

Surveying “Worship” in Revelation 13 and 14

What do the following verses have in common: 13:4, 8, 12, 15; 14:6, 7, 9?
They all contain the word: _____. Do you see it? Worship is the issue!

Satan longs for worship, yet he does not deserve it. God alone is worthy of our worship, for he created us and redeemed us! In a very real sense Satan does not want to be *like* God, he only wants the power, privileges, and prerogatives of God. (More on this in a future lesson.)

“Bow Down and Worship Me”

Unquestionably the most audacious thing that Satan ever did is found in Matthew 4. Jesus had been fasting in the wilderness. Satan came to tempt Him. He urged Jesus to make stones into bread. Jesus refused with a plain, “it is written”. Satan then urged Jesus to cast Himself from the pinnacle of the temple. Again Jesus refused. Finally, Satan grew desperate and showed Jesus “all of the kingdoms of the world and their glory” (v. 8) and then said, “All these things I will give You if You fall down and _____ me.” (v.9) Jesus responded with utter indignation: “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall _____ the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.’” (v.10, quoting Deuteronomy 6:13) This is where Satan’s rabid and ridiculous idea reached its pathetic height! He had the audacity to ask Jesus, the Creator and the Redeemer, to worship him! The height of folly!

God alone is worthy of our worship! Also, God is not chargeable with the pain, suffering, sin, and death that we see all around us. Satan is. God allows it, yes, but He did not cause it. God is in the business of alleviating pain and suffering, not inflicting it. Jesus’ own ministry clearly demonstrates this. He did not give blindness, disease and paralysis; He took them away. God is the life-giver; Satan is a life-destroyer.

Whose side do you want to be on? _____ (See Joshua 24:15)

Next Topic: Discover: The War Behind the Wars part 1

—Discover Prophecy—

with David Asscherick, DP Speaker

No. 04

Discover: Bible Prophecy’s Answer for Human Suffering

If God is so good, then why does the world seem so bad most of the time? Why do bad things happen to good people? Why does there have to be so much pain, suffering and sorrow in the world today? What is going on?

These are all legitimate questions, good questions. Some people think that there are no answers to questions like these. They are wrong. The Bible gives the answers to these questions. They are not “pat” or “easy” answers, but they are good, powerful, and even logical answers. Suffering, pain and death are terrible indeed, but the Bible, and the Bible only, can give us a compelling context with which to understand these things. Behind it all, the heart of God, cries out for the devotion, salvation, and worship of His people.

In the beginning... “God” and “good”

In order to understand the present condition of our world, we must first consider its original condition, as it came fresh from God’s hand. What was that original condition as described in Genesis, the book of beginnings?

Note the following the verses: Genesis 1: 1-3, 10, 12, 16-18, 21, 25, 27, 28, 31.
What word do these verses have in common? _____
Consider especially vs. 31, how is it different? _____

This point is highly instructive. In Genesis 1 and 2, before the entrance of sin, the world was perfect, beautiful, and untainted by death, disease, or pain. A perfect couple, in perfect love, in a perfect environment with a perfect God! So then, what happened to create the state of affairs we see today? Pain, death, suffering, and disease are the rule, not the exceptions.

Weeds and Wheat

In Matthew 13:24-30 Jesus tells a parable (a story that illustrates a spiritual truth) about a field that was planted by a farmer. In verses 37-43 Jesus

Himself explains the parable. Consider especially verse 27, what kind of seed was originally sown in the field? _____. This agrees perfectly with Genesis. According to verse 28, who planted the weeds? _____ In verse 39, Jesus identifies this enemy. Who was it? _____

Here is an essential point. Jesus confirms what Genesis described, namely, that God made things "very good". According to Jesus, the Devil is the one who has ruined it. He is the responsible party. See also, Luke 13:10-16. In this story who does Jesus credit for "binding" the woman? _____ Note again, God was the healer; Satan was the enemy and afflicter! Jesus made *good* what Satan had made *bad!* Here is yet another important point: Satan can only destroy, but God can build and create!

Satan's Hometown is WHERE!?

In Luke 10:18 has to be one of the most shocking verses in the entire Bible! Fill in the blank: "I saw Satan _____ like lightning from _____." According to Jesus—as amazing as it sounds—Satan, the Devil, is originally from Heaven! What an important discovery. But how can this be? What does the name "Satan" mean? _____

What Happened in Heaven?

Ezekiel the prophet compares Satan to an ancient and evil king, the king of Tyre. Consider the following passage: Ezekiel 28:11-14. The word "perfect" occurs three times in this passage. Verse 13 says that he had been in the Garden of _____. Verse 14 says that he was "the anointed _____", which is an _____.

This angel was created perfect. One aspect of that perfection was that God invested him with genuine freewill, that is, the ability to make his own choices. *Remember, true love, in order to be love, must have the right to say no.* God does not desire the service of robots or computers. He desires genuine companionship, fellowship and love. This necessitates true freewill. According to vss. 17, 18, who does God hold responsible for this angel's fall? _____

_____ is the foundation of God's government.

God did not create _____. God created _____, and _____ by his own free will became _____. Amazing, but true!

A Look at Lucifer's Heart, Isaiah 14:12-14

The prophet Isaiah gives a deeper look into what actually happened in heaven. Isaiah describes what was happening in the heart of this angel named Lucifer. (And clearly Isaiah is surprised by it!) What does the name Lucifer mean? _____ Notice again that the Bible says he is "fallen". God did not push him or trip him, he fell. The responsibility is his own. According to verses 13 and 14 Lucifer had an _____ problem. On this note, what is at the center of P-R-I-D-E? _____ What is at the center of S-I-N? _____. It is clear from these verses that Lucifer wanted that which was not rightfully his. He wanted the worship, adoration, and obedience of the heavenly angels.

What three things did Lucifer desire?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

The BIG Issue in Revelation

According to the book of Revelation, the dividing issue at the end of time will be the issue of _____. Note the way the Apostle Paul describes the antichrist power in 2Thessalonians 2: 1-4. Do you see any similarities between the antichrist's attitude and Satan's? Of course! Both long for that which is not rightfully theirs! The antichrist goes into the temple of God, not to show that he is *against* God, but rather that he _____ God! He exalts himself above all that is called _____ or that is _____. Amazing! Clearly *worship* is the issue!

Revelation chapter _____ is the antichrist chapter in the book of Revelation. Note verses 1-4. According to verse 2, who gives the antichrist "his power, his throne and great authority"? _____. Who is the dragon, according to Revelation 12:9? _____ Note carefully the "switcharoo" in verse 4! When the beast is worshipped, who else is worshipped? _____ This is because the beast is Satan's "front man". Again, worship is the issue.