



# The Core of the War

# What's Needed Now

**“God calls for far more tact, more wise generalship, than has yet been given Him by His human agents. There is need of sharp, sanctified thinking, and keen work to counteract the ingenious plans of Satan.”**

**— *Youth's Instructor*, May 24, 1894**

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**“The Lord will not write as wise those who cannot distinguish between a tree that bears thorn-berries and a tree that bears olives.”**

*— Review and Herald, September 7, 1897*



# Start at the Beginning

1. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”**

— John 1:1

2. **“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, ... for he is a liar and the father of it.”**

— John 8:44

3. **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

— Genesis 1:1

# The Lie

**“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work.... The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”**

**— 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12**

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# A Boundary

**“It is impossible to explain the origin of sin so as to give a reason for its existence.... Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin.”**

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**“Those who do not realize their danger because they do not watch, will pay, with the loss of their souls, the penalty of their presumption and their wilful ignorance of Satan's devices.”**

**— *Review and Herald*, April 25, 1907**

## **And Yet....**

**“We need not feel compelled to work out the solution of every problem that we can not understand, in order to meet Satan’s wiles. Nor am I to keep my mind reigned up to thwart Satan’s devices. Why? Because God is supreme. He is our stronghold in time of trouble and perplexity. If we put our entire trust in Him, we shall find that He is an all-sufficient Guide.”**

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**— *General Conference Bulletin*, October 1, 1899**

## **But Why Would He Hate *Us*?**

**“God was a light so effulgent, that Lucifer occupied the position of covering cherub, so that the universe could at all times look upon His glory.”**

**—Manuscript 112, 1897**

**“He who was once the covering cherub, whose work it was to hide from the heavenly intelligences the glory of God, perverted his intellect, and divorced himself from God.”**

**—Letter 197, 1901**

**Adam and Eve “were granted communion with their Maker, with no obscuring veil between.”**

**—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 50**

## **But Why Would He Hate *Us*?**

**“Through the imparted life of Christ, man has been given opportunity to win back again the lost gift of life, and to stand in his original position before God, a partaker of the divine nature.”**

**— *Signs of the Times*, June 17, 1897**

**“Satan in his efforts to deceive and tempt our race had thought to frustrate the divine plan in man’s creation; but Christ now asks that this plan be carried into effect as if man had never fallen. He asks for His people not only pardon and justification, full and complete, but a share in His glory and a seat upon His throne.”**

**— *Great Controversy*, 483**

## **So Maybe That's Why....**

**“The creation of our world was brought into the councils of heaven. There the covering cherub prepared his request that he should be made prince to govern the world then in prospect. This was not accorded him. Jesus Christ was to rule the earthly kingdom; under God He engaged to take the world with all its probabilities. The law of heaven should be the standard law for this new world, for human intelligences. Lucifer was jealous of Christ and this jealousy worked into rebellion and he carried with him a large number of the holy angels.”**

**— Manuscript 43b, 1891**

# The Core of Rebellion

- ◆ God said, “Please do this.”
- ◆ But Lucifer thought, “No, that is better.”

In order to get to this point, one of two things had to have already happened:

- ◆ Either Lucifer believed that God had made a mistake
- OR**
- ◆ He believed that God had deliberately commanded something that was not in Lucifer’s best interest

# **The Core of Rebellion**

**In other words, Lucifer had lost faith in God.**

**Even if God had just made a “simple mistake,” that was a serious concern. After all, God was in charge of running the universe!**

**Who could trust His wisdom if it had been proven faulty?**

**And if God *hadn't* made a mistake, then it meant that He was intentionally harming His subjects!**

**Who could trust His love if it had been proven false?**

**So Lucifer had lost faith in God's wisdom, and probably God's love as well.**

# **The Core of Rebellion**

**“Faith is a very simple matter;**



# The Core of Rebellion

**“Faith is a very simple matter; it is confidence in God.”**

*— Youth’s Instructor, August 30, 1894*

**“What is it to be in an unsaved condition? Is it not to be living without that full confidence in God which is born of love, which leads us to take Him at His word?”**

*— Bible Training School, November 1, 1911*

# The Core of Rebellion

But that's not all!

If Lucifer was smart enough to spot God's mistake, that meant *Lucifer was smarter than God!*

What's more, if God *had* tried to trick Lucifer into doing something that wasn't for his best good, then the mere fact that God had failed to fool him meant that *Lucifer was smarter than God!*

That's the stuff that pride is made of.

Now it would be easy for Lucifer to simply do what *he was sure was the best thing.*

That's what we call disobedience.

# The Core of Rebellion

**But that's not all!**

**Even if Lucifer never said a word about his disobedience, the influence of his actions told all the other angels, "You can't depend on God to take care of you! You need to take charge of your own life! You need to do what God does. *You need to exalt yourself!*"**

**That's a lie.**

# **The Core of Rebellion**

**But that's not all!**

**Once Lucifer took the responsibility of caring for himself, it meant he had to do whatever it took to provide for himself.**

**If necessary, that meant stealing.**

**If necessary, that meant murder.**

**Like Jesus said, Lucifer "was a murderer from the beginning."**

# The Core of Rebellion—Review

- ◆ If I don't believe God will take care of me, that's a loss of faith.
- ◆ If I think I can do a better job of taking care of myself than God can, that's pride (and stupidity).
- ◆ If I try taking care of myself in some way other than what God asks me to, that's disobedience.
- ◆ If my influence convinces someone else that "self-serving" is better than "service," that's lying.
- ◆ And if I put myself first, instead of loving my neighbor as myself, that's stealing, and—under enough pressure—it will become murder.

# The Tactics of Rebellion

- ◆ **Exploit position and trust as long as possible**
- ◆ **Hide intentions from others**
- ◆ **Imply or insinuate without clear assertions**
- ◆ **Distort others' perceptions (hypnosis)**
- ◆ **Maintain plausible deniability**
- ◆ **Shift responsibility to others**
- ◆ **Lie**
- ◆ **Abandon discredited positions without accepting responsibility for having advocated them**
- ◆ **Cite supporters as evidence of correctness**
- ◆ **Appeal to sympathy**

# The Tactics of Rebellion

**“Satan.... began to stir up rebellion, using underhand methods, winning a few at a time to his side. There followed that which had never before been seen in heaven. Satan began to place his thoughts in the minds of the angels. When he supposed that his suggestions and misrepresentations of God were entertained, he presented those whom he had deceived as originating these suggestions. He presented the suggestions as something that must be investigated. He easily gathered large numbers to listen to his specious devisings and thus, without compromising himself, succeeded in causing the minds of many to become disaffected. The unsuspecting were ensnared and taken.”**

**— Manuscript 78, 1905**

# The Tactics of Rebellion

**“Words... have power to react on the character. Men are influenced by their own words. Often under a momentary impulse, prompted by Satan, they give utterance to jealousy or evil surmising, expressing that which they do not really believe; but the expression reacts on the thoughts. They are deceived by their words, and come to believe that true which was spoken at Satan’s instigation.... It is dangerous to utter a word of doubt, dangerous to question and criticize divine light.”**

*— Desire of Ages, 323*



# The Tactics of Rebellion

**“Many of these angels [who sympathized with Lucifer] had occupied high positions in the government of God. All were enriched with the talent of intellect and were girded with strength and glory.”**

**— Manuscript 87, 1903**

**“Lucifer was jealous of Christ and this jealousy worked into rebellion and he carried with him a large number of the holy angels. Jesus, the Son of God, was not deceived by Lucifer’s sophistry. He stood true to principle and resisted every line of reasoning of Lucifer and all the angels who had taken sides with him, thus evidencing that as He stood, every angel might have stood.”**

**— Manuscript 43b, 1891**

# The Tactics of Rebellion

**“The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that He might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon His Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. The Father then made known that it was ordained by Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself; so that wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence. The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father.... Especially was His Son to work in union with Himself in the anticipated creation of the earth.”**

*— Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, 17*

## **But I Digress....**

**“Christ is declared in the Scriptures to be the Son of God. From all eternity He has sustained this relation to Jehovah.”**

**— Manuscript 22, 1905**

**“I say, and have ever said, that I will not engage in controversy with any one in regard to the nature and personality of God. Let those who try to describe God know that on such a subject silence is eloquence. Let the Scriptures be read in simple faith, and let each one form his conceptions of God from His inspired Word.”**

**— Letter 214. 1903**

# The Tactics of Rebellion

**“Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising nearly one half of all the angels, and exclaimed, These are with me! Will you expel these also, and make such a void in heaven?”**

**— *Signs of the Times*, January 9, 1879**

**“When it was announced that with all his sympathizers he must be expelled from the abodes of bliss... Satan and his host threw the blame of their rebellion wholly upon Christ, declaring that if they had not been reprovved, they would never have rebelled.”**

**— Manuscript 125, 1907**

# **The Tactics of Rebellion**

**Lucifer “cast the cause of his defection upon Jesus Christ and upon God. If They had not so firmly resisted his plans, he said, he would not have gone on doing as he did.”**

**— Letter 15a, 1896**

# **The Tactics of Rebellion**

**“It is impossible for man to measure the ingenuity shown by Satan in deceiving human minds.”**

**— Letter 80, 1910**

**Lucifer’s “work of deception was done in so great secrecy that the angels in less-exalted positions supposed that He was the Ruler of heaven.”**

**— Letter 292, 1906**

# The Tactics of Rebellion

**“The originator of sin worked with all his deceptive powers..., and the Lord permitted this rebellion to develop before anything was done to save the angelic host from apostasy.”**

**— Letter 271a, 1903**

# 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.**





# The Core of the War

1

Conflicts have roots. That's a pretty basic idea. Trying to end a conflict while ignoring its roots is doomed to failure... and that's true of the great controversy as well.

And since God has given us a role in this conflict, I can't quite escape the conviction that it's a good idea to understand what's going on.

## What's Needed Now

**“God calls for far more tact, more wise generalship, than has yet been given Him by His human agents. There is need of sharp, sanctified thinking, and keen work to counteract the ingenious plans of Satan.”**

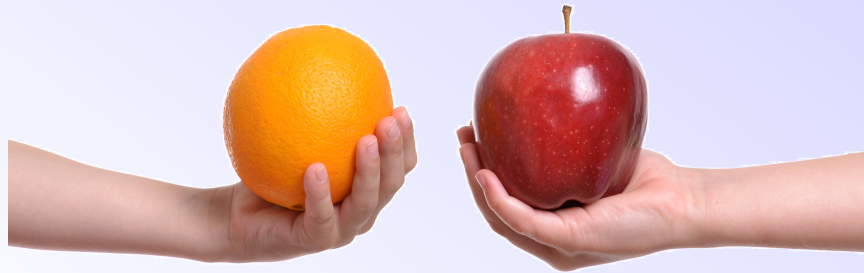
*— Youth's Instructor, May 24, 1894*

How are we going to do that, if we don't even know what we're fighting about?

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**“The Lord will not write as wise those who cannot distinguish between a tree that bears thorn-berries and a tree that bears olives.”**

— *Review and Herald*, September 7, 1897



3

I don't know what sort of thorn berries she had in mind, and I don't know a lot about olives, so at the risk of dumbing things down a bit too much, I just want to make the point that there is a difference between apples and oranges.

In the great controversy, too, there are many issues which require a bit of discrimination. If we're going to be good soldiers, we need to understand the issues. And, as always, the best place to begin is at the beginning.

## Start at the Beginning

1. **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”**

— John 1:1

2. **“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, ... for he is a liar and the father of it.”**

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3. **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”**

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4

What we commonly think of as the beginning turns out to be the third beginning.

CLICK for text:

Which means that there must have been two other beginnings, and indeed there were. But the first of these is not our starting point today.

CLICK for text:

No, as the title tells us, we're looking for the one in the middle.

CLICK for text:

This second beginning, the beginning of sin, is closely related to...

## The Lie

**“For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work.... The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”**

— 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12

Still, right now our focus is the second mystery, the bad mystery, so let's look at it more closely.

CLICK for text:

There's an interesting detail down near the end of this. Some translations make this more general by saying that those who did not receive the love of the truth end up believing "a lie." But the Greek scholars tell us that Paul was more specific. The wording points to....

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one particular lie.

And what lie is that? The devil was a liar from the beginning, and by this time he's told lots of lies. One of the more serious ones is "You shall not surely die." But that's not "the lie" in this passage.

"The lie" is more basic, more foundational to the whole experiment with sin, so let's go back to that beginning and look for it.

## The Lie

**“I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.”**

— Isaiah 14:13-14

This is what Lucifer started off saying, but is all this really a lie, or just groundless boasting? Sure, he thought he would ascend into heaven, but it won't end up that way. He thought he was going to sit on his throne “above the stars of God,” but it's not going to happen.

So, where's the lie?

Right here...

## The Lie

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The idea here isn't just one more in a list. This is what Lucifer thought he'd be when he managed to do all the other stuff.

In other words, he was saying “God exalts Himself; God promotes His own glory; God puts Himself first. That's what I'm going to do!”

Without endorsing Lucifer's idea, you can sort of see how he might make it look that way. After all, who did all the angels worship? All the songs of the heavenly choir that Lucifer led... was it just a coincidence that they were all about God? Did that just happen? Or did God set things up that way on purpose?



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Now, before we go any further, we need to recognize something important. We need to be clear that there never was, and never will be, a reason for sin.

Notice:

CLICK for text:

If we think we've found a reason for Lucifer choosing to sin, we're wrong. But that doesn't mean that God hasn't told us why he chose to sin in the manner he did. It turns out that we've actually been given quite a few insights into the methods of our enemy.

And it's important we remember we are in a war!

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READ Text:

CLICK and READ second item:

So the first thing to note is that Lucifer was “made... good.” He was “created” with the “greatest talents and highest gifts.” All this was given to him, apparently from the moment he came into existence.

Even though we commonly think of God as able to do anything He wants, here we see a situation in which God had reached even His limit! It just wasn't possible to create someone more like God than Lucifer.

That's not a bad way to start off your life, is it?!

## **But Why Would He Hate *Us*?**

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*— Early Writings, 145*

**“Satan.... hates mankind because they are the workmanship of God. He opposed the creation of man.”**

*— Manuscript 38, 1890*

But Lucifer chose to sin. And we'll never know why he did that.

What we do know is that this happened about the same time as God was getting ready to create our planet.

CLICK for two items

So here's a question: Is that only coincidental? Or did the plans for earth and human beings play a role in Lucifer's course of action?

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**“Next to the angelic beings, the human family, formed in the image of God, are the noblest of His created works.”**

— *Ministry of Healing*, 397

**“The earth was to be peopled with beings only a little lower than the angels.”**

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**“No other creature that God has made is capable of such improvement, such refinement, such nobility as man.... Man cannot conceive what he may be and what he may become. Through the grace of Christ he is capable of constant mental progress.”**

— *Letter 26d*, 1887

I think the two issues were very much connected, so I want you to consider these next statements from Lucifer’s point of view—after he had secretly begun to cherish selfishness and pride.

CLICK for two items

That’s simple. Just like Psalm 8, and Hebrews 2: Man was created “a little lower than the angels.” But look at this one.

CLICK for text:

That makes human beings sound kind of special. And notice the words “improvement,” “become,” and “progress.” This is not a gift given fully formed at creation; this is an ongoing process.

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**“Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and designed to be a counterpart of God.... Man is very dear to God, because he was formed in His own image.”**

*— Review and Herald, June 18, 1895*

CLICK and READ second text:

Well, that all sounds kind of special, doesn't it?

But now, consider this next statement...



## **But Why Would He Hate *Us*?**

**God “would place man upon probation to test his loyalty, before he could be rendered eternally secure. If he endured the test wherewith God saw fit to prove him, he should eventually be equal with the angels.”**

— *Signs of the Times*, January 9, 1879

**“Those who in the strength of Christ overcome the great enemy of God and man, will occupy a position in the heavenly courts above angels who have never fallen.”**

— *General Conference Bulletin*, April 1, 1899

Equal. That's a new idea.

And notice, that's something that was to happen “eventually.” That sounds like a process, doesn't it?

OK. Fair enough. But there are more statements to consider!

CLICK for text:

“Above”? What happened to “a little lower”?

## **But Why Would He Hate *Us*?**

**“The work of redemption involved consequences of which it is difficult for man to have any conception. There was to be imparted... an excellency of power, which would place him higher than the angels who had not fallen.”**

**— *General Conference Bulletin*, October 1, 1899**

But notice that these last two statements have described the end result of the plan of salvation. Lucifer wouldn't have known anything about that. So we have to ask whether this “above the angels” result was something that would only happen because of sin and salvation, or was it a part of the original plan for human beings?

In order to answer that question, we need to know a little more about Lucifer.

## **But Why Would He Hate *Us*?**

**“God was a light so effulgent, that Lucifer occupied the position of covering cherub, so that the universe could at all times look upon His glory.”**

— *Manuscript 112*, 1897

**“He who was once the covering cherub, whose work it was to hide from the heavenly intelligences the glory of God, perverted his intellect, and divorced himself from God.”**

— *Letter 197*, 1901

**Adam and Eve “were granted communion with their Maker, with no obscuring veil between.”**

— *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 50

CLICK for two items

So that was Lucifer's job. Well, one of his jobs, really. He was also the choir director, of course, and who knows what else. But still, there's a reason he was called the covering cherub. That was his highest profile job.

But notice:

CLICK for text:

What was going to happen to Lucifer's job if that idea ever caught on?

And this communion was definitely a part of the original plan before sin messed things up.

## **But Why Would He Hate *Us*?**

**“Through the imparted life of Christ, man has been given opportunity to win back again the lost gift of life, and to stand in his original position before God, a partaker of the divine nature.”**

*— Signs of the Times, June 17, 1897*

**“Satan in his efforts to deceive and tempt our race had thought to frustrate the divine plan in man’s creation; but Christ now asks that this plan be carried into effect as if man had never fallen. He asks for His people not only pardon and justification, full and complete, but a share in His glory and a seat upon His throne.”**

*— Great Controversy, 483*

CLICK for second text:

Does any of this excuse sin? Are human beings the “reason” Lucifer fell?

No. Not at all. Even if Lucifer were somehow demoted to the lowest position in heaven, the proper reaction would have been, “Praise the Lord! Everything He’s ever done, and everything He’s ever asked me to do, has always been for my good. I can’t wait to see what He has for me in this new position.”

But let’s not get too smug here. Remember, the same goes for us when we don’t get what we want!

Still, since Lucifer had chosen selfishness in his heart, these details help us understand this next quotation.

## **So Maybe That's Why....**

**“The creation of our world was brought into the councils of heaven. There the covering cherub prepared his request that he should be made prince to govern the world then in prospect. This was not accorded him. Jesus Christ was to rule the earthly kingdom; under God He engaged to take the world with all its probabilities. The law of heaven should be the standard law for this new world, for human intelligences. Lucifer was jealous of Christ and this jealousy worked into rebellion and he carried with him a large number of the holy angels.”**

**— Manuscript 43b, 1891**

Well, all that gives us some background, but we still need to understand Lucifer's fall. We need to see what's at the very heart of sin.

## The Core of Rebellion

- ◆ God said, "Please do this."
- ◆ But Lucifer thought, "No, that is better."

In order to get to this point, one of two things had to have already happened:

- ◆ Either Lucifer believed that God had made a mistake  
OR
- ◆ He believed that God had deliberately commanded something that was not in Lucifer's best interest

At the core of Lucifer's rebellion, there is one very simple, but immensely important, issue:

CLICK for six items

## **The Core of Rebellion**

**In other words, Lucifer had lost faith in God.**

**Even if God had just made a “simple mistake,” that was a serious concern. After all, God was in charge of running the universe!**

**Who could trust His wisdom if it had been proven faulty?**

**And if God *hadn't* made a mistake, then it meant that He was intentionally harming His subjects!**

**Who could trust His love if it had been proven false?**

**So Lucifer had lost faith in God's wisdom, and probably God's love as well.**

CLICK for five items

## **The Core of Rebellion**

**“Faith is a very simple matter;**

CLICK for five items



## **The Core of Rebellion**

**“Faith is a very simple matter; it is confidence in God.”**

— *Youth's Instructor*, August 30, 1894

**“What is it to be in an unsaved condition? Is it not to be living without that full confidence in God which is born of love, which leads us to take Him at His word?”**

— *Bible Training School*, November 1, 1911

CLICK for five items

## The Core of Rebellion

But that's not all!

If Lucifer was smart enough to spot God's mistake, that meant *Lucifer was smarter than God!*

What's more, if God *had* tried to trick Lucifer into doing something that wasn't for his best good, then the mere fact that God had failed to fool him meant that *Lucifer was smarter than God!*

That's the stuff that pride is made of.

Now it would be easy for Lucifer to simply do what *he was sure was the best thing.*

That's what we call disobedience.

CLICK for five items

## The Core of Rebellion

**But that's not all!**

**Even if Lucifer never said a word about his disobedience, the influence of his actions told all the other angels, "You can't depend on God to take care of you! You need to take charge of your own life! You need to do what God does. *You need to exalt yourself!*"**

**That's a lie.**

CLICK for two items

## **The Core of Rebellion**

**But that's not all!**

**Once Lucifer took the responsibility of caring for himself, it meant he had to do whatever it took to provide for himself.**

**If necessary, that meant stealing.**

**If necessary, that meant murder.**

**Like Jesus said, Lucifer "was a murderer from the beginning."**

CLICK for four items

Of course, our main goal in all this is to see how Lucifer went about spreading his apostasy. In later sessions, we'll see that there are good reasons to be familiar with this.

## **The Core of Rebellion—Review**

- ◆ **If I don't believe God will take care of me, that's a loss of faith.**
- ◆ **If I think I can do a better job of taking care of myself than God can, that's pride (and stupidity).**
- ◆ **If I try taking care of myself in some way other than what God asks me to, that's disobedience.**
- ◆ **If my influence convinces someone else that "self-serving" is better than "service," that's lying.**
- ◆ **And if I put myself first, instead of loving my neighbor as myself, that's stealing, and—under enough pressure—it will become murder.**

CLICK for four items

Of course, our main goal in all this is to see how Lucifer went about spreading his apostasy. In later sessions, we'll see that there are good reasons to be familiar with this.

## **The Tactics of Rebellion**

- ◆ **Exploit position and trust as long as possible**
- ◆ **Hide intentions from others**
- ◆ **Imply or insinuate without clear assertions**
- ◆ **Distort others' perceptions (hypnosis)**
- ◆ **Maintain plausible deniability**
- ◆ **Shift responsibility to others**
- ◆ **Lie**
- ◆ **Abandon discredited positions without accepting responsibility for having advocated them**
- ◆ **Cite supporters as evidence of correctness**
- ◆ **Appeal to sympathy**

30

We don't have the time to cover all the statements in the Spirit of Prophecy that fill in these details, so I want to list the specific tactics Lucifer used, and then give just a little of the supporting evidence.

Again, there are good reasons for us to be aware of these techniques—but not because God is ever going to ask us to use them! Sadly, other people may try to get us to use these techniques, or they may try to use them on us. Either way, our only safety is in refusing to have anything to do with them.

CLICK for nine items

## The Tactics of Rebellion

**“Satan.... began to stir up rebellion, using underhand methods, winning a few at a time to his side. There followed that which had never before been seen in heaven. Satan began to place his thoughts in the minds of the angels. When he supposed that his suggestions and misrepresentations of God were entertained, he presented those whom he had deceived as originating these suggestions. He presented the suggestions as something that must be investigated. He easily gathered large numbers to listen to his specious devisings and thus, without compromising himself, succeeded in causing the minds of many to become disaffected. The unsuspecting were ensnared and taken.”**

— Manuscript 78, 1905

See how he's shifting the responsibility onto others?

Someone may do that to you one day. And if you've already said the things that you've been prompted to say, you may well accept that responsibility and actually think your honor depends on you defending those positions. Might want to think very carefully about doing that.

## The Tactics of Rebellion

**“Words... have power to react on the character. Men are influenced by their own words. Often under a momentary impulse, prompted by Satan, they give utterance to jealousy or evil surmising, expressing that which they do not really believe; but the expression reacts on the thoughts. They are deceived by their words, and come to believe that true which was spoken at Satan’s instigation.... It is dangerous to utter a word of doubt, dangerous to question and criticize divine light.”**

*— Desire of Ages, 323*

Incidentally, having been a classroom teacher for twenty years, I might just mention that one of the major functions of education is getting students to repeat what the teacher said.

Something to be aware of.

But let’s get back to Lucifer.



## **The Tactics of Rebellion**

**“Many of these angels [who sympathized with Lucifer] had occupied high positions in the government of God. All were enriched with the talent of intellect and were girded with strength and glory.”**

— Manuscript 87, 1903

**“Lucifer was jealous of Christ and this jealousy worked into rebellion and he carried with him a large number of the holy angels. Jesus, the Son of God, was not deceived by Lucifer’s sophistry. He stood true to principle and resisted every line of reasoning of Lucifer and all the angels who had taken sides with him, thus evidencing that as He stood, every angel might have stood.”**

— Manuscript 43b, 1891

Sort of an interesting parallel with the “two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown,” who joined in the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram against Moses and Aaron, isn’t it.

I think that tells me that pride of position is a very dangerous thing. Just something to remember.

## The Tactics of Rebellion

**“The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that He might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon His Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. The Father then made known that it was ordained by Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself; so that wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence. The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father.... Especially was His Son to work in union with Himself in the anticipated creation of the earth.”**

— *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, 17

Sort of an interesting parallel with the “two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown,” who joined in the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram against Moses and Aaron, isn’t it.

I think that tells me that pride of position is a very dangerous thing. Just something to remember.

## **But I Digress....**

**“Christ is declared in the Scriptures to be the Son of God. From all eternity He has sustained this relation to Jehovah.”**

— Manuscript 22, 1905

**“I say, and have ever said, that I will not engage in controversy with any one in regard to the nature and personality of God. Let those who try to describe God know that on such a subject silence is eloquence. Let the Scriptures be read in simple faith, and let each one form his conceptions of God from His inspired Word.”**

— Letter 214. 1903

Sort of an interesting parallel with the “two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown,” who joined in the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram against Moses and Aaron, isn’t it.

I think that tells me that pride of position is a very dangerous thing. Just something to remember.

## The Tactics of Rebellion

**“Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising nearly one half of all the angels, and exclaimed, These are with me! Will you expel these also, and make such a void in heaven?”**

— *Signs of the Times*, January 9, 1879

**“When it was announced that with all his sympathizers he must be expelled from the abodes of bliss... Satan and his host threw the blame of their rebellion wholly upon Christ, declaring that if they had not been reproved, they would never have rebelled.”**

— *Manuscript 125*, 1907

CLICK for second text:

Ah yes, the always popular arguments of “Hey! Everybody agrees with me!” and “You just pick on me all the time!”

This last one gets into a tricky area, because Christians are supposed to be sympathetic... but they’re also supposed to be intelligent enough to know right from wrong!

## **The Tactics of Rebellion**

**Lucifer “cast the cause of his defection upon Jesus Christ and upon God. If They had not so firmly resisted his plans, he said, he would not have gone on doing as he did.”**

**— Letter 15a, 1896**

When we look at Satan’s arguments like this, they all seem pretty weak. But bear in mind that you are no match for the devil. He is, unfortunately, very good at what he does.

How good? Check this out:

## **The Tactics of Rebellion**

**“It is impossible for man to measure the ingenuity shown by Satan in deceiving human minds.”**

— Letter 80, 1910

**Lucifer’s “work of deception was done in so great secrecy that the angels in less-exalted positions supposed that He was the Ruler of heaven.”**

— Letter 292, 1906

Well, for what it’s worth, it turns out that we humans aren’t the only ones who have had problems here.

CLICK for second text:

Just in passing, notice here one intriguing aspect of God’s dealing with Lucifer’s rebellion as it was developing in heaven:

## **The Tactics of Rebellion**

**“The originator of sin worked with all his deceptive powers..., and the Lord permitted this rebellion to develop before anything was done to save the angelic host from apostasy.”**

**— Letter 271a, 1903**

We won't take time to consider this right now in any depth, but notice especially the timing of the events at the very end of this quotation.

## 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.**

And finally, I want to list Satan's accusations against God and His government. These are, after all, the basis of the whole great controversy.

CLICK for three items:

Just here we can throw in a bit of a catch-all item, because Ellen White tells us that Lucifer "charged upon God the attributes of his own character," {Ms31-1911} so there were probably some unspecified charges about being proud, impatient, rude, or whatever.

CLICK for five items.

So here's a closing question: Suppose you were God, and Lucifer started spreading these ideas; what would you do about it?