

# **Where the Battle Lies Today**

# The Accusations

1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.
2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.
3. God is selfish.
4. God is unforgiving and revengeful.
5. God's law is defective, and needs to be changed.
6. Neither angels nor human beings can obey God's law.
7. **God's law is arbitrary.**
8. **God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**
9. **God is lying about all the above.**

# Nothing New Here

**“Satan deceives and corrupts the world... but in so doing he is only carrying on his original work. He has introduced no new arguments, he has created no new empire of darkness from which to draw supplies for the furtherance of his deceptions. And sin that was sin in the beginning is sin today; and sin, the apostle declares, is the transgression of God’s law.**

# Nothing New Here

**“In these days it is Satan’s determined purpose to intensify sin by making it legal in the children of disobedience. He is to reveal to the world and to heaven what is the order and result of a government carried on according to his ideas of administration and law. He is working with secret yet with intense zeal in both Church and State, to cause men to throw off all the restraints of God’s law, and take a decided stand with him in the ranks of rebellion; but when his work is accomplished, the Lord will interpose, and vindicate His honor as the supreme Ruler of the universe.”**

**— *Signs of the Times*, April 28, 1890**

# Nothing New Here

**Lucifer's Rebellion**



**Christ's Response**



**The "Good Kellogg"  
(Beginning of Loud Cry)**



**The Loud Cry  
(Final Refutation)**

**The "Bad Kellogg"  
(Alpha Apostasy)**



**The Omega Apostasy**

# Alpha to Omega

- ◆ **Most obvious problem was pantheism, the belief that God is not a specific “person,” but some sort of all-pervading non-entity.**
- ◆ **All men—saints and sinners alike—became at least partially “divine” (because God was everywhere), and the heavenly sanctuary became “wherever God is,” hence the name, *Living Temple*.**
- ◆ **Beyond the theoretical “theological” issues this raises, there comes a very strong sense of entitlement. “Hey, I’m God; that makes me pretty important!”**

# Alpha to Omega

**“Spiritualism declares that there is no death, no sin, no judgment, no retribution; that ‘men are unfallen demigods;’ that desire is the highest law; and that man is accountable only to himself. The barriers that God has erected to guard truth, purity, and reverence are broken down, and many are thus emboldened in sin.”**

*— Patriarchs and Prophets, 688*

# The Evil Twin

**“The light is given to me in regard to the poor understanding of those that have been in the truth, that these sophistries, and this mysticism, and doing away with the personality of God, and with the personality of Christ, will get the hall-room of the heart all ready for these miracles that Satan will come to work right in our midst. Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.”**

**—Manuscript 138, 1906**

# The Evil Twin

**“As the crowning act in the great drama of deception, Satan himself will personate Christ.... In different parts of the earth, Satan will manifest himself among men as a majestic being of dazzling brightness, resembling the description of the Son of God given by John in the Revelation. The glory that surrounds him is unsurpassed by anything that mortal eyes have yet beheld. The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’”**

**— *Great Controversy*, 624**

# The Evil Twin

**“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times.... The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.... Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.”**

**— *Great Controversy*, 464**

# The Evil Twin

**“The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.”**

*— Great Controversy, 593*

# The Evil Twin

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“Satan can present a counterfeit so closely resembling the truth that it deceives those who are willing to be deceived, who desire to shun the self-denial and sacrifice demanded by the truth.”

— *Great Controversy*, 528

# The Evil Twin

**“Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God’s Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ. His instruction is not palatable to them.”**

**— Letter 275, 1903**

# The Evil Twin

**“The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’ The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday.”**

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— *Great Controversy*, 624

# The Evil Twin

**“Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. He claims to be Christ, and he is coming in, pretending to be the great medical missionary.”**

**— *General Conference Bulletin*, April 6, 1903**

# The Final Work

**“Christ’s method alone will give true success.”**

— *Ministry of Healing*, 143

**“The great object that brought Christ to the earth was to reveal the Father.”**

— *Signs of the Times*, June 27, 1895

**“God is love. This was the great truth that Christ came to the world to reveal.... The object of Christ’s mission to the world was to reveal the Father.”**

— *Signs of the Times*, April 11, 1895

**“In all His ministry, all His self-denial and self-sacrifice, Christ’s object was to reveal God to the world.”**

— Letter 58, 1906

# The Final Work

**“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ.”**

*— Ministry of Healing, 143*

**“What the world needs today is the light of Christ’s example reflected from the lives of Christlike men and women.”**

*— Testimonies, vol. 9, 135*

**“Hearts will be captivated—not by the glory of the man, but by the inward adorning of an abiding Christ. It is the revelation of Christ in the man that captivates the hearts of men and women. They behold the beautiful character of Christ, revealed by good works.”**

*— Letter 40, 1899*

# The Final Work

**“God’s purpose in committing to men and women the mission that He committed to Christ is to disentangle His followers from all worldly policy and to give them a work identical with the work that Christ did.”**

**— Manuscript 130, 1902**

**The “glory of the character of Christ, can never be expressed in words. Human language is inadequate to reveal it. It must be made manifest in the life. It is to be manifest in the individual Christian, in the family, in the church, in the ministry of the word, and in every institution established by God’s people.”**

**— *(Australasian) Union Conference Record*, June 1, 1900**

# The Final Work

**“Christ, the great Medical Missionary, is our example. ... He healed the sick and preached the gospel. In his service, healing and teaching were linked closely together. Today they are not to be separated.”**

**— *General Conference Bulletin*, June 3, 1909**

**“The Holy Spirit never has, and never will in the future, divorce the medical missionary work from the gospel ministry. They can not be divorced. Bound up with Jesus Christ, the ministry of the word and the healing of the sick are one.”**

**— *Special Testimonies*, Series B, No. 7, 64**

# The Final Work

**“The union of Christlike work for the body and Christlike work for the soul is the true interpretation of the gospel.”**

*— Review and Herald, March 4, 1902*

# The Final Work

**“When men begin to weave in the human threads to compose the pattern of the web, the Lord is in no hurry. He waits until men shall lay down their own human inventions and will accept the Lord’s way and the Lord’s will.”**

**— Letter 181, 1901**

# The Final Work

**“In the character of God’s people a living testimony will be borne that will contradict the fallacy of Satan, who has declared that the law of Jehovah is arbitrary, and holds its subjects under a cruel bondage.”**

*— Review and Herald, August 13, 1895*

**“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*

# The Final Work

- ◆ **God's final work uses the same method that Christ used during His life on earth—the revelation of the character of God.**
- ◆ **God's final work requires that human beings take up the same manner of work that Jesus practiced during His life on earth.**
- ◆ **The revelation of God's character cannot be accomplished through words alone. Acts of mercy and healing are also necessary.**
- ◆ **In short, God's final work is self-sacrifice and self-denial exemplified in medical missionary work.**

# **The Final Work**

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“The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice—meaning with increasing power—as we approach the great final test. This test must come to the churches in connection with the true medical missionary work, a work that has the great Physician to dictate and preside in all it comprehends.”

— Letter 121, 1900

# The Master Plan

**“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result?”**

# **The Master Plan**

**“The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement.**

# The Master Plan

**“The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.”**

**— *Selected Messages, Book One, 204–205***

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# Storm and Tempest

**“In the last scenes of this earth’s history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood.”**

*— Review and Herald, October 19, 1897*

# Storm and Tempest

**“Perilous times are before us. The whole world will be involved in perplexity and distress, disease of every kind will be upon the human family, and such ignorance as now prevails concerning the laws of health would result in great suffering and the loss of many lives that might be saved.”**

**— Letter 34, 1892**

# Storm and Tempest

**“If you are a competent physician, you are qualified to do tenfold more good as a missionary for God than if you were to go forth merely as a preacher of the word. I would advise young men and women to give heed to this matter.”**

**— Letter 34, 1892**

# Storm and Tempest

**“As religious aggression subverts the liberties of our nation, those who would stand for freedom of conscience will be placed in unfavorable positions. For their own sake, they should, while they have opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention, and cure. And those who do this will find a field of labor anywhere. There will be suffering ones, plenty of them, who will need help, not only among those of our own faith, but largely among those who know not the truth.”**

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**— Letter 34, 1892**

# Storm and Tempest

**“The very foundation of [Christ’s] mission was self-denial, self-sacrifice.”**

**— Letter 2b, 1892**

**“Selfishness lies at the foundation of all sin.”**

**— Manuscript 153, 1899**

# Storm and Tempest

**“In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off.”**

— *Desire of Ages*, 121

**“It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea.”**

— *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 558

**“We can never perfect a round, full, Christian experience until every earthly support is removed, and the soul centers its entire affections about God.”**

— Letter 6, 1894

# What to Do Now?

**“God desires everyone to understand the hateful character of selfishness and to co-operate with Him in guarding His human family against its terrible, deceptive power. The first result of the entrance of sin into the world was the birth of principles of selfishness. The design of the gospel is, by means of remedial missionary work, to confront this evil of selfishness and destroy its destructive power by establishing enterprises of benevolence.”**

**—Letter 165, 1901**

# Could It Be?

**In 1892, the Loud Cry had “already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ,” though the world knew nothing about it. Very likely, no one in the church would have known it either, if God hadn’t told Ellen White.**

**It was a classic case of “despise not the day of small beginnings.”**

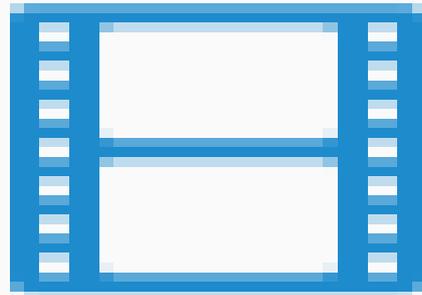
**What were those beginnings?**

# Could It Be?

- ◆ The proclamation of the “1888 Message” theology by A.T. Jones, E.J. Waggoner, and others
- ◆ The additional “revelation of the righteousness of Christ” through the applied theology of—
- ◆ The orphanage
- ◆ The visiting nurses program
- ◆ The Christian help bands

These were “enterprises of benevolence.”

Now... think back over the last seven years....



# Could It Be?

- ◆ **San Francisco**
- ◆ **Oakland**
- ◆ **San Antonio**
- ◆ **Spokane**
- ◆ **Los Angeles**
- ◆ **Beckley, WV**
- ◆ **Phoenix**
- ◆ **Fort Worth**
  
- ◆ **Plus dozens of smaller “AMEN Clinics” coordinated through the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network**

# Could It Be?

**“As Lucifer sees that we are making efforts to work the cities as if we meant to give the last message....”**

**“Henceforth medical missionary work is to be carried forward with an earnestness with which it has never yet been carried. This work is the door through which the truth is to find entrance to the large cities.”**

*— Testimonies, vol. 9,167*

# Could It Be?

**“As Lucifer sees that we are making efforts to work the cities as if we meant to give the last message, his wrath will be aroused, and he will employ every device in his power to hinder the work.”**

**— Letter 74, 1910**

## To Finish the Task

**“The followers of Christ know little of the plots which Satan and his hosts are forming against them. But He who sitteth in the heavens will overrule all these devices for the accomplishment of His deep designs. The Lord permits His people to be subjected to the fiery ordeal of temptation, not because He takes pleasure in their distress and affliction, but because this process is essential to their final victory. He could not, consistently with His own glory, shield them from temptation; for the very object of the trial is to prepare them to resist all the allurements of evil.”**

*— Great Controversy, 528*

# To Finish the Task

**What? God is not going to shield His people from temptation?**

***We've got a promise for that!.... He can't just dump us, can He? Look at the Bible verse!***

**“God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”**

**— 1 Corinthians 10:13**

# To Finish the Task

**“OK, God. If You can’t change Your law, that means *You can’t ever forgive anyone*, because if the law is beyond your control, so is the penalty!”**

# To Finish the Task

**[Satan laid his] “plans to wrest from God the noble Adam and his companion Eve. If he could, in any way, beguile them to disobedience, God would make some provision whereby they might be pardoned, and then himself and all the fallen angels would be in a fair way to share with them of God’s mercy.”**

**— Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, 29–30**

**“He reasoned that if God pardoned sinful man whom he had created, he would also pardon and receive into favor him and his angels. But he was disappointed.”**

**— Review and Herald, February 24, 1874**

# To Finish the Task

Lucifer couldn't imagine any way to forgive, without changing the law. He thought he had God in a box:

**“Those humans You thought it was such a good idea to create, they sinned, so they have to die. Unless, of course, You decide to be reasonable and change Your law.**

**“But, either way, I win!”**

## **To Finish the Task**

**“[Satan] numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above.**

# To Finish the Task

**“He has an accurate knowledge of the sins which he has tempted them to commit, and he presents these before God in the most exaggerated light, representing this people to be just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. He declares that the Lord cannot in justice forgive their sins and yet destroy him and his angels.”**

**— *Great Controversy*, 618**

# To Finish the Task

**“just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”**

**— Romans 3:26**

**“The design of the gospel is, by means of remedial missionary work, to confront this evil of selfishness and destroy its destructive power by establishing enterprises of benevolence.”**

**— Letter 165, 1901**

**[God works to] prepare them to resist all the allurements of evil, [because this is] essential to their final victory.”**

**— *Great Controversy*, 528**



**When pigs fly!**



**When pigs fly!**

# **When planes fly!**

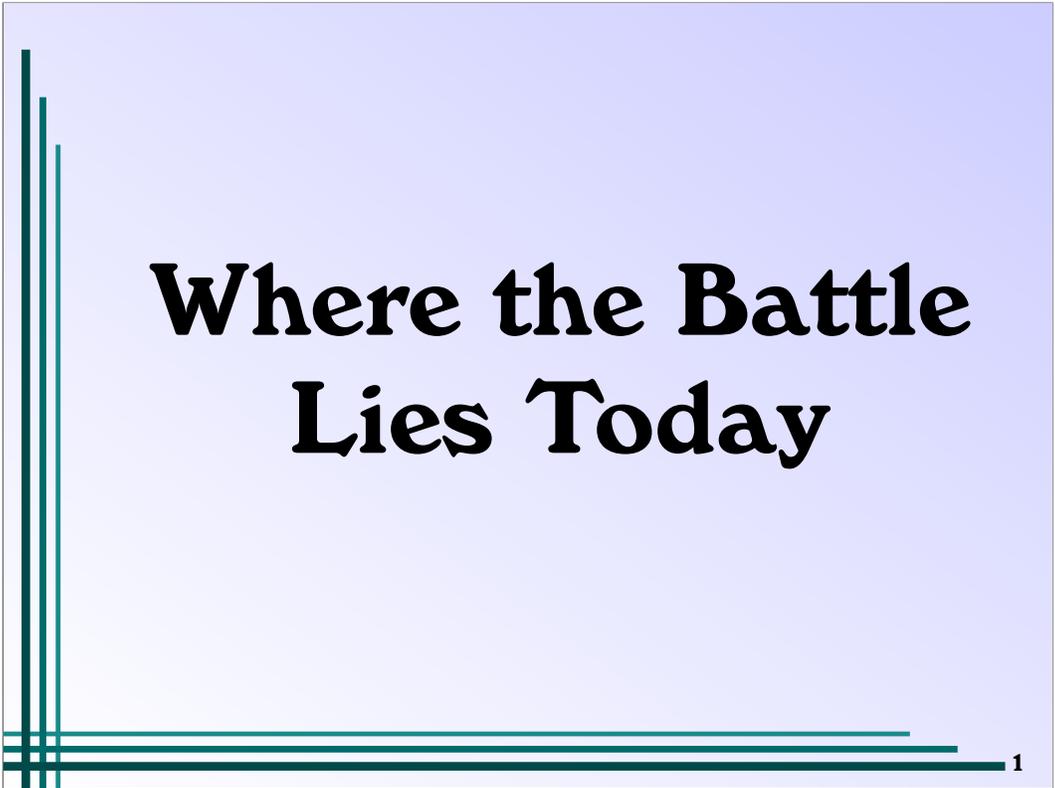
**“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”**

**—Romans 8:2**

## To Finish the Task

**“Those who live in the last days must pass through an experience similar to that of Jacob. Foes will be all around them, ready to condemn and destroy. Alarm and despair will seize them, for it appears to them as to Jacob in his distress, that God himself has become an avenging enemy. It is the design of God to arouse the dormant energies of his people to look out of and away from self to One who can bring help and salvation, that the promises given for just such a time may be seen in their preciousness, and relied upon with unwavering trust. Here faith is proved.”**

**— *Signs of the Times*, November 27, 1879**



# Where the Battle Lies Today

1

At the end of earth's history, God's people will face Satan's final attack, his most deceptive effort ever. Fortunately, we still have the promise that God will not allow him to tempt us beyond what we are able to resist.

But as we saw in our first meeting, God's purpose is to allow Satan to make a full demonstration of his principles. How can that be done if God puts a limit on the devil's work?

Well, there is good news and bad news in this. The bad news is that the Lord is about to turn the devil loose with no restrictions. The good news is that the Lord is working to prepare His people so that even the most vicious deceptions of Satan will not be beyond their power to resist.

## The Accusations

1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.
2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.
3. God is selfish.
4. God is unforgiving and revengeful.
5. God's law is defective, and needs to be changed.
6. Neither angels nor human beings can obey God's law.
7. **God's law is arbitrary.**
8. **God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**
9. **God is lying about all the above.**

These are Satan's accusations against God and His government. We saw them in the presentation about Lucifer, and again in the one on Christ. That's when we started crossing accusations off the list—when we saw that Jesus had proven Satan wrong on most of them.

Most. But not all. There are still two that need to be addressed. (The ninth just evaporates if seven and eight are refuted.) Why are they still there? And what is God going to do about them?

We don't have time to look at all the details of these accusations, but I can tell you that they are fascinating, especially number seven. And there is something special about them; they are both intricately connected with the fate of sinful human beings. In fact, the task of proving them false was something that Jesus could not accomplish by Himself. To do so requires evidence from another source....

## **Nothing New Here**

**“Satan deceives and corrupts the world... but in so doing he is only carrying on his original work. He has introduced no new arguments, he has created no new empire of darkness from which to draw supplies for the furtherance of his deceptions. And sin that was sin in the beginning is sin today; and sin, the apostle declares, is the transgression of God's law.**

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— *Signs of the Times*, April 28, 1890

As encouraging as it is to know that we have nothing to fear as long as we don’t forget God’s teaching in our past history, I worry about those who have never learned the history in the first place.

Are they really any better off than those who have forgotten it?

This is why I believe the parallels we’ve looked at are so important to God’s people today.



I believe the Lord has given us the record of all this...

CLICK for text:

...in order to illustrate this:

CLICK for text:

So the plan for today will be to get an idea of what these last two developments will look like, and then see how that plays into the resolving of those last two accusations.

## Alpha to Omega

- ◆ **Most obvious problem was pantheism, the belief that God is not a specific “person,” but some sort of all-pervading non-entity.**
- ◆ **All men—saints and sinners alike—became at least partially “divine” (because God was everywhere), and the heavenly sanctuary became “wherever God is,” hence the name, *Living Temple*.**
- ◆ **Beyond the theoretical “theological” issues this raises, there comes a very strong sense of entitlement. “Hey, I’m God; that makes me pretty important!”**

Since there isn't all that much direct information about the omega, the best starting point to understanding it is to go back and learn all we can about the alpha.

Unfortunately, the picture of the alpha which emerges is not good. Pretty ominous, in fact.

CLICK for three items:

## Alpha to Omega

**“Spiritualism declares that there is no death, no sin, no judgment, no retribution; that ‘men are unfallen demigods;’ that desire is the highest law; and that man is accountable only to himself. The barriers that God has erected to guard truth, purity, and reverence are broken down, and many are thus emboldened in sin.”**

— *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 688

7

We saw the evidence for the devil’s involvement in all those statements about Dr. Kellogg being influenced or controlled by Satan. But, it seems to me that Adventists still have a bit of a blind spot when it comes to spiritualism. We often think of it only in terms of seances and the supposed spirits of the dead.

That’s a part of it, to be sure, but there’s more. Ellen White wrote much about the “spirits of the dead” aspect, of course, but when she turns her attention to the more philosophical side of the topic, the “no death” issue is almost lost sight of in all the bad stuff that comes from it.

CLICK for text:

This is the spiritualism that Dr. Kellogg was involved with (whether he knew it or not), and it’s plenty popular in our day as well. This is one part of the Omega.

## **The Evil Twin**

**“The light is given to me in regard to the poor understanding of those that have been in the truth, that these sophistries, and this mysticism, and doing away with the personality of God, and with the personality of Christ, will get the hall-room of the heart all ready for these miracles that Satan will come to work right in our midst. Some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.”**

**— Manuscript 138, 1906**

Miracles?

How did we get to miracles? There's a simpler connection than you might think!

## The Evil Twin

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— *Great Controversy*, 624

9

Perhaps the most basic thing to remember about Satan’s deceptions is his frequent use of counterfeits. Idols to take the place of God. Human sacrifice for the Old Testament system. Sunday for Sabbath. The Mass for the ministry of the heavenly sanctuary.

Of course, the first thing that comes to mind as a counterfeit at the end of time is probably this:

CLICK for text:

But Satan doesn’t just counterfeit Christ. That’s important, to be sure, but the counterfeiting starts long before he shows up pretending to be Jesus.

## The Evil Twin

**“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times.... The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit.... Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.”**

— *Great Controversy*, 464

10

This isn’t a new thought, of course. It’s been in *Great Controversy* all along, and probably most of us are familiar with it already. But there’s more to this picture than we usually notice.

What do you suppose “primitive godliness” looks like? Yeah, it’s medical missionary work. The early church! Love. Compassion. All that stuff.

Did you know that the whole idea of “hospitals” came from Christianity? No prior culture or group of people had the mandate to care for the sick and suffering. But the early church did! “Preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick!”

So what would a counterfeit look like? Yeah, it’ll look like medical missionary work.

How do I know that? I kept reading.

## The Evil Twin

**“The last great delusion is soon to open before us. Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. By their testimony every statement and every miracle must be tested.”**

— *Great Controversy*, 593

This idea of the devil’s counterfeit just keeps showing up. It’s not a new thought, but what worries me is that we have been so focused on counterfeit doctrine—Sunday instead of Sabbath, conscious dead instead of sleeping dead—that we might easily overlook the devil’s counterfeit of the practical, tangible work Christ’s people will be doing.

CLICK for text:

It’s certainly true that what we might call “doctrine” will be involved, but the emphasis is on “marvelous works” and “miracles.” Why?

**The Evil Twin**

**“Satan can present a counterfeit so closely resembling the truth that it deceives those who are willing to be deceived,...”**

12

“Willing to be deceived....”

What will they be deceived about? Well, the Sabbath comes to mind as an obvious example, and no doubt it will be involved in all this. But that’s not what’s specified here. Notice how Ellen White describes the people who will be deceived:

CLICK for highlighting:

## The Evil Twin

“Satan can present a counterfeit so closely resembling the truth that it deceives those who are willing to be deceived, who desire to shun the self-denial and sacrifice demanded by the truth.”

— *Great Controversy*, 528

13

Where do self-denial and self-sacrifice show up the most?

Medical missionary work!

And that's exactly why miracles seem so cool! Not only do they show supernatural power, but they take the hard work out of helping people!

And, incidentally, do you remember from our last meeting what God says will prepare us to accept Satan's miracles?

## The Evil Twin

**“Wonderful scenes, with which Satan will be closely connected, will soon take place. God’s Word declares that Satan will work miracles. He will make people sick and then will suddenly remove from them his satanic power. They will then be regarded as healed. These works of apparent healing will bring Seventh-day Adventists to the test. Many who have had great light will fail to walk in the light, because they have not become one with Christ. His instruction is not palatable to them.”**

— Letter 275, 1903

What does it mean to “become one with Christ”?

What “instruction” do people find unpalatable?

Now let’s go back to Satan impersonating Jesus...

## The Evil Twin

**“The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’ The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; he heals the diseases of the people, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday.”**

*— Great Controversy, 624*

Click for highlighting

## The Evil Twin

“The shout of triumph rings out upon the air: ‘Christ has come! Christ has come!’ The people prostrate themselves in adoration before him, while he lifts up his hands and pronounces a blessing upon them, as Christ blessed His disciples when He was upon the earth. His voice is soft and subdued, yet full of melody. In gentle, compassionate tones he presents some of the same gracious, heavenly truths which the Saviour uttered; **he heals the diseases of the people**, and then, in his assumed character of Christ, he claims to have changed the Sabbath to Sunday.”

— *Great Controversy*, 624

In other words, Satan is doing exactly what he has to do to look like Jesus....

## The Evil Twin

**“Satan will come in to deceive if possible the very elect. He claims to be Christ, and he is coming in, pretending to be the great medical missionary.”**

*— General Conference Bulletin, April 6, 1903*

OK, enough of that for now. Let's look at what's going on with God's people and the loud cry.

## The Final Work

**“Christ’s method alone will give true success.”**

— *Ministry of Healing*, 143

**“The great object that brought Christ to the earth was to reveal the Father.”**

— *Signs of the Times*, June 27, 1895

**“God is love. This was the great truth that Christ came to the world to reveal.... The object of Christ’s mission to the world was to reveal the Father.”**

— *Signs of the Times*, April 11, 1895

**“In all His ministry, all His self-denial and self-sacrifice, Christ’s object was to reveal God to the world.”**

— *Letter 58*, 1906

Notice the second word—“method.” It’s singular. This is not talking about all the little distinctions we might find in Christ’s work, like once He used clay, and another time He touched the man, and other times He just spoke words of forgiveness and healing.

That’s not what this is talking about. This is the one big method, the one that stands out above all others. We saw it in our second meeting:

CLICK for three items

But now there’s a difference. Jesus isn’t here anymore. Now it’s our task to reveal the character of God.

## **The Final Work**

**“The world needs today what it needed nineteen hundred years ago—a revelation of Christ.”**

*— Ministry of Healing, 143*

**“What the world needs today is the light of Christ’s example reflected from the lives of Christlike men and women.”**

*— Testimonies, vol. 9, 135*

**“Hearts will be captivated—not by the glory of the man, but by the inward adorning of an abiding Christ. It is the revelation of Christ in the man that captivates the hearts of men and women. They behold the beautiful character of Christ, revealed by good works.”**

*— Letter 40, 1899*

CLICK for two items:

So the “good Kellogg” back in 1893 with his sermons on “Good Works” actually had it right!

But it’s even more than that!

## The Final Work

**“God’s purpose in committing to men and women the mission that He committed to Christ is to disentangle His followers from all worldly policy and to give them a work identical with the work that Christ did.”**

— Manuscript 130, 1902

**The “glory of the character of Christ, can never be expressed in words. Human language is inadequate to reveal it. It must be made manifest in the life. It is to be manifest in the individual Christian, in the family, in the church, in the ministry of the word, and in every institution established by God’s people.”**

— *(Australasian) Union Conference Record*, June 1, 1900

Identical... that’s a very strong word!

But when we take up this work that’s identical to the work of Christ, we’re going to run into the identical problem He ran into.

CLICK for second text:

We need to wake up and realize that—if something is impossible for Jesus—it’s going to be impossible for us!

And that’s why, in our work of revealing the character of God, we need to use the same methods (plural this time) that Jesus used.

## The Final Work

**“Christ, the great Medical Missionary, is our example. ... He healed the sick and preached the gospel. In his service, healing and teaching were linked closely together. Today they are not to be separated.”**

*— General Conference Bulletin, June 3, 1909*

**“The Holy Spirit never has, and never will in the future, divorce the medical missionary work from the gospel ministry. They can not be divorced. Bound up with Jesus Christ, the ministry of the word and the healing of the sick are one.”**

*— Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, 64*

CLICK for second text:

## The Final Work

**“The union of Christlike work for the body and Christlike work for the soul is the true interpretation of the gospel.”**

— *Review and Herald*, March 4, 1902

One quick question to think about here:

If this united work is *\*the\** true interpretation of the gospel, what does that make all other interpretations?

But a word of warning here: I cringe every time I hear someone say something along the lines of, “Oh my! This world is getting so bad, Jesus *\*has\** to come soon!”

Ummmm.... No. He doesn't *\*have\** to come soon. He's the General of the army, and He never loses sight of the mission at hand. He's not waiting for the world to get some particular shade of terrible, He's working to finish off those last two accusations!

## **The Final Work**

**“When men begin to weave in the human threads to compose the pattern of the web, the Lord is in no hurry. He waits until men shall lay down their own human inventions and will accept the Lord’s way and the Lord’s will.”**

**— Letter 181, 1901**

Remember? Lucifer said the law is arbitrary. Did you wonder how I was so sure that hadn't been dealt with already, back in Jesus' day, along with the first six?

Here's how I know that:

## The Final Work

**“In the character of God’s people a living testimony will be borne that will contradict the fallacy of Satan, who has declared that the law of Jehovah is arbitrary, and holds its subjects under a cruel bondage.”**

— *Review and Herald*, August 13, 1895

**“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

And again, you can see the contrast! The claim of God that His law is “non-arbitrary” is going to be demonstrated by “the results of obedience.”

That word “results” is the language of reality, of cause and effect. Not superstition. Not God’s arbitrary decision to forgive His personal favorites and kill the rest.

## The Final Work

- ◆ **God's final work uses the same method that Christ used during His life on earth—the revelation of the character of God.**
- ◆ **God's final work requires that human beings take up the same manner of work that Jesus practiced during His life on earth.**
- ◆ **The revelation of God's character cannot be accomplished through words alone. Acts of mercy and healing are also necessary.**
- ◆ **In short, God's final work is self-sacrifice and self-denial exemplified in medical missionary work.**

CLICK for four items:

“Medical missionary work” does not require a medical license. Just help people! Rake leaves.

All of which helps us understand this statement:

## **The Final Work**

**“The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice—meaning with increasing power—as we approach the great final test. This test must come to the churches in connection with the true....**

The true what?

## The Final Work

“The truth for this time, the third angel’s message, is to be proclaimed with a loud voice—meaning with increasing power—as we approach the great final test. This test must come to the churches in connection with the true medical missionary work, a work that has the great Physician to dictate and preside in all it comprehends.”

— Letter 121, 1900

We’ll have more on this, but before we do, we really need to get a basic idea of the devil’s final attack that will be underway at the same time all this is going on.

## **The Master Plan**

**“The enemy of souls has sought to bring in the supposition that a great reformation was to take place among Seventh-day Adventists, and that this reformation would consist in giving up the doctrines which stand as the pillars of our faith, and engaging in a process of reorganization. Were this reformation to take place, what would result?”**

Back in Ellen White’s day, she wrote of Kellogg’s apostasy, but her description included more than happened at the time. She painted a picture of where the “alpha” was headed. That’s our best description of what the “omega” will be.

CLICK for text:

## **The Master Plan**

**“The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written. A system of intellectual philosophy would be introduced. The founders of this system would go into the cities, and do a wonderful work. The Sabbath of course, would be lightly regarded, as also the God who created it. Nothing would be allowed to stand in the way of the new movement.**

## The Master Plan

**“The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.”**

— *Selected Messages, Book One, 204-205*

I fear elements of this statement are playing out in Adventism right now. Way too many church members are heading down a pointless, social gospel road, and the mindset is deadly. They want to be “sort of virtuous” but they aren’t learning to follow God’s directions explicitly and trust Him with the results.

It goes right back to Lucifer’s problem: Is God smart enough, is God kind enough to care for me? Or should I take care of myself.

It’s a faith thing, again.

But notice this sentence:

## The Master Plan

“The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and storm and tempest would sweep away the structure.”

— *Selected Messages, Book One, 204-205*

This is the story of the wise man and the foolish man.

One built on the rock, the other on the sand, “and the rain came a’tumblin’ down.”

Two houses. But one storm. The same storm.

Christ never said anything about the houses being different from each other. For all we know, they looked identical. But there was a difference. The foundation.

The wise man’s house was not shielded from the storm. It endured the storm because it was built on the rock.

## The Master Plan

“The leaders would teach that virtue is better than vice, but God being removed, they would place their dependence on human power, which, without God, is worthless. Their foundation would be built on the sand, and **storm and tempest** would sweep away the structure.”

— *Selected Messages, Book One, 204–205*

But what is that storm and tempest? And when is this all going to happen?

We call it the “little time of trouble.” And though I’m no prophet, it’s easy to believe that it could be coming soon. The financial, political, medical, and social systems of our world are close to failing. Who knows what might make it all collapse?

In any case, whatever the timing, when it all goes down, it won’t be pretty:

## **Storm and Tempest**

**“In the last scenes of this earth’s history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood.”**

*— Review and Herald, October 19, 1897*

## **Storm and Tempest**

**“Perilous times are before us. The whole world will be involved in perplexity and distress, disease of every kind will be upon the human family, and such ignorance as now prevails concerning the laws of health would result in great suffering and the loss of many lives that might be saved.”**

**— Letter 34, 1892**

So... what to do about all this?

## **Storm and Tempest**

**“If you are a competent physician, you are qualified to do tenfold more good as a missionary for God than if you were to go forth merely as a preacher of the word. I would advise young men and women to give heed to this matter.”**

**— Letter 34, 1892**

## Storm and Tempest

**“As religious aggression subverts the liberties of our nation, those who would stand for freedom of conscience will be placed in unfavorable positions. For their own sake, they should, while they have opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention, and cure. And those who do this will find a field of labor anywhere. There will be suffering ones, plenty of them, who will need help, not only among those of our own faith, but largely among those who know not the truth.”**

—Letter 34, 1892

36

And this is the point: When that collapse comes, there will be two teams of “medical missionaries.” One team will be doing a work “identical” to the work of Christ, while the other team will be doing a work that \*looks\* identical to the work of Christ.

Both groups will be “helping people.” Why? Because, given world conditions at that time, that’s the only thing that is going to have any impact on the world.

Notes continue on next page

## Storm and Tempest

**“As religious aggression subverts the liberties of our nation, those who would stand for freedom of conscience will be placed in unfavorable positions. For their own sake, they should, while they have opportunity, become intelligent in regard to disease, its causes, prevention, and cure. And those who do this will find a field of labor anywhere. There will be suffering ones, plenty of them, who will need help, not only among those of our own faith, but largely among those who know not the truth.”**

—Letter 34, 1892

37

God’s followers will be ministering to the people—both for their physical health and their spiritual health. They’ll be doing the same thing Jesus did when He was here.

And Satan’s followers? Much the same... in appearance, anyway.

Until the storm and tempest sweeps away their structure!

But how could this storm sweep away the devil’s house but not the Lord’s house? Is the Lord working a miracle to protect His people? No. Both houses face the same storm. So what’s the difference?

The foundation!

## **Storm and Tempest**

**“The very foundation of [Christ’s] mission was self-denial, self-sacrifice.”**

— Letter 2b, 1892

**“Selfishness lies at the foundation of all sin.”**

— Manuscript 153, 1899

The foundation is the difference.

And when food, or money, or clothing, or whatever starts to run low, the selfish heart is going to stop giving. Like Lucifer in the beginning, sin has turned all who have chosen it into liars and murderers. Not trusting God’s love and wisdom to care for them, they have taken upon themselves the responsibility of caring for themselves.

And supplies are low. The selfish heart refuses to give or serve anymore. The structure of counterfeit service is swept away.

But Christians, those who have built on the foundation of Christ, what about them? They are in the middle of the same storm. How could it be any different?

Notes continue on next page

## Storm and Tempest

**“In the last great conflict of the controversy with Satan those who are loyal to God will see every earthly support cut off.”**

— *Desire of Ages*, 121

**“It is safe to let go every earthly support and take the hand of Him who lifted up and saved the sinking disciple on the stormy sea.”**

— *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 558

**“We can never perfect a round, full, Christian experience until every earthly support is removed, and the soul centers its entire affections about God.”**

— Letter 6, 1894

This “storm and tempest” helps make the final demonstration of the characters of both those who have chosen to serve Satan and those who have chosen to serve Christ.

But if it just takes a sufficiently messed up world to bring on the end of the great controversy, why is it taking so long?

Actually, a messed up world is the least of the delays. The problem with letting go of the four winds too soon, is that God might end up with only one demonstration—the bad one.

Before we move on, let’s take a look at what we might reasonably expect to face in the time of the omega. How can we know? By looking at the methods Satan has used in the last two such cases, and remembering that he has nothing new now.

## What to Do Now?

**“God desires everyone to understand the hateful character of selfishness and to co-operate with Him in guarding His human family against its terrible, deceptive power. The first result of the entrance of sin into the world was the birth of principles of selfishness. The design of the gospel is, by means of remedial missionary work, to confront this evil of selfishness and destroy its destructive power by establishing enterprises of benevolence.”**

— Letter 165, 1901

40

That’s pretty much where we are now... not up to speed on the most basic of issues. Things like self-denial and self-sacrifice. They haven’t been developed fully because we haven’t had enough faith to let go of “every earthly support” and trust God’s love and wisdom to take care of us.

That being the case, we clearly need a “Bonehead Christianity” class. Fortunately, God’s big on remedial education. Maybe we should try to get into the class.

CLICK for text:

## **Could It Be?**

**In 1892, the Loud Cry had “already begun in the revelation of the righteousness of Christ,” though the world knew nothing about it. Very likely, no one in the church would have known it either, if God hadn’t told Ellen White.**

**It was a classic case of “despise not the day of small beginnings.”**

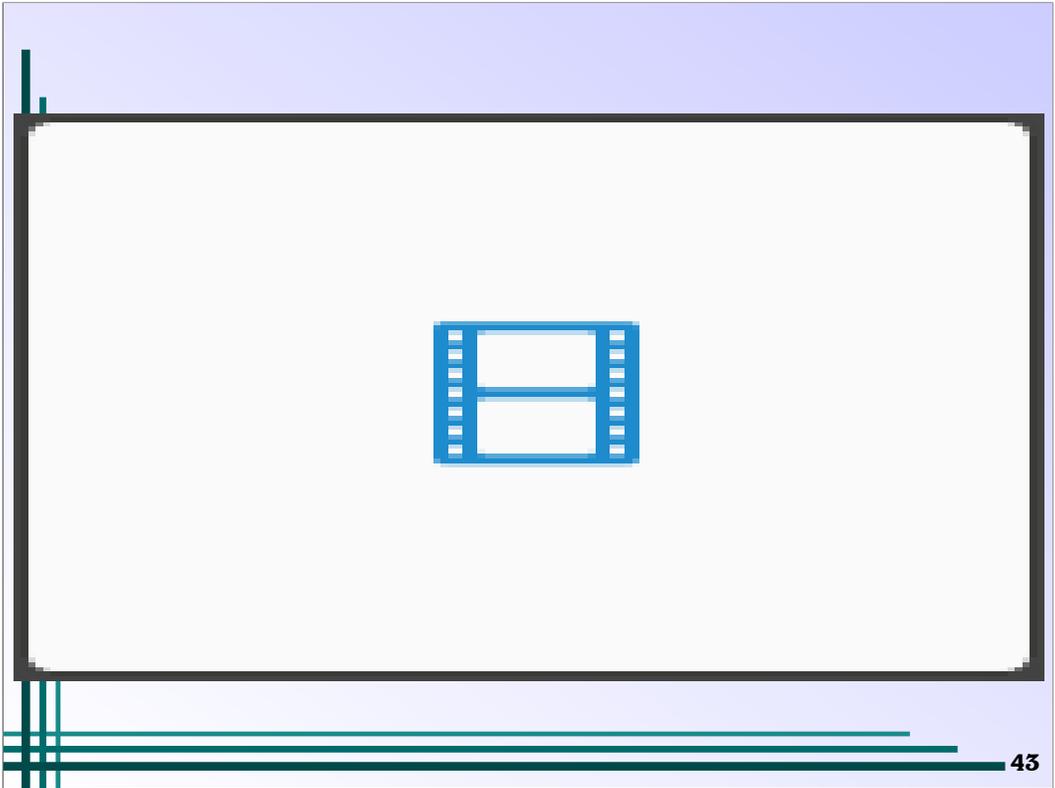
**What were those beginnings?**

## Could It Be?

- ◆ The proclamation of the “1888 Message” theology by A.T. Jones, E.J. Waggoner, and others
- ◆ The additional “revelation of the righteousness of Christ” through the applied theology of—
- ◆ The orphanage
- ◆ The visiting nurses program
- ◆ The Christian help bands

These were “enterprises of benevolence.”

Now... think back over the last seven years....



## Could It Be?

- ◆ **San Francisco**
- ◆ **Oakland**
- ◆ **San Antonio**
- ◆ **Spokane**
- ◆ **Los Angeles**
- ◆ **Beckley, WV**
- ◆ **Phoenix**
- ◆ **Fort Worth**
  
- ◆ **Plus dozens of smaller "AMEN Clinics" coordinated through the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network**

## Could It Be?

**“As Lucifer sees that we are making efforts to work the cities as if we meant to give the last message....”**

**“Henceforth medical missionary work is to be carried forward with an earnestness with which it has never yet been carried. This work is the door through which the truth is to find entrance to the large cities.”**

*— Testimonies, vol. 9, 167*

So all this medical missionary work has been going on in cities for the last few years. And—having worked in the chaplaincy department—I can verify that a great deal of missionary activity and material went into the operation and home with the people. And that just might have made a difference.

CLICK for text:

OK, so it looks like something might happen here. But before we worry about that, let me ask, what do you suppose “as if we meant to” means? What would “not meaning to” look like? What would “as if we meant to” look like?

You might have an idea of your own, and that’s OK, but my best guess is that “as if we meant to” would—at the very least—mean following God’s directions on city work.

CLICK for text:

## Could It Be?

**“As Lucifer sees that we are making efforts to work the cities as if we meant to give the last message, his wrath will be aroused, and he will employ every device in his power to hinder the work.”**

—Letter 74, 1910

46

There was supposed to be another Pathway to Health megaclicnic last summer....

Yeah... didn't happen.

So what are the odds that this pandemic might be one of Satan's "deices."

Notice: Satan seems pretty nervous about cities. They are actually his achilles heal. We sometimes think of them as incorrigibly evil, and there's certainly enough of that to go around. But Satan has a lot of dissatisfied customers in those cities, and we need to be at the work of showing them something better.

## To Finish the Task

**“The followers of Christ know little of the plots which Satan and his hosts are forming against them. But He who sitteth in the heavens will overrule all these devices for the accomplishment of His deep designs. The Lord permits His people to be subjected to the fiery ordeal of temptation, not because He takes pleasure in their distress and affliction, but because this process is essential to their final victory. He could not, consistently with His own glory, shield them from temptation; for the very object of the trial is to prepare them to resist all the allurements of evil.”**

*— Great Controversy, 528*

## To Finish the Task

**What? God is not going to shield His people from temptation?**

***We've got a promise for that!.... He can't just dump us, can He? Look at the Bible verse!***

**"God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it."**

— 1 Corinthians 10:13

Of course He keeps His promise!

But at the end of time He keeps it by "preparing them to resist all the allurements of evil."

How's He going to do that?

Remember Lucifer's accusations? He said the law was arbitrary, that it was what it was just because God said that's what it was going to be. That God could change it any time He wanted but just saying "The new law is...."

But God said, "No, it's not arbitrary, and it's impossible to change.

So Lucifer came back with his "killer punch":

## To Finish the Task

**“OK, God. If You can’t change Your law, that means  
You can’t ever forgive anyone, because if the law is  
beyond your control, so is the penalty!”**

## To Finish the Task

**[Satan laid his] “plans to wrest from God the noble Adam and his companion Eve. If he could, in any way, beguile them to disobedience, God would make some provision whereby they might be pardoned, and then himself and all the fallen angels would be in a fair way to share with them of God’s mercy.”**

— *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, 29–30

**“He reasoned that if God pardoned sinful man whom he had created, he would also pardon and receive into favor him and his angels. But he was disappointed.”**

— *Review and Herald*, February 24, 1874

## **To Finish the Task**

**Lucifer couldn't imagine any way to forgive, without changing the law. He thought he had God in a box:**

**"Those humans You thought it was such a good idea to create, they sinned, so they have to die. Unless, of course, You decide to be reasonable and change Your law.**

**"But, either way, I win!"**

And he's still using the same argument at the close of probation!

## To Finish the Task

**“[Satan] numbers the world as his subjects; but the little company who keep the commandments of God are resisting his supremacy. If he could blot them from the earth, his triumph would be complete. He sees that holy angels are guarding them, and he infers that their sins have been pardoned; but he does not know that their cases have been decided in the sanctuary above.**

## To Finish the Task

**“He has an accurate knowledge of the sins which he has tempted them to commit, and he presents these before God in the most exaggerated light, representing this people to be just as deserving as himself of exclusion from the favor of God. He declares that the Lord cannot in justice forgive their sins and yet destroy him and his angels.”**

— *Great Controversy*, 618

So what is God going to do about this final claim?

He's going to show—through His people—that He doesn't need to change the law in order to be just. He's going to be BOTH ....

## **To Finish the Task**

**“just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”**

— Romans 3:26

**“The design of the gospel is, by means of remedial missionary work, to confront this evil of selfishness and destroy its destructive power by establishing enterprises of benevolence.”**

— Letter 165, 1901

**[God works to] prepare them to resist all the allurements of evil, [because this is] essential to their final victory.”**

— *Great Controversy*, 528

CLICK for two items:

Of course, Satan has a few words to say about this:



## When pigs fly!

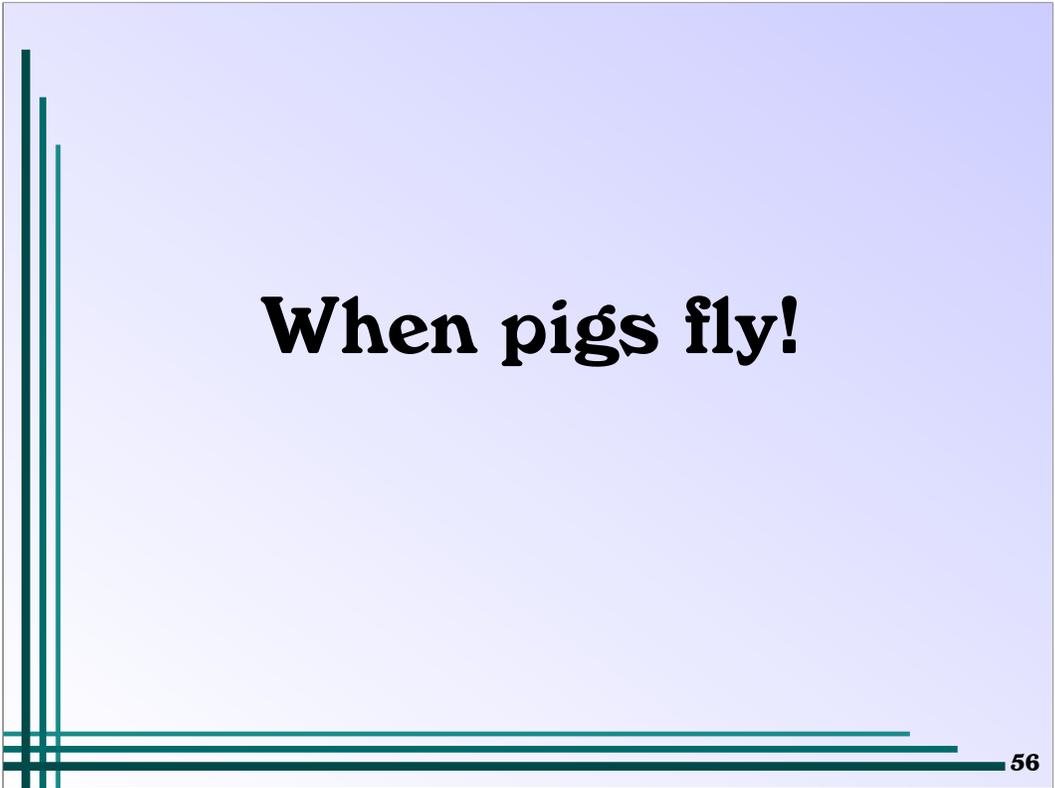
55

But that just shows that he's *\*still\** looking at the law as arbitrary! No basis in reality!

God, of course, sees it differently. He knows that the law of heaven is every bit as real as the law of gravity. Laws like that don't depend on the king, or the parliament, or congress, or city hall. They come from a greater reality than any of those things.

So does the law of sin and death. Satan can see no way but to change it. He looks at God like King Nebuchadnezzar—stuck with a law he cannot change, even though it will cost the life of one he loves. But if God sends an angel to work a miracle this time, Satan will claim interference! He'll say, “

Notes continue on next page



# When pigs fly!

56

“You can’t do that for them, and not for me! You’ve got to save me too!”

But God isn’t like Nebuchadnezzat! He’s like King Ahasuerus! Also stuck with a law he couldn’t change, also in danger of losing one he loved. But smart enough to let a second law counteract—but not change—the first law.

So God has a few words, too!

# When planes fly!

**“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.”**

— Romans 8:2

57

Planes don't do away with gravity, they just use aerodynamics!

God doesn't do away with the law of sin and death, He just uses the law of faith and the Spirit of life!

In the end, it all comes right back to where Lucifer fell. It comes back to faith.

## To Finish the Task

**“Those who live in the last days must pass through an experience similar to that of Jacob. Foes will be all around them, ready to condemn and destroy. Alarm and despair will seize them, for it appears to them as to Jacob in his distress, that God himself has become an avenging enemy. It is the design of God to arouse the dormant energies of his people to look out of and away from self to One who can bring help and salvation, that the promises given for just such a time may be seen in their preciousness, and relied upon with unwavering trust. Here faith is proved.”**

*— Signs of the Times, November 27, 1879*

This is no light calling. We are soldiers, and a soldier's life is never intended to be soft and easy. This is a war, and our only hope is in following implicitly the orders of the “Commander of the army of the LORD.”

This is the way of life, this is the walk of faith.