



EPHESIANS 1:9-10 - For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. (RSV)

EPHESIANS 3:9-10 - ... and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places. (RSV)

### 5) IF CHRIST'S LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION REVEALED TO THE ANGELS AND THE UNIVERSE THAT GOD WON, HOW COME WE ARE STILL HERE IN THIS MESS?

Could it be because people don't know the truth about God? For if we did know, we'd make the choice to believe him for who He is and accept His form of ruling the universe or not, once and for all, right?

1 CORINTHIANS 4:9 ... we have become a spectacle (theater) to the world, to angels and to men. (RSV)

God is waiting for His children to learn about Him. He's waiting for these children to tell His other children about Him. When we finally learn what happened 2,000 years ago and can share with others, then we can say we are ready and God doesn't need to wait any longer.

We will talk in the coming weeks why God could not just simply appear and tell everyone Satan was lying and why it had to take so long and in the middle of so much pain and suffering.

John 12:32. "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to me." (TEV)

This is the overwhelming power of the life of Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection. The bible says that the cross is the evidence that clears up all doubt about His character around the universe, angels, men, the whole world.

### 6) IF YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LIFE OF CHRIST, WHAT IS THE CROSS SAYING? WHAT IS THE MEANING OF IT?

We suggest that it's much more than just a way to pay a penalty, a legal problem. If the cross was needed for all angels, it's obviously more than a payment of a penalty. Throughout these weeks we will look at the cross and see how much more importance it has than what most Christians have learned and taught over the years.

When we look to the world in the context of war, in the context of using your freedom to spread truth or lie, the message of the bible, the good news about God and what He has done for us takes on greater significance, for it's not about my personal fate only, but it's evidence, substance for the way God has dealt with the whole universe, angels and man.

The most important belief of any Christian has to be the truth about God. If we do not dispel the lies that have been told about Him, we cannot see Him or trust Him. We will fear Him, rebel against Him, feel disgust and lose our individuality.

If we accept the lies that God is severe, vengeful, unforgiving, untrustworthy we will never be able to let Him get close to us.

Throughout these weeks, we will study about a being, a person and not mere facts. The bible is not a book of facts, it's a description about God and His creation.

Jesus said, "if you have seen me, you have seen the Father." He told us, "I and the Father are One." We will, throughout these weeks, focus on Jesus, and the revelation of God through the life of His Son.

God is just as loving, gracious, forgiving as the Son, just as willing to heal and restore us to a healthy relationship with Him.

### 7) CAN WE BE SURE THAT GOD IS JUST LIKE JESUS?

We will try our best to find out throughout these weeks.

Learn more about Satan and the one third of angels who fell with him:

Job 1 and 2; Zechariah 3: 1,2; Mark 25:41; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 1 Peter 5:8; Jude 6.

#### STATEMENT OF FAITH

*We trust the reality that God is love (1 John 4:8). Love is other-centered, not self-seeking. The full representation of the love of God came in human flesh through the person of Jesus Christ, who created all things in the universe by the word of His mouth, lived a life of service to humanity and saved us from our sins, our rebellion, our own desire to live without Him. By His death and resurrection we have assurance of a future without pain, hurt and selfishness.*

*We also trust the ancient scriptures hold the evidence for the story of this passionate God, how He intended the world to be, what happened to get the world in the mess that it is in and if this mess is ever going to end.*

*Throughout these Friday nights we will present glimpses of evidence that can give us assurance God loves us deeply, has won the hearts of most of the universe, except for this little planet, but His light is shining on the heart of humanity brighter and brighter each day. As restored followers of Christ, we will also show outwardly how to live a life of other-centered love, helping others in physical, material, emotional and spiritual need.*

#### INTRO

Psalms 145:15-16—The eyes of all look to You. . . . You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

BBE Psalms 145:16—By the opening of Your hand, every living thing has its desire in full measure.

All over the scriptures we can see what God has intended for humanity. The first two books talk about a perfect place, a perfect God and a perfect relationship of deep love, freedom and happiness between Him and His creation. The last two books are the same way.

Unfortunately, we can experience that this is not the reality today, we see loss, death, pain, suffering and keep wondering, "Why?" Tonight we will talk a little bit about that.

TEV Ezekiel 16:8—As I passed by again, I saw that the time had come for you to fall in love. I covered your naked body with My coat and promised to love you. Yes, I made a marriage covenant with you, and you became Mine." This is what the Sovereign Lord says.

The scriptures also describe what God has done to restore this relationship. He wants to win us as a bride is won by the beauty, by the grace and love of her groom. He promises to cover us, love us and make us His, because He does love us, He created us, but we were lied to and ran away from Him in fear. The enemy who lied wants to darken our view of God.

1 John 3:8—The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

The method by which God has done this is seen especially by the life of His Son, by destroying the works of the devil, the evil one in darkening our eyes to the reality of God. The enemy tells us lies and we believe, and God comes with truth but doesn't force it in.

John 8:32—"And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

The creation of God was founded upon one principle: love. Love is not described as an attribute of God, an adjective describing Him, but it says, "God is Love" (1 John 4:8).

The nature of love is giving of self to others, it can't be love if you are alone in the world and love lets those whom you love respond back in freedom. No love, however, can exist by forcing someone to love you. Holding a gun to someone's head threatening them to love you will only cause fear, rebellion, disgust and loss of individuality in that person's heart.

God, therefore, when creating, has to implement this principle of freedom in the universe, but freedom means freedom. It means you can either choose to love back or not. True love cannot exist without freedom. If that's the case then, love creates huge risk, the risk of someone not loving you back, and that's where we will begin tonight.

We are seventh-day Adventist Christians that are starting this God Chat, but,

### 1) WHOSE GOD ARE WE CHATTING ABOUT? DOES HE BELONG TO A SPECIFIC RELIGION?

God is not only the God of Adventists. No, for before we existed and worshipped God, the Methodists, Baptists existed. Before them, Lutherans. Even before them, Catholics. Jews were worshipping God before Catholics, and before the Jews, Adam and Eve. Before the first humans, the holy angels of heaven were worshipping God. God is everyone's God. No exclusions. Much like parents don't stop counting the disobedient child as part of the family, God is the same way.

The Bible speaks of a war started up in heaven in the middle of God's palace, among the holy angels. The last book of the bible talks about one of the greatest battles of this war. The word for war in that verse is Polemos, where we derive our word, politics. This war was over the issue of government, the principles of which the universe reigned and not some supernatural light-saber fight among the angels.

REVELATION 12:7-12 - Then war broke out in heaven, Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, who fought back with his angels; but the dragon was defeated. And he and his angels were not allowed to stay in heaven any longer. The huge dragon was thrown out - that ancient serpent, named the Devil, or Satan (the opponent; the adversary), that deceived the whole world. He was thrown down to earth, and all his angels with him.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, Now God's salvation has come! Now God has shown his power as King. Now his Messiah has shown his authority. For the one who stood before our God and accused our brothers day and night has been thrown out of heaven. Our brothers won the victory over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the truth which they proclaimed; and they were willing to give up their lives and die. And so be glad. You heavens and all you that live there! But how terrible for the earth and the sea! For the Devil has come down to you, and he is filled with rage, because he knows that he has only a little time left... (TEV)

### 2) WHAT HAPPENED IN HEAVEN FOR THAT PEACE WE ASPIRE FOR TO BE BROKEN?

Before there was war, though, there was peace. Creation trusted and loved God, who loved them back. Where there's trust and love, there's always peace. One of the greatest assurances we have is the bible describes the new heaven and the new earth as a place with no prisons, no crying, wars, famine. One of Israel's prophets, Isaiah, described that land where the lion will eat straw like an ox and little children will lead them. There won't be a need to be afraid of the wild beasts or of wild humans.

But not yet, what happened in heaven for that peace we aspire for to be broken? The bible describes a breakdown of trust and faith as sin. Moses was instructed by God to speak to the rock and water would come out of it, but He hit the rock instead. That act of disobedience is described here when God said to Moses:

DEUTERONOMY 32:51 - You broke faith (trust) with Me in the midst of the sons of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, because you did not keep my name holy among the children of Israel." NASB; BBE

The bible talks about how the most brilliant of all angels, the covering cherub, the one who stood right next to the throne of God chose to be self-centered and self-seeking as opposed to other-centered in love, He broke faith, trust with God and started misrepresenting God. His name was Lucifer, morning star, bearer of light, teacher of truth.

ISAIAH 14:12-14 - How you are fallen from heaven, o Day Star (Lucifer), son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God. I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will make myself like the Most High"... (RSV)

he description here demonstrates Lucifer was not content to be everything He was, but He wanted to be more than His creator, in essence, He wanted to overthrow the principle of serving others in love, to have others serve Himself, in selfishness. That's when the bible describes that war broke out in heaven and He became the opponent, the adversary.

He went as far as telling Jesus himself, when He was in the desert, to worship Him and he (Satan) would give Jesus the whole world, the world that Christ Himself created (John 1).

MATTHEW 4:8-11 - Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them; and he said to him, All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me. Then Jesus said to him, Be gone, Satan! for it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve" ... Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and ministered to him. (RSV)

### 3) IS IT UNBELIEVABLE TO YOU THAT A CREATURE WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED, REVERED, AND WORSHIPPED AS THE CREATOR? WHY DO YOU THINK THAT CAN HAPPEN?

Satan accused that God Himself is a liar, untrustworthy, selfish being to Eve, the first woman on this planet, while there was still peace and safety between the first humans and God.

GENESIS 3:1-5 - Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman. "Did God say, "You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it our eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil" (RSV)

Satan presented to Eve the accusation that God was hiding something from her, that restraining her from eating from that tree was proof that He did not want her to be like Him, when in fact, the tree was placed there for Satan himself to exercise his freedom in trying to convince God's children of his accusations.

In fact, we just read in Revelation that one third of the stars of heaven fell from there with Satan, and stars in the bible are symbolic of angels. He managed to convince and have his say to one third of the heavenly angels.

The consequence of the war and of Adam and Eve believing Satan's accusations is that we are all caught up in the war and its consequences.

### 4) WHY DID GOD ALLOW SATAN TO HAVE HIS SAY? TO PRESENT HIS SIDE OF THE STORY? WHY NOT AVOID THE WHOLE THING AND SHUT SATAN UP? DESTROY HIM?

If one-third of the angels fell with Satan, it shows that God, using truth and love alone, did not fully convince them that Satan was lying. This great cosmic battle is over God's character. It's over His form of government and over the desire that Satan had to overthrow his Creator. The outcome of this war will determine the final fate of the universe.

In fact, that's the story of the world. God sadly saw one-third of the angels go in order that Satan's lies mature, grow and become very evident and the evidence of His love and truth become very evident too. And that evidence was going to take time to come, for God will not use force, coercion to prove His point, he will wait to show His character using only love.

The methods God has used to win is how, in fact, the bible says He wins the war. Not everyone might believe Him in the end, but those who do, will see without a doubt in their mind, that God can indeed be trusted as love, and desiring only our benefit, growth, peace and freedom.

2,000 years ago came the full revelation of who God is in the person of Jesus Christ. The cross and the resurrection were the final proof about whether God is a selfish liar or is indeed love. That is precisely when God won the argument against Satan.

We will discuss in the coming weeks how the cross and resurrection actually is the proof about God's true character and how that also restores you and me, but to introduce the topic, let's read:

COLOSSIANS 1:19-20 - For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of the cross. (RSV)

"For it was by God's own decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God. Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. God made peace through his Son's death on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven." (TEV)