

GOD'S PERFECT WORLD SPOILED BY SIN

Genesis 2:15-17,3:1, Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:11-18, Revelation 12:3,4

When God made the first people, Adam and Eve, He made them perfect, without any sin. He gave them the beautiful garden of Eden for their home, and He filled the garden with everything they could possibly want to keep them happy. God only made one rule that they had to obey. He wanted them to show that they loved Him by obeying Him. He told them, "You may freely eat of all the trees in the garden, except one. Do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The day that you eat of it you will surely die. God was testing Adam and Eve to see if they really believed what He said, and they really loved Him.

God had also made angels as well as the earth and all that is on it. He made the angels to live with Him in heaven. Angels are bright, shining creatures who serve God night and day. Angels are different than people, they are very powerful and have wings to travel over God's universe very quickly. They spend their time loving, praising and serving God. There are so many of them that you can't count them.

The most beautiful and powerful angel of all was named Lucifer. He was more beautiful than anything that we can imagine. But Lucifer had a problem, he became proud. He became so proud that he thought he could take God's place. Lucifer wanted to be God. So he convinced one-third of all the angels to fight against God with him. He was very foolish to think he could defeat the creator of all things including himself. God threw that wicked Lucifer and all his wicked followers out of heaven. They became the evil spirits, we sometimes call them demons. Lucifer, their leader, got a new name Satan. From that time, they have never stopped doing evil. They are God's enemies, and ours too. The good news is that one day, when God brings all time to an end, He will throw the Old Serpent, Satan, and all his followers into the Lake of Fire. Then they will never be able to do evil or harm anymore.

The Bible says that Satan, that wicked one walks the earth looking for someone to devour, or destroy. At the beginning of time there was only Adam and Eve. Satan hated them just as he hated God. He wanted to destroy them, and he knew just how to do it. Satan knew the God had commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He knew that if they disobeyed God they were condemned to die. So Satan decided to try and trick the two first people into disobeying God.

Satan came to Eve in the form of a beautiful serpent. Nowadays we don't think that serpents are so beautiful. In fact, many people fear them. Some of them are very dangerous, but in the beginning this wasn't so, for God had made them very beautiful and more clever than any other animal. So Satan used the form of a beautiful, clever more clever than any other

animal. So Satan used the form of the beautiful clever serpent to charm Eve and then deceive her into disobeying God. Satan is like that. He never shows what he is up to. He makes disobeying God look so exciting and thrilling. It is our duty to look through all the trickery and see things as they really are. For this we need God's help! We can never hope to fight Satan on our own, for he is much more clever than we.

To gain God's help in fighting Satan and all his deception, it is important that we learn God's word. We need to read and study the Bible everyday if possible. We also need to hide God's word in our heart, that is memorize it. Then, we need to ask God's help. Pray that he will keep you from temptation, and help you to choose the right when temptation can not be avoid.

Learn:

"Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour." 1 Peter 5:9

1. What does it mean to be sober and vigilant? _____

2. Why do we need to be sober and vigilant? _____

3. What will help us so that we will not be tricked by Satan into sinning-disobeying God?

4. What was Satan like before he rebelled against God? _____

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