someone else that "self-serving" is better than "service," that's lying.
- ◆ And if I put myself first, instead of loving my neighbor as myself, that's stealing, and—under enough pressure—it will become murder.

# The Beginning...

- ◆ **Self-renouncing love is the law of life.**  
—*Desire of Ages*, 19
- ◆ **The circuit of beneficence is... the law of life.**  
—*Desire of Ages*, 21
- ◆ **The great law of life is a law of service.**  
—*Education*, 103
- ◆ **To give is to live.**  
—*Desire of Ages*, 623
- ◆ **Self-sacrifice is the law of self-preservation.**  
—*Education*, 110

# The Beginning...

- ◆ **Self-renunciation is the great law of self-preservation, and self-preservation is the law of self-destruction.**

—*Signs of the Times*, July 1, 1897

# The Setting

**“And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’”**

**—Luke 10:18**

# Stage One

**“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”**

**—Revelation 12:7–9**

# Stage One

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was **cast out**, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

—Revelation 12:7–9

# Stage Two

**“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”**

**—John 12:31**

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“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”

—John 12:31

**“Christ bowed His head and died, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God. ‘And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.’” Rev. 12:10.**

—*Desire of Ages*, 761

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**“After the crucifixion, [Satan] saw that he had overreached himself....**

**“Satan saw that his disguise was torn away, that the character he had tried to fasten on Christ was fastened on himself. It was as if he had the second time fallen from heaven.”**

**—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, 411**

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## Stage Two

**“God... looked upon the victim expiring on the cross, and said, ‘It is finished. The human race shall have another trial.’ The redemption price was paid, and Satan fell like lightning from heaven.”**

**—*Youth’s Instructor*, June 21, 1900**

## Stage Three

**“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.’”**

**—Revelation 12:10–12**

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—Revelation 12:10–12

## Stage Three

- ◆ **The “accuser of the brethren” has been cast down**
- ◆ **A group of people have beaten the devil, placing their lives at risk in the process**
- ◆ **Because they overcame, everyone in “heaven” rejoices**
- ◆ **But everyone on “earth” or in the “sea” is in trouble because the devil is running out of time, and he’s really mad about it**

## Stage Three

**“The apostle John in vision heard a loud voice in heaven exclaiming: ‘Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.’ Revelation 12:12. Fearful are the scenes which call forth this exclamation from the heavenly voice. The wrath of Satan increases as his time grows short, and his work of deceit and destruction will reach its culmination in the time of trouble.”**

**—*Great Controversy*, 623**

## Stage Three

**“Satan... is an accuser of the brethren, and his accusing power is employed against those who work righteousness. The Lord desires through His people to answer Satan’s charges by showing the results of obedience to right principles.”**

*—Christ's Object Lessons, 296*

## Stage Three

**“The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within. It is the atmosphere of this love surrounding the soul of the believer that makes him a savor of life unto life.”**

*—Acts of the Apostles, 551*

## Stage Four

**“Like the apostles, the seventy had received supernatural endowments as a seal of their mission. When their work was completed, they returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name.’ Jesus answered, ‘I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.’**

## **Stage Four**

**“The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus.**

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“The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus. He beheld Lucifer as he was first cast out from the heavenly places. He looked forward to the scenes of His own agony, when before all the worlds the character of the deceiver should be unveiled. He heard the cry, ‘It is finished’ (John 19:30), announcing that the redemption of the lost race was forever made certain, that heaven was made eternally secure against the accusations, the deceptions, the pretensions, that Satan would instigate.

## **Stage Four**

**“Beyond the cross of Calvary, with its agony and shame, Jesus looked forward to the great final day, when the prince of the power of the air will meet his destruction in the earth so long marred by his rebellion. Jesus beheld the work of evil forever ended, and the peace of God filling heaven and earth.**

## Stage Four

**“Henceforward Christ’s followers were to look upon Satan as a conquered foe. Upon the cross, Jesus was to gain the victory for them; that victory He desired them to accept as their own.”**

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—*Desire of Ages*, 490

## **A Quick Re-cap**

- 1. 6,000 years ago—The members of the Godhead understood Satan's plans and arguments, and rejected them.**
- 2. 2,000 years ago—Angels and unfallen worlds understood Satan's plans and arguments, and rejected them.**
- 3. Near future (hopefully)—The 144,000 will understand Satan's plans and arguments, and will reject them.**
- 4. 1,000 years later—All the wicked will understand Satan's plans and arguments, and will reject them.**



# d'Sozo

## REVERSING THE WORST EVIL

1

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My book on Adventist History, *Hindsight*, is also available through that address. (\$10 +s/h; free s/h on 5 or more copies). The book upon which this series of talks is based, (same title and subtitle as above) is currently available online from Remnant Publications. The HEALTH program (that's "Health Evangelism And Leadership Training for Him" and I highly recommend the class) operated by Weimar Institute has a supply, and the book is also available in at least some ABC's. If you are interested in box lots (36 copies per box), you could get in touch with me at the email above and I may (or may not) be able to help out on the pricing.

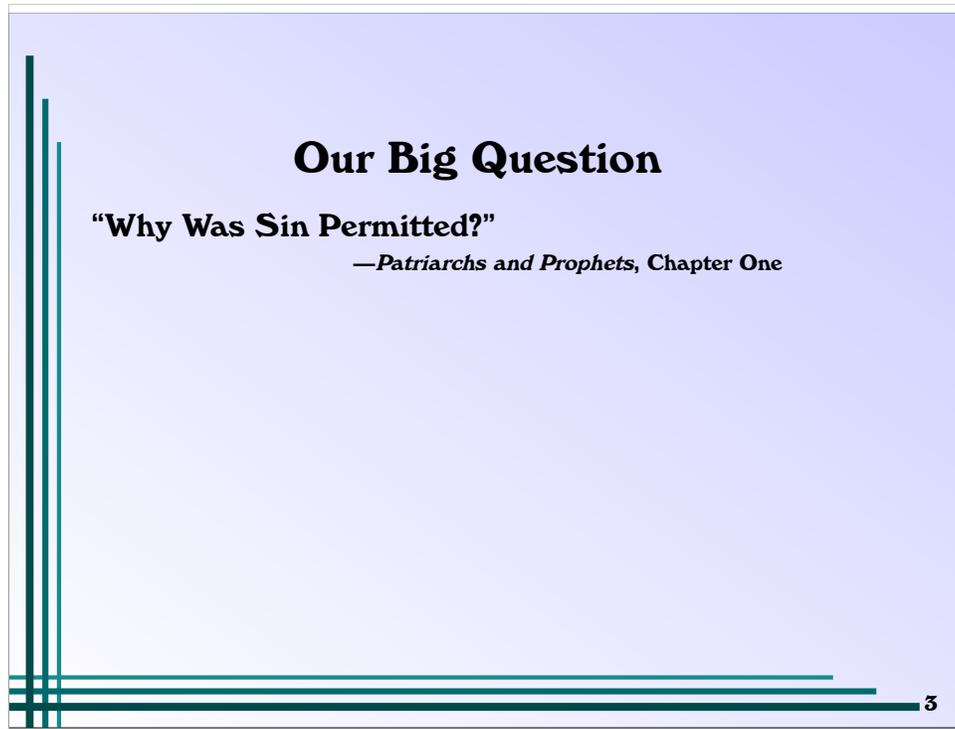
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The notes for this file are typed out in some length so that readers can more or less re-create the full message of the presentation.

Sometimes there are notes intended to be read *before* the text on the slide, though usually the notes come *after* the text. How can you know? Just look for **CLICK** in the notes. If you see the bright red word, it means that the notes to that point apply *before* some element of the page which, in the original presentation format, would appear when the speaker "clicked" his remote control. It's not totally consistent, but if you're smart enough to be reading this, you're smart enough to figure it out. Any slide with no **CLICK** in it means that you read the slide first, then read the notes, and move on.

# The Big Question

IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT US



This is the big question which seems to absorb our minds. At least it seems to every time we are faced with the unpleasant effects of sin.

And it's important. The whole first chapter of the first book of Ellen White's "conflict series" is spent laying out the ground work on this point.

“Why was sin permitted? And why is it still around?” that's an even harder question for most Christians.

But, important as those questions are, they are not the “Big Question” in everyone else's mind...

## Everyone Else's Big Question

**"Sin originated in self-seeking. Lucifer, the covering cherub, desired to be first in heaven. He sought to gain control of heavenly beings, to draw them away from their Creator, and to win their homage to himself. Therefore he misrepresented God, attributing to Him the desire for self-exaltation. With his own evil characteristics he sought to invest the loving Creator. Thus he deceived angels. Thus he deceived men...."**

*—Desire of Ages, 22*

4

Now I should say that the "everyone else" I'm talking about is not non-Adventists, nor non-Christians; I'm not talking about Catholics, or Muslims, or Atheists.

I'm talking about non-humans. Angels; the inhabitants of other planets; everyone else in the universe.

Not too surprisingly, they look at things from a slightly different perspective.

**CLICK** for item

For the rest of the universe, the original Big Question was, "Which government is best? God's, or Lucifer's?" That question has been answered already, of course, but it's where our story begins, so let's go to...

## The Beginning...

**“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”**

—John 8:44

5

This “beginning” is not the “beginning” in which “God created the heavens and the earth, this is the beginning of sin. **CLICK**

The origin of sin will always be mysterious in some regards, but other aspects are as plain as day.

One thing we know for sure is that Lucifer decided to do what he wanted to do instead of what God wanted him to do.

In other words, Lucifer thought that his own plan would be better than God’s plan. That he would be better off following his own judgment as to what was best.

Simply put, God wasn’t taking care of Lucifer as well as Lucifer could take care of Lucifer. And from that lie, came all manner of sin...

## **The Beginning...**

- ♦ **If I don't believe God will take care of me, that's a loss of faith.**
- ♦ **If I think I can do a better job of taking care of myself than God can, that's pride (and stupidity).**
- ♦ **If I try taking care of myself in some way other than what God asks me to, that's disobedience.**
- ♦ **If my influence convinces someone else that "self-serving" is better than "service," that's lying.**
- ♦ **And if I put myself first, instead of loving my neighbor as myself, that's stealing, and—under enough pressure—it will become murder.**

**CLICK** for items

God's plan, of course is totally different—

## The Beginning...

- ♦ **Self-renouncing love is the law of life.**  
—*Desire of Ages*, 19
- ♦ **The circuit of beneficence is... the law of life.**  
—*Desire of Ages*, 21
- ♦ **The great law of life is a law of service.**  
—*Education*, 103
- ♦ **To give is to live.**  
—*Desire of Ages*, 623
- ♦ **Self-sacrifice is the law of self-preservation.**  
—*Education*, 110

## The Beginning...

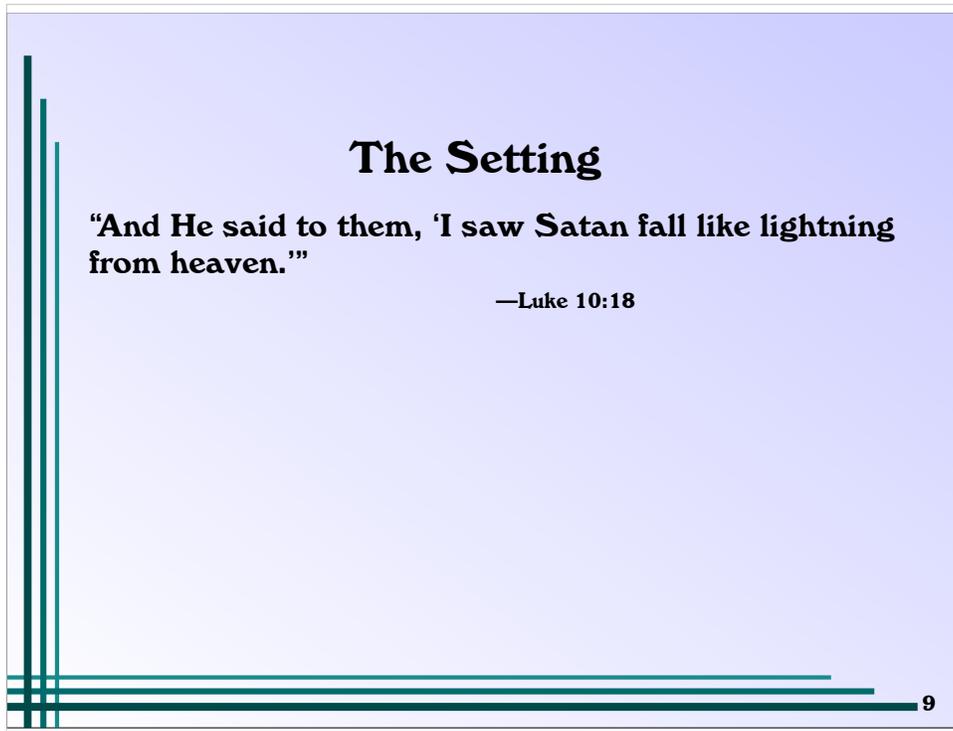
- ♦ **Self-renunciation is the great law of self-preservation, and self-preservation is the law of self-destruction.**

—*Signs of the Times*, July 1, 1897

The conflict between the “Law of Life” which had always been followed, and the new plan, the plan of self-concern, self-interest, self-dependence, the plan that the Bible calls “the Lie” (2 Thessalonians 2:11), this was the first Big Question for the rest of the universe.

When Lucifer said, “God isn’t taking care of me as well as I could take of care of myself,” he made it necessary for God to show that He really was doing the best for everyone, and that Lucifer’s plan would be a disaster. We could call it, “Divine Damage Control, 101.” That’s the story we’ll be following as we see how God set out very methodically to demonstrate the truth to everyone in the universe.

And we’ll start in what may seem an unusual place...



Jesus is talking to the seventy disciples who had just come back from their missionary tour. They said “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

And Jesus said something a little strange. According to Luke, His first words were...

**CLICK** and read text.

When did this happen? When did Satan fall like lightning from heaven?

When he sinned and got kicked out of heaven!

## Stage One

**“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”**

—Revelation 12:7-9

10

Here’s the passage we usually think of...

READ verse

But notice that when we make this connection, we are actually equating two different phrases. Jesus said that Satan “fell,” but here in Revelation 12 it says he was...

**CLICK** for highlighting

## Stage One

“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was **cast out**, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

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11

“cast out”

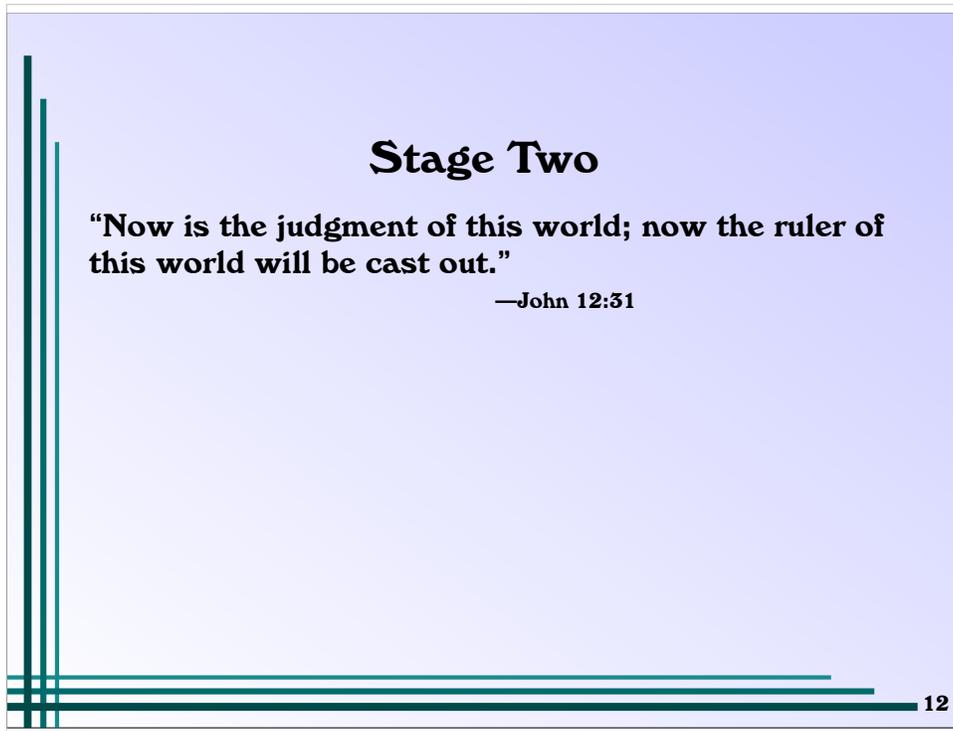
So... is that right? Are the two phrases equivalent?

Something to think about...

Notice the heading: I’m calling this “Stage One” of a process. That’s just a bit of an organizing element, but it will help if you notice the numbers as we go along.

And before we move along, please notice the Bible reference.

Revelation chapter 12, verses 7–9.



OK, now the plot thickens slightly as we move on to stage two. Notice what Jesus said in this verse—

READ verse

This was just before the crucifixion, and we usually think of that event as the time when the “ruler of the world” was “cast out.” That’s a “was” for us, but Jesus made it a “will be” because it was in the future.

So, is Satan’s being “cast out” in this verse the same as his being “cast out” in Revelation 12?

If so, does that mean Revelation 12 is really talking about the crucifixion? If that’s true, what about his “fall from heaven” before the creation of the earth?

## Stage Two

**“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”**

—John 12:31

**“Christ bowed His head and died, but He held fast His faith and His submission to God. ‘And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.’ Rev. 12:10.**

—*Desire of Ages*, 761

READ bottom quotation

Revelation chapter 12, verse 10! We just read 7–9.

Why is Ellen White quoting that verse when she’s talking about the crucifixion?

## Stage Two

**“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”**

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—*Desire of Ages*, 761

14

And, for what it's worth, is there any difference between “cast out” and “cast down”?

OK, it's time to make some sense out of all this.

Maybe this will help...

**CLICK**

## Stage Two

**“Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.”**

—John 12:31

**“After the crucifixion, [Satan] saw that he had overreached himself....**

**“Satan saw that his disguise was torn away, that the character he had tried to fasten on Christ was fastened on himself. It was as if he had the second time fallen from heaven.”**

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READ bottom quotation

At the cross?

**CLICK**

## Stage Two

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—John 12:31

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“Satan saw that his disguise was torn away, that the character he had tried to fasten on Christ was fastened on himself. **It was as if he had the second time fallen from heaven.**”

—*Manuscript Releases*, vol. 12, 411

It's like there is something about these two events—the fall of Satan in heaven and the death of Christ on the cross—that is so similar, that inspired writers get them all mixed up together.

Fascinating!

Actually, Ellen White sometimes made the linkage even stronger.

**CLICK**

## Stage Two

**“God... looked upon the victim expiring on the cross, and said, ‘It is finished. The human race shall have another trial.’ The redemption price was paid, and Satan fell like lightning from heaven.”**

*— Youth's Instructor, June 21, 1900*

So, there you have stages one and two.

Let's move on to stage three.

## Stage Three

**“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.’”**

—Revelation 12:10-12

18

Yes, this does look familiar, doesn't it?

And, yes, it really is stage three.

READ verses

Let's focus on a few particulars.

**CLICK** for highlighting

## Stage Three

“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for **the accuser of our brethren**, who accused them before our God day and night, **has been cast down**. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.’”

—Revelation 12:10-12

The accuser of the brethren has been cast down...

## Stage Three

“Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And **they overcame him** by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.’”

—Revelation 12:10-12

...there is a group of people who have beaten the devil...

## Stage Three

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...placing their lives at risk in the process.

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—Revelation 12:10-12

Because they overcame (that’s what “therefore” means), the “heavens” and everyone who lives there can rejoice..

## Stage Three

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—Revelation 12:10-12

But these events appear to be bad news for all those who live in the wrong places...

## Stage Three

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—Revelation 12:10-12

...because the devil is running out of time, and he's really mad about it.

## Stage Three

- ♦ The “accuser of the brethren” has been cast down
- ♦ A group of people have beaten the devil, placing their lives at risk in the process
- ♦ Because they overcame, everyone in “heaven” rejoices
- ♦ But everyone on “earth” or in the “sea” is in trouble because the devil is running out of time, and he’s really mad about it

Just step back a little, look at this list, and tell me when this all comes together.

That’s right. The end of time.

## Stage Three

**“The apostle John in vision heard a loud voice in heaven exclaiming: ‘Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.’ Revelation 12:12. Fearful are the scenes which call forth this exclamation from the heavenly voice. The wrath of Satan increases as his time grows short, and his work of deceit and destruction will reach its culmination in the time of trouble.”**

*—Great Controversy, 623*

26

READ quotation

So this passage in Revelation 12 is really talking about three different episodes!

We’ve got—

- the fall of Satan, six thousand some odd years ago
- the crucifixion, not quite two thousand years ago
- and the time of trouble, sometime in the future

What’s going on? What do these three events have in common?

Here’s a clue... **CLICK**

## Stage Three

**“Satan... is an accuser of the brethren, and his accusing power is employed against those who work righteousness. The Lord desires through His people to answer Satan’s charges by showing the results of obedience to right principles.”**

*—Christ’s Object Lessons, 296*

READ quotation

Make sense? Yes? No?

## Stage Three

**“The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within. It is the atmosphere of this love surrounding the soul of the believer that makes him a savor of life unto life.”**

*—Acts of the Apostles, 551*

READ quotation

This is another of those “floater” thoughts. Actually, it’s the link between this sermon and my next one. For now, though, let’s just say that “answering Satan’s charges” involves more than the proclamation of “pure theology.” Far more important are the lives God’s people live.

Well, hold that thought. After we add another couple pieces to the puzzle, the picture will be nice and clear.

But now, on to Stage Four.

## Stage Four

**“Like the apostles, the seventy had received supernatural endowments as a seal of their mission. When their work was completed, they returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name.’ Jesus answered, ‘I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.’**

OK, now it's time for stage four. And—oddly enough—we're right back where we started.

**CLICK** and READ quotation.

## **Stage Four**

**“The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus.**

READ

Really!? Past and future.

## Stage Four

**“The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus. He beheld Lucifer as he was first cast out from the heavenly places.**

READ

This one is definitely “past.” That’s our “Stage One.”

## Stage Four

“The scenes of the past and the future were presented to the mind of Jesus. He beheld Lucifer as he was first cast out from the heavenly places. He looked forward to the scenes of His own agony, when before all the worlds the character of the deceiver should be unveiled. He heard the cry, ‘It is finished’ (John 19:30), announcing that the redemption of the lost race was forever made certain, that heaven was made eternally secure against the accusations, the deceptions, the pretensions, that Satan would instigate.

READ

And this was the near future, when Jesus spoke. That’s our “Stage Two.”

## Stage Four

**“Beyond the cross of Calvary, with its agony and shame, Jesus looked forward to the great final day, when the prince of the power of the air will meet his destruction in the earth so long marred by his rebellion. Jesus beheld the work of evil forever ended, and the peace of God filling heaven and earth.**

## READ

And this is “Stage Four,” the final destruction of sin and Satan. This is his last “fall from heaven,” and it’s obviously still future.

And “Stage Three”? Here it comes.

## Stage Four

**“Henceforward Christ’s followers were to look upon Satan as a conquered foe. Upon the cross, Jesus was to gain the victory for them; that victory He desired them to accept as their own.”**

34

That’s it. “Stage three” isn’t, perhaps, as detailed as the others, but they’re all there.

And where does this little gem of a quotation come from?

**CLICK** for reference

## Stage Four

“Henceforward Christ’s followers were to look upon Satan as a conquered foe. Upon the cross, Jesus was to gain the victory for them; that victory He desired them to accept as their own.”

—*Desire of Ages*, 490

Have you read *Desire of Ages*, recently? If you haven't, today's a great time to get started.

OK, let's do...

**CLICK**

## **A Quick Re-cap**

- 1. 6,000 years ago—The members of the Godhead understood Satan's plans and arguments, and rejected them.**
- 2. 2,000 years ago—Angels and unfallen worlds understood Satan's plans and arguments, and rejected them.**
- 3. Near future (hopefully)—The 144,000 will understand Satan's plans and arguments, and will reject them.**
- 4. 1,000 years later—All the wicked will understand Satan's plans and arguments, and will reject them.**

**CLICK** and read four items

So there's the fall of Satan. Naturally, it's easier to understand the first two parts, since they've already happened.

But it's Stage Three that should most interest us, since we actually have a chance to do something about that one. At the very least we should be working on it.

Even if I don't live long enough to see it in my lifetime, when I die, I want to know I did something to make it possible. I hope you feel the same.

So that that will be our focus for the next meeting.



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