while we were gone
Sept 25 '64

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE **Bible** CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON 29

Satan Originates World's Day of Worship -- Sunday!

JUST *how* did SUNDAY—this world's day of worship—come into being?

GOD DID *NOT* CREATE this day to be holy!

Why was a day in honor of the sun *purposely* instituted? Who is responsible for its origin? And what is the motive behind the institution of this, the most observed day of this present evil world? Was it for the diabolical purpose of deceiving mankind?

YOU *CAN* KNOW!

A Diabolical Sinister Plot

The origin and background of Sunday observance is one of the most cleverly concealed, diabolical and sinister plots ever devised.

Many inhabitants of this world—the great majority of this present age-end time—will soon find themselves under heavy political and military pressure to observe Sunday.

Whole nations are becoming *Sun*day conscious. Yes, there is a sinister and diabolical, little suspected, but *very* real, connection between this day and a great wicked spirit in an extremely high place! Read and ponder well the pages of this lesson so that you may have the knowledge to protect yourself against the perilous times just ahead. Understand now how *SUN*DAY came into being, *who* the great sinister power is that promotes its observance in our time—*why* he is so diligent in misleading people to observe it, and *what* God warns is to befall those who do observe *Sun*day!

It is not necessary to our salvation for us mortal beings to know all about the relationship between God and His angels. Therefore God reveals only the essentials. He does not burden us with unnecessary details by revealing them to us . . . *except* for ONE GREAT past event—the rebellion of Satan and of the angels that followed him. GOD WARNS US of *that* event *so that we may be thrown on guard for a great danger now!*

Angels Once Given Earth's Rule

1. Are the Devil and his DEMONS a kind of angel? Matt. 25:41.

COMMENT: The Devil and his demons are *FALLEN* ANGELS.

2. As they are a kind of angel, Satan and his demons originated in the same manner that all angels did. Therefore how did he and his angels originate? Psa. 148:2, 5. And were they not created before the foundations of our earth were laid—that is, before our earth was created? Job 38:4, 7.

COMMENT: Revelation 1:20 shows that angels are symbolized in the Bible as stars. The angels had already been created before this earth was created.

3. What kind of an angelic being was SATAN ORIGINALLY? Ezek. 28:14. Was he perfect in his ways? Verse 15. And in beauty and wisdom? Verse 12. Did he cover something? Verse 14. What does God sit between? Psa. 99:1. Then did not Satan's wings, when he was Lucifer the cherub, cover—protect—the throne of God in heaven—the mercy seat upon which God sits? (The heavenly throne of God is pictured by the earthly tabernacle in Ex. 25:20, verses 17-22.)

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Who set Lucifer IN this HIGH POSITION of office and authority of guarding God's throne? Ezek. 28:14.

COMMENT: The earthly human king of Tyre of Ezekiel 28:12-14 is used by God to depict the Devil as he originally was when he, as one of God's great cherubs, existed as the anointed cherub named LUCIFER (Isa. 14:12).

"Lucifer" means "Light Bringer" or "Shining Star of the Dawn." Lucifer had the high position of guarding God's throne located in our northern heavens (Isa. 14:13) on the heavenly Mount Zion. The words "on the Holy Mountain" (Ezek. 28:14) refer to this. Lucifer WAS RESPLENDENT—SHINING—full of *wisdom*, and perfect in *beauty* (Ezek. 28:12). And God had made and placed him so.

4. Was Lucifer so satisfactory that GOD GAVE HIM ANOTHER POSITION—one of rulership? Isa. 14:13. Note the word "throne." "Throne" means rulership.

5. Was Lucifer's assigned place of RULERSHIP in a different place from God's throne in heaven? Ezek. 28:13, first nine words.

COMMENT: God placed Lucifer in rule and authority over other angels which He—God—had put ON THIS EARTH. Lucifer's throne was in the pre-Adamic wonderfully beautiful Eden—with its precious stones, musical instruments, and gold!! (Ezek. 28:13-14.) A wonderful "garden" spot (Verse 13), located somewhere in the area now known as Palestine. From here Lucifer ruled over millions of angelic subjects.

6. Did Lucifer appear to be perfect at that time? Ezek. 28:12, 15.

Lucifer Becomes Mad For Complete Dominion

The wise, bright and shining, powerful Prince Lucifer was perfect in all his ways while he was ruling this earth in its pre-Adamic era from his pre-Adamic throne in Eden. That is, until LUCIFER DEVELOPED an OVERWHELMING OBSESSIVE DESIRE FOR EXPANDING HIS RULERSHIP where it was not God's will that he should exercise it! An obsessive desire that caused his very downfall!! Learn now of Lucifer's great and terrible rebellion which resulted in his becoming "Satan the Devil"—the *continuing* "adversary" of both God and man!

1. What change came about in the heart—the mind—of Lucifer because of his high and exalted position? Ezek. 28:17. Did he BECOME INORDINATELY PROUD OF his *beauty?* Same verse. And had not his brightness as Lucifer, the angel of light (both mentally and physically), affected his *wisdom* and general balance? Same verse.

COMMENT: Lucifer had become "lifted up"—puffed up, because of the unusual *beauty* of his body, which had the brightness of a star. He wanted to have the comparative brightness of the sun! God's brightness is likened to the sun shining in full strength.

2. *Why* was Lucifer puffed up because of his body? Is it not a characteristic of the *God* Family—characteristic of GOD THE FATHER, AND GOD THE SON—that those within the supreme *God* Family HAVE *truly GLORIFIED* BODIES that SHINE BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN? Understand. Did not Christ, the mortal man, at the end of His human work on earth, ask God, the Father, to *restore* him to his former *glory?* John 17:5. And God having done so after Christ's resurrection, how does Christ look now—*restored* to His former brightness? — is His countenance as the *sun* in *strength?* Rev. 1:13, 16.

3. What other evidence have we that radiant, glorified *bodies* are a *constant* feature with those who are members in the supremely high Family of God? Will not God the Father and God the Son be so *bright* that THEY WILL BE AS THE *SUN* to God's people AFTER THIS EARTH BURNS UP?—And will there then be no need of the light of an earthly sun for this reason? Rev. 21:23, 24 (the Lamb is Christ). Also study Rev. 22:5.

4. What did LUCIFER, the angelic cherub, who was *not* of the true *God* Family in any sense of the word—but had only the brightness of a star—ambitiously make up his mind to do? Isa. 14:13.

COMMENT: Lucifer said he would rise from this earth—depart from the position God had placed him in here on this earth as prince—and ascend into the northern heavens where God's throne is and exalt himself to a position over God's very own angels (referred to here as "stars").

5. What did Lucifer say he would thus become? Isa. 14:14.

COMMENT: Lucifer thus said he would make

himself like the Most High God! He would pick the position of rulership *he* would choose!!

6. From the pre-Adamic Eden Lucifer arose through the clouds into the heavens to battle the Supreme God and His angels so that he, Lucifer, might RULE AS GOD. How many angelic warriors did Lucifer lead after him? Rev. 12:3, 4. Yes, Lucifer was ready for great aggressive battle!

COMMENT: Notice — verse 4 — that LUCIFER'S STRENGTH and influence was SO GREAT that he was able to draw one-third of all the millions upon millions of angels (stars) to aid him in this revolt!

Notice also that LUCIFER, the light-bringer —after he turned against God—is *RE-NAMED* by God a "GREAT RED DRAGON" in verses 3-4. In verse 9 he is called "THAT OLD SERPENT [sly and silent—but very deadly] . . . THE DEVIL [the great demon, over a vast assemblage of lesser demons], AND SATAN [THE ADVERSARY]."

Lucifer Battles God For Supreme Power—Becomes Satan!!

1. Did a TREMENDOUS BATTLE take place in heaven when Lucifer and his angels ascended in open and active opposition TO SEIZE GOD'S THRONE? Rev. 12:7.

COMMENT: What Satan is soon to attempt again, he did formerly. There was "WAR IN HEAVEN"! God's angelic armies met Lucifer and his angelic armies as they ascended to heaven. A spectacular battle occurred, the like of which DEFIES the IMAGINATION! There was *tremendous destruction!*

What the astronomers see through their telescopes today is not an evolving universe but visible evidence of the wreckage of a *titanic battle*, waged by spirit beings in outer space—a battle fought before man's creation.

Note! GOD NAMES ONE FOR WHAT HE IS OR HAS BECOME! God did not create Satan. God created Lucifer, who *became* SATAN. By his own choice in *opposing* God, he made himself God's adversary.

LUCIFER, by the time God speaks of him in the Book of Revelation HAD BECOME, THROUGH LONG AND CONTINUED VILE PRACTICES, PERVERTED IN ALL HIS WAYS. EVEN IN the WAY he LOOKED. NOW Satan LOOKED LIKE A VORACIOUS DRAGON.

Lucifer Cast Back to Earth

1. Did GOD'S ANGELIC FORCES REPEL Lucifer's (SATAN'S) invasion by CASTING HIM AND his ANGELS BACK TO THIS EARTH? Rev. 12:4 and Isa. 14:12.

COMMENT: Note the words, "Lucifer . . . thou art cut down to the ground," in Isa. 14:12.

Lucifer tried to make himself God. But he failed. He and his angels were cast back down to this earth. At the time of Lucifer's fall, God changed Lucifer's name to Satan, which means "adversary"—one opposed to—a rebel against—God! We find Satan the devil in direct and active opposition to God and everything that has to do with God's expansion of the God kingdom—God's ruling family. God renamed the angels that followed Satan, "demons." (The word "devils" used in the Bible is a mistranslation—it should be translated "demons.")

See Lesson 11 for the details.

2. Satan and his demons were forced back to the *earth.* Were they content to give up *there?*

COMMENT: Satan is still the enemy of God and of His begotten sons.

3. Is SATAN, the dragon, so serious and set in seizing rulership that he is GOING TO MAKE EVEN ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO WREST DOMINION FROM GOD IN YOUR AND MY TIME—in the very short time now left before Christ's second coming? Rev. 12:7. But will he be cast down onto our earth again, as he was before? Verse 9.

Note verse 10. The time spoken of here is just before Christ comes when we may have "salvation" by the "strength" of the Holy Spirit and enter the Kingdom of God as born sons of God! And receive the very "power" of Christ, "the *first*born [Son into the Spirit kingdom] of many brethren [who may be born into it also—us!]" Rom. 8:29.

Do you think for a minute that Satan who, for eons of time, has been possessed with the obsession of gaining dominion of all things in the heavens and earth would cease *now* to continue to pursue this goal? Of course not!

Satan Wants No One Born Again Into God's Kingdom

Satan *hates* God! Of all things Satan does not want, it is for there to be *more* begotten sons of God born into God's very own family, with *power.*

That Satan will attempt to prevent at all costs!

1. But even as Satan is in this set mood for eternal destruction of all mankind, what does GOD SAY He intends to do? Gen. 1:26, first 13 words.

COMMENT: "LET US MAKE MAN in our image," (Gen. 1:26), God says. Make man completely in God's image—*not* in flesh and blood alone—but finally finish mankind out into spirit beings, with perfect Godly character. A creation *higher* than the angels. VERY SONS OF GOD. *Terrible for Satan's plan!!*

2. So what *are* Satan and the rest of the one-third of God's rebellious, dominion-seeking, fallen angels *now* doing on this earth in order to prevent this plan of God and strengthen their ages-old plan for world and universe dominion for themselves? II Cor. 4:4.

COMMENT: SATAN *still* is the "GOD" OF THIS EVIL WORLD. He is the Serpent—the Adversary. It is he and his demons who would hide from *all* mankind the true gospel—the *true* way to becoming very Gods within God's Family. ESPECIALLY WOULD HE MASK the keeping of the KEY TEST OF OBEDIENCE, THE SABBATH DAY, AND SUBSTITUTE another day—A DAY OF DAMNATION—A DAY OF HIS OWN!! A clever and effective device—an extremely effective strategy to do away with man.

Power-Mad Satan Unfit To Rule

What is basically wrong with Satan and all these angels that have set themselves on a course of REBELLION TOWARD GOD? Let us see.

1. Did GOD CHARGE the ANGELS WITH FOLLY? Job 4:18.

2. Why did God charge the angels with folly —did God begin to find iniquity—sin—in the seemingly perfect king Lucifer of the earth? Ezek. 28:15.

3. Did the possessions and authority which king Lucifer had received as a ruler cause him to seek even more riches and authority? Ezek. 28:16. Did he even begin to seek them WITH *VIOLENCE* and thus begin to *sin* — become disobedient to God? Same verse.

COMMENT: LUCIFER was created PERFECT in all ways EXCEPT *CHARACTER!* God did not create Lucifer with perfect character incapable of sinning. Notice it: Lucifer was only "perfect in his ways till . . ."—till he exercised his will against God! Lucifer would not recognize his weakness—he would not learn to restrain self and submit to the will of God! Despite all of Lucifer's perfection and knowledge, he was weak in this, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL.

Character cannot be instantaneously created because it involves individual *decision*—the exercise of the will in the right direction. It must be developed through trial, testing, and experience!

Lucifer would not control his willful and overpowering desire to "get." He had the will to do what was right, but he did not and does not choose to be *obedient* to God.

4. Although God had already rewarded Lucifer with a throne of great power and influence on this earth, what *change* took place in Lucifer's mind?—and what did his uncontrolled desire to "take" finally cause him to plan? First half of Ezek. 28:17, and Isa. 14:13, 14.

COMMENT: Lucifer lusted for more power—more authority! Lucifer said, "I will ascend to Heaven and seize God's throne. I'm going to take God's place and be the God of the universe." Lucifer wasn't willing to be content with his own jurisdiction. He is out to rule the whole universe!

The Devil's sin was insubordination! Attempted seizure of a throne is treason! Lucifer rebelled and would not be ruled by God any longer. He refused to carry out God's government on earth. Lucifer wants to substitute his own government.

5. What is the great *basic* reason why angels will never be in the supreme *God-ruling Family* however they may try, by deceit and trickery, to secure supreme rule? Let *God*, Himself, reveal this fact, for otherwise we would never know. Heb. 1:5.

COMMENT: The great Lucifer and all the other created angels were never destined to be more than just servants. For none of the angels may be begotten of God, as God's very sons, into the very God Family—with power, as man may be. ONLY MANKIND, whom God has created from the dust of the earth, IS DESTINED TO BECOME SONS OF GOD (Gen. 1:26). ONLY *MAN* has been PROMISED BY GOD that he may be begotten and have the AID OF the HOLY SPIRIT OF *POWER* through which he may become God's Son.

We Are Being Fashioned Into God's SONS

1. Doesn't God positively say that "the world to come"—the Millennial one-thousand-years age and thereafter—will *not* be ruled by angels?—no matter how hard the rebellious ones now may try to place themselves in a position to do so? Heb. 2:5.

2. Are we not promised rule over the angels? Heb. 2:7, 8.

COMMENT: Note that God is speaking of angels here, and is pointing out that MAN (Verse 7) has been MADE A LITTLE *LOWER* THAN THE ANGELS NOW, but WILL BE PLACED

OVER GOD'S "WORKS"—His *created* works, the ANGELS that God created—AND ALL the OTHER OF GOD'S WORKS. No wonder ambitious Satan and his rebellious fallen angels want to see all mankind—with their possibility of becoming Gods—very Sons of God — DESTROYED *FOREVER!*

3. Does GOD declare He HAS a GREAT OVERALL PLAN—"declaring the end *from the beginning*" [*the* START]? Isa. 46:10. In this great overall *plan*, did GOD DECIDE THERE WOULD BE A SAVIOUR EVEN *BEFORE* HE CREATED THIS EARTH ITSELF? I Pet. 1:19, 20. Note the words, "*before* the foundation . . ." Did God have a purpose exactly in mind for us to fulfill even *before* He created this earth? II Tim. 1:9. Note the words, "Holy calling." So we see God does have a *plan* and He has a definite use for His angels too.

4. Now just where do angelic beings *properly* fit into God's great plan—are there cherubim at God's throne? Psa. 99:1. And ELDERS? Rev. 4:10. Do ARCHANGELS serve God? Jude 9. Are others disciplined into ARMIES? Rev. 19:14. Do others WATCH OVER — minister — to God's spirit-begotten people here on earth? Heb. 1:14.

COMMENT: And there are countless millions in other duties. TWO-THIRDS OF the ANGELS STILL SERVE GOD in the duties He created them for. But Satan and the millions upon millions of the ONE-THIRD (Rev. 12:4) seek to wrest dominion from God. These ARE the INORDINATELY AMBITIOUS, UNSCRUPULOUS, and RUTHLESS ANGELS WHO, not having been created Gods, SEEK BY ANY AND EVERY WAY they can, TO MAKE of THEMSELVES the universe-ruling GODS over and above the supreme *creator* God, and His true Family, the Kingdom of God!!

5. What does God say regarding the attitude of these rebellious angels who are in revolt against Him?—does GOD SAY that they should not strive with their maker—God—because He created them for their particular purpose? Isa. 45:9.

COMMENT: Should a *stone* that God made say to God, "I do not want to be a stone, I want to be a god"? Preposterous!

6. What other verses show that no created being should strive with God because God has created him for a specific purpose? Rom. 9:20, last 16 words, and verse 21, first eight words. Eph. 3:9.

COMMENT: SATAN AND his fallen angels, the DEMONS, are IN A COMPLETELY WRONG ATTITUDE in their determination to see us—we who may become very Sons of God—completely destroyed. Nevertheless they persist in attempting to cause this to happen.

Satan Inadvertently Tempering Us

Satan, without intending to do so, has a part in producing within us stronger character. Let us see how this comes about.

1. Lucifer, who later became Satan, was perfect in *all* his ways "till" what happened? Ezek. 28:15. Note the word "iniquity."

COMMENT: The cherub Lucifer was weak in *character*.

2. Does not God say that He has made us—man—a little *lower* than the angels (as we are physically born)? Heb. 2:7. In what *way* are we created a little lower than the angels? Job 4:18, 19. Does God not say that He trusts earthy man—man's character—less than that of the angels? Verse 19.

COMMENT: "His angels He [God] charged with folly [they were weak in character]: how much *less* [does He—God—trust] in them that dwell in houses of clay [we mortals composed of earth. Gen. 2:7]" (Job 4:18, 19). Lucifer, who later became Satan, was a creature of free choice—he exercised this choice wrongly and became Satan—which means adversary.

3. But though MAN is WEAKER *NOW* THAN the rebellious FALLEN LUCIFER—Satan—AND his FALLEN ANGELS and is, in a sense, in subjection to them in this "present evil world" of Satan's, does GOD not SAY HE WILL ELEVATE *MAN* TO BE ABOVE THEM in the soon-coming millennial era of this earth, and beyond? Heb. 2:8, 5. This is what Satan and his demons fear!

4. *How* does God propose to elevate man to this coming high position—by salvation? Heb. 2:3. Through a certain amount of sufferings? Heb. 2:10. Note the words, "make the *Captain* [Christ, and likewise us, his *followers* also] . . . perfect through sufferings."

COMMENT: This is where the TEMPERING SEDUCTIONS OF SATAN come in to STRENGTHEN US. His presentation of *IM*PROPER CHOICE which WE MUST CHOOSE TO *SPURN!!*

5. And does God promise the supernatural POWER of His HOLY SPIRIT to aid and strengthen us? Heb. 2:3, 4, 5. Note particularly the words: "salvation," "Holy Spirit," and "subjection." Having the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit to aid us there is *no* excuse, is there, for our not achieving this wonderful goal of becoming very Sons of God, regardless of any trap the Devil will set to destroy us? Same verses.

COMMENT: After one is finally born of God one *cannot* sin because he *wills* not to sin. For God's seed (Holy Spirit of begettal) will *remain*

in the one begotten and born (I John 3:9).

Hebrews 1 and 2 reveal to us we are destined to be *over* God's created angels — provided we *OBEY* God. THERE IS THE CRUX! *OBEDIENCE!* OBEDIENCE TO GOD. Now to prove it! Recall carefully that it is the very next two *following* chapters, Hebrews, chapters 3 and 4, which tell us explicitly that WE MUST *KEEP* GOD'S HOLY SABBATH—the TEST commandment — IF we ARE TO rule in the world tomorrow. KEEP GOD'S Holy SEVENTH DAY OF THE WEEK — the HOLY SABBATH Day—NOT observe the Devil's FIRST DAY OF the WEEK, *SUN*DAY. This *MUST* be remembered and obeyed IF we are to AVOID the DEVIL'S SNARE. By avoiding this snare we will become very Sons of God —very Gods—in the Kingdom of God, and replace Satan and his fallen angels and thus be granted *dominion* with Christ! And Satan and his angels will *lose* it!

Expansion of God-Family Begins

This EARTH AND its SURROUNDINGS were TERRIBLY MARRED as a result of Satan's rebellion against God. The time had come in God's great plan to move ahead. What did God do?

1. Did GOD REFASHION, in degree, the EARTH to make it possible for man to live upon it? Gen. 1:9, 16.

COMMENT: God made the *sun* shine again on this earth which had been darkened by the chaos.

2. And what did God then say regarding His creation of man? Gen. 1:26, 27. Also read Rom. 8:29.

COMMENT: Remember by the references in Genesis that man is already created physically in God's image, but that by Romans 8:29, I Cor. 15, and by many other references we know WE MAY BECOME further CREATED INTO THE SPIRITUAL IMAGE OF GOD and thus become Spirit beings just as Christ and the Father are. Become members of the very *God* Family! THIS is WHAT SATAN AND HIS DEMONS FEAR ABOVE ALL THINGS. God has a great plan, but Satan is *not* in agreement with it! FOR through God's plan Satan and his demons WILL LOSE THEIR DOMINION of this earth.

Satan Views Men as "Usurpers"

SATAN VIEWS HUMAN beings AS "USURPERS." What could be better, he reasons, than to CAUSE these "usurpers" TO DISOBEY GOD SO that GOD CANNOT USE THEM!!

1. Understand! Was the SERPENT AT ONCE AT HAND TO CAUSE God's new creation—MAN—TO *DISOBEY* GOD, just as soon as God created man? Gen. 3:1. Note the word, "SERPENT." Who was this serpent—SATAN, the Devil? Rev. 12:9. Aren't we warned that Satan is extremely subtle? Gen. 3:1; II Cor. 11:3. Aren't we warned against wicked spirits—"spiritual wickedness" — in high places? Eph. 6:12. Satan is prince of the air and ruler over a vast number of wicked demon spirits. We are warned against these *CLEVER* and *DEADLY foes.*

COMMENT: Note. Lucifer was the former "Light-bringer" to this earth, of spiritual light and true wisdom. He was a beautiful, bright and shining cherub. Then through sinful rebellion against God he became perverted in all his ways—both mentally and in bodily form. In the Garden of Eden he is the serpent.

By the time of our day, now, God reveals Satan, the serpent, has further progressively degenerated to an even more hideously vile and destructive form—he is now revealed to us as a great red (fiery) *dragon* (Rev. 12:3). Sin —sinfulness—has a creeping, insidious, hardening effect on all who persistently practice it. SATAN'S HEART has now become as adamant —as HARD—AS STONE!

SATAN is also THE UNSEEN, BUT EXTREMELY REAL, POWER BEHIND an AGE-OLD SUCCESSION OF WORLD EMPIRES (Rev. 13:1, 2). Empires which have swayed this earth for thousands of years. Satan, ably AIDED BY MILLIONS of ANGELIC FALLEN DEMONS, is the prince—the fiery invisible dragon-ruler of this world—this age—who incites disobedience.

Satan is the "god" of this world (II Cor. 4:4). He has been this from the very time Adam rebelled against God.

Satan and his fallen evil angels love "this present evil world." Love it as much as they can "love" anything. It reflects their perverted character. It agrees with their evil natures. They are organized to run this present evil WORLD and they want to remain here. IT is their "home." A PLACE THEY CAN RULE OVER "AS GODS." And it is THEIR "FIRST" FOOTHOLD TOWARD WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE AS UNIVERSAL DOMINION for themselves.

THEY WANT TO RETAIN THIS EARTH — this dominion — AND EXPAND their DOMINION FROM HERE THROUGH all the UNIVERSE.

2. But to achieve this goal Satan and his demons have God the Father to contend with. Also they have one begotten and born Son of God—Christ—to contend with. They do *not* want *other* sons born of God. They fight God and His plan to beget and have born other sons of God at every turn. We found in Gen. 3:1 that SATAN, THE *SUBTLE SERPENT*, was AT

ONCE PRESENT IN the GARDEN OF EDEN WITH EVE AND ADAM. What was he up to? Understand!

Adam and Eve Attend Satan's "Sunday Service"

1. On what day did God create man? Gen. 1:27, 31. And did not God's holy *Sabbath Day* immediately follow this sixth day? Gen. 2:2.

COMMENT: God created man on the sixth day of the week. And on the next day—the seventh day—God's *holy* commanded *Sabbath* [*rest*] *Day* (Gen. 2:2), God lost no time, but at once instructed the man. He revealed to the man the sabbath—as a test of obedience—and also instructed man in His other commandments and laws (Gen. 2:16, 17).

2. But what immediately happened—on the very *next* day *after* the *Sabbath* Day of *God's* instruction—didn't Satan begin at once talking to God's new creation, man, on the first of these six *ordinary* days of God's week? Gen. 3:1-4.

COMMENT: SATAN, the adversary, the one who *rebels* against God, lost no time. He was AT ONCE HAVING HIS OWN "CHURCH" SERVICE—*not* on God's holy commanded Sabbath Day — but ON the DAY *FOLLOWING* GOD'S COMMANDED HOLY SABBATH DAY — HAVING HIS OWN "CHURCH" SERVICE ON *SUN*DAY—that is, Satan was already having his own "church" service on the day which was *later* to be tagged *Sun*-day by Satan, and thereby he was TEACHING INSURRECTION AGAINST GOD'S COMMANDED HOLY SABBATH DAY — *THE KEY TEST COMMANDMENT!!* And man was there in Satan's "church" service to listen and obey!

3. ADAM AND EVE, in the Garden of Eden, were actual people. The events in Genesis and other books of the Bible actually occurred. God inspired these events of Genesis chapters 2 and 3 to be placed at the very beginning of the Bible. Why? To show to man, in broad outline—through the actions of Adam and Eve —exactly what the tendency of man would be, down through all ages. Let God now reveal to you here in Genesis chapters 2 and 3 in thumb-nail form for your urgent warning, the insidious principle and plan by which Satan is intensely working in "this present evil world" to bring you — and all mankind — to eternal death!

Did God promise Adam and Eve they could have "life"? Gen. 2:8, 9. Note the words "tree of life," and read verse 16. Was this not a promise of *eternal* life? Same verse.

COMMENT: Even as God was speaking, Adam and Eve had their present mortal lives. But God here promised them they could have *eternal* life. How? God commanded them—(note the word "commanded," Verse 16)—that *IF* they would choose to PARTAKE *ONLY* OF the many, many *GOOD*, RIGHT, THINGS of life—"of *every* tree [the *many* trees] of the garden thou mayest eat freely . . ." (Gen. 2:16) and of "the tree of [ETERNAL] LIFE" (Gen. 2:9)—they would receive *eternal* life! They would become *perfect* in *obedience* to the *commandments* and laws which point out the many things that are *good* for them.

4. BUT, at the same time, what did God warn them would happen IF they chose to *dis*-OBEDIENTLY PARTAKE of the tree of "knowledge of good *and* evil"—to reject God's revelation and experiment for themselves—would they "SURELY DIE"? Gen. 2:17.

Man Falls For Satan's Lie

1. "In the day thou eatest . . ." ["of the tree of knowledge of good *and* evil"] "thou shalt surely die," God solemnly warned (Gen. 2:17). *Eternal* death! Wasn't that just the thing Satan had been desiring to happen to mankind to rid himself of man whom God would have to be born into the ruling God Family?

COMMENT: SATAN URGED THEM to INDULGE IN this ACT which could BRING ETERNAL DEATH upon them.

2. What did Satan, the deadly serpent, at once urge Eve and Adam to do—partake of this forbidden "tree" — the tree "good *and* evil"? Gen. 3:5. That was an act of murder! Doesn't Christ call Satan a murderer to this very day? John 8:44.

COMMENT: Satan suggested to man to partake of *evil*—disobedience—so THAT man would forfeit his opportunity to qualify to rule the world.

3. Did Satan, in order to make certain Eve and Adam would fall into his deadly trap, lyingly promise them they would not die by partaking of this mixture of good *and* evil—but would have eternal life ("not surely die") and be as God? Also, as a "bonus," did Satan say they would have a knowledge of good and evil from the experience of living it? Gen. 3:4, 5, last four words.

4. Did not EVE AND ADAM "FALL" FOR this LIE? Gen. 3:6. And were they not denied the privilege of access to [eternal] life? Verse 24. Doesn't God call the Devil a liar, and the father of lies, and a murderer from the beginning? John 8:44. And all who are misled by Satan to teach his line are also liars and murderers!!

COMMENT: Here we see the first and greatest *lie* ever told to man—that man will not die eternal death by partaking of a mixture of *both* obedience *and* disobedience. And God calls Sa-

tan a *murderer* from the beginning. He is the greatest of all murderers. By far and away the greatest this world has ever known. You now know the reason *why*. He wants to be *rid* of us!

Why VAST MAJORITY DISOBEY God

1. Does God warn *us, today*, that the Devil—the sly serpent—is on the job as much as ever to lyingly deceive mankind and thereby *murder* man—cause mankind to cease to exist forever? II Cor. 11:3.

COMMENT: Here then we see that Eve and Adam were "thumb-nail" types who would represent to man what would be happening through the ages. "SATAN WHICH DECEIVETH the *WHOLE WORLD*" (Rev. 12:9). Yes, the whole world! SATAN'S PLAN IS WORKING. IT'S "*PAYING OFF*." You have God's word for it! IT'S TIME TO *WAKE UP!* Here we see the *warning* for mankind *today—you*—that you are *not* to be misled by Devil-inspired *lies* from the simplicity of *pure* obedience as taught by Christ. Man can *never* gain eternal life this way.

This is where SATAN *LIED*, AND *DOES now* STILL LIE TO MAN TODAY. This is the first lie told on this earth! (John 8:44). Satan whispers to man, "You can do evil—*dis*obey God, and still have eternal life, be as God." A *lie!!* God commands, "Be ye [*strive to become*] . . . *perfect* [perfect in all things—*perfect* in *obedience* to God's laws and commands, laws and commands which express God's own character] . . ." (Mat. 5:48).

There were many trees in the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:16). But only *one* "tree" to eternal life (Gen. 2:9)—only one single solitary tree—hard to find. "*NARROW* IS THE WAY, which leadeth UNTO [ETERNAL] LIFE, AND *FEW* THERE BE THAT FIND IT" (Mat. 7:14). AN OMINOUS WARNING.

The Tree of Death!

1. But what about the other "tree"? The "TREE" OF DEATH of which so many partake? What does God say of it? Gen. 2:17.

COMMENT: "*BROAD* IS THE WAY, that leadeth to destruction, and many [the *majority*] there be which go in thereat" (Mat. 7:13). *This* tree is *popular* with this world.

WHY is this evil tree so much sought after by "this present evil world"? Sought by the vast majority? *Why* are people's minds drawn, as by a magnet, to it? Know and heed! "THE HEART is *deceitful* above all things, and *DESPERATELY WICKED*" (Jer. 17:9). OUR HEARTS are like that. LIKE THAT OF THE DEVIL HIMSELF!

WE and the Devil, by nature, agree on likes!!

We deceive ourselves, "KID" OURSELVES *FROM* OBEDIENCE TO GOD EVEN WHEN the BIBLE PLAINLY STATES, for instance, that WE are COMMANDED TO KEEP the KEY TEST *SABBATH* DAY. But, AS BY A MAGNET, WE ARE DRAWN BY OUR inherently EVIL NATURES AND by SATAN'S SUPERNATURAL PROMPTINGS TO this GOD-FORBIDDEN, death-dealing tree to partake willingly of both good *and* evil! We would by nature rather keep *some other* day. "The *carnal* mind is enmity against *God* . . . not subject to the law [like the *Sabbath* command] of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

It can be seen that SATAN HAS a "HOLIDAY" WITH the MINDS OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD. God says to the vast majority of this world who would lust to keep a *day* or commandment which is contrary to the commandments of God, "Your father is the Devil and *his* lusts ye will do" (John 8:44). Satan is *spirit*. We desperately need the *Spirit of God* to aid counteract the influence of the Devil upon us.

The carnal type of mind with which we are born plus the evil influences of Satan cause the many—not the few but the many—not now to find eternal life (Mat. 7:14).

A CLOSE RACE? Yes. "If the RIGHTEOUS SCARCELY BE SAVED, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (I Pet. 4:18). BUT an UNBEATABLE combination? NO!!—*NOT* IF YOU HAVE the power of GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT AND STRIVE FERVENTLY TO BE—BECOME—*PERFECT!!* (I Pet. 1:14, II Cor. 10:5). Be sure to write out these two very important references!

You are in on this close race or you would not be this far in these studies!

(To be continued in Lesson 30)

WHY THE AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE HAS NO TUITION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a Correspondence Course without tuition price?"

The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "freely GIVE." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a tuition PRICE upon The AMBASSADOR COLLEGE BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH and study this Course.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!