

Satan's Other Mistake

PART ONE OF TWO

I had been thinking about this subject for several weeks, so I decided to research it. Here is the result.

You are about to read the intriguing story of how Satan, who knew that the death of Christ would make certain his own (Satan's) destruction—*killed Christ anyway!* The devil was so overpowered by his own evil attributes of hate and malice, that, when given an opportunity to slay Christ—Satan could not control himself; he could not hold himself back from doing that *which he knew* would result in his own defeat and death.

Satan's first mistake was rebelling against God in heaven. His other mistake was killing Christ on earth. —vf

CHRIST PLED WITH LUCIFER

"The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law. God Himself had established the order of heaven; and, in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker and bring ruin upon himself. **But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance.** Lucifer allowed jealousy of Christ to prevail, and he became the more determined."—*Great Controversy*, 494-495.

FILLED WITH PRIDE, LUCIFER DARED TO REBEL AGAINST GOD

"The angels joyfully acknowledged the supremacy of Christ, and prostrating themselves before Him, poured out their love and adoration. **Lucifer bowed with them, but in his heart there was a strange, fierce conflict.** Truth, justice, and loyalty were struggling against envy and jealousy. The influence of the holy angels seemed for a time to carry him with them. As songs of praise ascended in melodious strains, swelled by thousands of glad voices, the spirit of evil seemed vanquished; unutterable love thrilled his entire being; **his soul went out, in harmony with the sinless worshippers, in love to the Father and the Son.** But again he was filled with pride in his own glory. **His desire for supremacy returned, and envy of Christ was once more indulged.**

"The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as God's special gift, and therefore, called forth no gratitude to his Creator. He glorified in his brightness and exaltation and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. **Yet the Son of God was exalted above him,** as one in power and authority with the Father. He shared the Father's counsels, while Lucifer did not thus enter into the purposes of God. **'Why,' questioned this mighty angel, 'should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He honored above Lucifer?'**"—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 36-37.

APART FROM GOD, THE MOST POWERFUL MIND IS USELESS

"To dispute the supremacy of the Son of God, thus impeaching the wisdom and love of the Creator, had become the purpose of this prince of angels. **To this object he was about to bend the energies of that master mind,** which, next to Christ's, was first among the hosts of God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 36.

"In the estimation of Heaven, what is it that constitutes greatness? Not that which the world accounts greatness; not wealth, or rank, or noble descent, or intellectual gifts, in themselves considered. **If intellectual greatness, apart from any higher consideration, is worthy of honor, then our homage is due to Satan, whose intellectual power no man has ever equaled.** But when perverted to self-serving, the greater the gift, the greater curse it becomes."—*Desire of Ages*, 219.

CAST OUT OF HEAVEN, SATAN CONTINUED TO HATE CHRIST

"He [Satan] declares he cannot submit to be under Christ's command, that God's commands alone will he obey. Good angels weep to hear the words of Satan, and to see how **he despises to follow the direction of Christ,** their exalted and loving Commander.

"The Father decides the case of Satan, and declares that he must be turned out of heaven for his daring rebellion, and that all those who united with him in his rebellion should be turned out with him. Then there was war in heaven. **Christ and His angels fought against Satan and his angels,** for they were determined to remain in heaven with all their

rebellion. But they prevailed not. **Christ and loyal angels triumphed, and drove Satan and his rebel sympathizers from heaven**" (3 *Spiritual Gifts*, 38).

"When Satan rebelled, there was war in heaven, and he, with all his sympathizers, was cast out . . . All who sympathized with him were driven from the presence of God, doomed to be no more acknowledged in the heavenly courts as having a right there. **Satan became the avowed antagonist of Christ.**"—7 *Bible Commentary*, 973.

FROM ITS BEGINNING, THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION WAS BASED ON THE FACT THAT CHRIST'S DEATH WOULD RESULT IN SATAN'S DESTRUCTION

"**Christ assured the angels that by His death He would ransom many, and would destroy him who had the power of death.** He would recover the kingdom which man had lost by transgression, and the redeemed were to inherit it with Him, and dwell therein forever. **Sin and sinners would be blotted out,** nevermore to disturb the peace of heaven or earth. He bade the angelic host to be in accord with the plan that His Father had accepted, and rejoice that, through His death, fallen man could be reconciled to God."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 65.

"To man the first intimation of redemption was communicated in the sentence pronounced upon Satan in the garden. The Lord declared, 'I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.' Genesis 3:15. This sentence, uttered in the hearing of our first parents, was to them a promise. While it foretold war between man and Satan, **it declared that the power of the great adversary would finally be broken.** Adam and Eve stood as criminals before the righteous Judge, awaiting the sentence which transgression had incurred; but before they heard of the life of toil and sorrow which must be their portion, or of the decree that they must return to dust, they listened to words that could not fail to give them hope. **Though they must suffer from the power of their mighty foe, they could look forward to final victory.**"—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 65-66.

UPON LEARNING OF THE PLAN, SATAN WAS SURE HE COULD OVERCOME CHRIST

"When Satan heard that enmity should exist between himself and the woman, and between his seed and her seed, **he knew that his work of depraving human nature would be interrupted;** that by some means man would be enabled to resist his power. Yet as the plan of salvation was more fully unfolded, Satan rejoiced with his angels that, having caused man's fall, he could bring down the Son of God from His exalted position. **He declared that his plans had thus far been successful upon the earth, and that when Christ should take upon Himself human na-**

ture, He also might be overcome, and thus the redemption of the fallen race might be prevented."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 66.

WHEN CHRIST CAME TO EARTH, SATAN DETERMINED TO STOP THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION

"**When Christ came to our world, Satan was on the ground, and disputed every inch of advance in His path from the manger to Calvary.**"—1 *Selected Messages*, 406.

FIRST, HE DECIDED THAT HE WOULD CORRUPT CHRIST

"Through the wise men, God had called the attention of the Jewish nation to the birth of His Son . . . Satan was bent on shutting out the divine light from the world, and **he used his utmost cunning to destroy the Saviour.**"—*Desire of Ages*, 64-65.

"**When Jesus came into the world, Satan's power was turned against Him.** From the time when He appeared as a babe in Bethlehem, **the usurper worked to bring about His destruction.** In every possible way he sought to prevent Jesus from developing a perfect childhood, a faultless manhood, a holy ministry, and an unblemished sacrifice. **But he was defeated. He could not lead Jesus into sin. He could not discourage Him, or drive Him from a work He had come on earth to do.** From the desert to Calvary, the storm of Satan's wrath beat upon Him, but the more mercilessly it fell, the more firmly did the Son of God cling to the hand of His Father, and press on in the bloodstained path. All the efforts of Satan to oppress and overcome Him only brought out in a purer light His spotless character."—*Desire of Ages*, 759.

SATAN WELL-KNEW THAT, IF CHRIST SHOULD DIE WHILE ON EARTH, HE HIMSELF WOULD EVENTUALLY BE DESTROYED

"**Satan knew that if Jesus should die to redeem man, his power must end after a season, and he would be destroyed.** Therefore, it was his studied plan to prevent, if possible, the completion of the great work which had been commenced by the Son of God. **If the plan of man's redemption should fail, he would retain the kingdom** which he then claimed. And if he should succeed, he flattered himself that he would reign in opposition to the God of heaven."—1 *Selected Messages*, 287.

"**Here two rival powers claimed supremacy.** Jesus was stretching out His arms of love, inviting all who would to find pardon and peace in Him. **The hosts of darkness saw that they did not possess unlimited control, and they understood that if Christ's mission should be successful, their rule was soon to end.** Satan raged like a chained lion and defiantly exhibited his power over the bodies as well as the souls of men."—*Great Controversy*, 514.

AT CHRIST'S BAPTISM, SATAN WAS ONCE AGAIN CERTAIN THAT IF HE DID NOT CORRUPT HIM, HE, HIMSELF, WOULD ULTIMATELY PERISH

"When Christ presented Himself to John for baptism, Satan was among the witnesses of that event. He saw the lightnings flash from the cloudless heavens. He heard the majestic voice of Jehovah that resounded through heaven, and echoed through the earth like peals of thunder, announcing, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' He saw the brightness of the Father's glory overshadowing the form of Jesus, thus pointing out with unmistakable assurance the One in that crowd whom He acknowledged as His Son. **The circumstances connected with this baptismal scene were of the greatest interest to Satan. He knew then for a certainty that unless he could overcome Christ, from thenceforth there would be a limit to his power.** He understood that this communication from the throne of God signified that heaven was now more directly accessible to man than it had been, and **the most intense hatred was aroused in his breast.**

"When Satan led man to sin, he hoped that God's abhorrence of sin would forever separate Him from man, and break the connecting link between heaven and earth. **When from the opening heavens he heard the voice of God addressing His Son, it was to him as the sound of a death knell.**"—*5 Bible Commentary*, 1078.

SATAN RECOGNIZED HE WOULD HAVE TO PERSONALLY APPLY HIS POWERFUL MASTER MIND TO THE TASK OF CONQUERING CHRIST

"Satan saw that he must either conquer or be conquered. The issues of the conflict involved too much to be entrusted to his confederate angels. He must personally conduct the warfare. **All the energies of apostasy were rallied against the Son of God. Christ was made the mark of every weapon of hell.**"—*Desire of Ages*, 116.

SATAN TEMPTED CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS

"He determined to overcome Christ, **and, if possible, make his own kingdom and life secure.** His first temptation to Christ was upon appetite."—*1 Selected Messages*, 274.

"Satan once endeavored to form a compromise with Christ. He came to the Son of God in the wilderness of temptation, and showing Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them, **offered to give all into His hands if He would but acknowledge the supremacy of the prince of darkness.** Christ rebuked the presumptuous tempter and forced him to depart."—*Great Controversy*, 50.

DURING THE TEMPTATION IN THE WILDERNESS, SATAN CLEARLY KNEW THAT IF CHRIST DIED, HE HIMSELF WOULD DIE

"Satan claimed the kingdom of earth as his and **insinuated to Jesus that all His sufferings might be saved: that He need not die to obtain the kingdoms of this world;** if He would worship him He might have all the possessions of earth and the glory of reigning over them. But Jesus was steadfast. **He knew that the time was to come when He would by His own life redeem the kingdom from Satan,** and that, after a season, all in heaven and earth would submit to Him. He chose His life of suffering and His dreadful death, as the way appointed by His Father that He might become a lawful heir to the kingdoms of earth and have them given into His hands as an everlasting possession. **Satan also will be given into His hands to be destroyed by death,** nevermore to annoy Jesus or the saints in glory."—*Early Writings*, 158.

IT REQUIRED THE DEATH OF CHRIST TO MEET THE CLAIMS OF THE BROKEN LAW

"All heaven was gazing with profound interest upon the scene. The glorious Redeemer of a lost world **was suffering the penalty of man's transgression of the Father's law.** He was about to ransom His people **with His own blood.** He was paying the just claims of God's holy law. **This was the means through which an end was to be finally made of sin and Satan, and his host to be vanquished.**"—*2 Testimonies*, 209.

UNABLE TO OVERCOME CHRIST IN THE WILDERNESS, HE DECIDED TO INSPIRE THE JEWS WITH HATRED—SO THEY WOULD REJECT HIM. BUT, IN HIS HATRED, SATAN OVERREACTED—AND URGED THEM TO SLAY CHRIST! THE VERY THING HE SHOULD NOT HAVE THEM DO!

"After Satan had ended his temptations, he departed from Jesus for a season, and angels prepared Him food in the wilderness, and strengthened Him, and the blessing of His Father rested upon Him. **Satan had failed in his fiercest temptations;** yet he looked forward to the period of Jesus' ministry, when he should at different times try his cunning against Him. **He still hoped to prevail against Him by stirring up those who would not receive Jesus, to hate and seek to destroy Him.**

"Satan held a special council with his angels. They were disappointed and enraged that they had prevailed nothing against the Son of God. **They decided that they must be more cunning and use their power to the utmost to inspire unbelief in the minds of His own nation** as to His being the Saviour of the world, and in this way discourage Jesus in His mission. No matter how exact the Jews might be in their ceremonies and sacrifices, if they could be kept

blinded as to the prophecies and be made to believe that the Messiah was to appear as a mighty worldly king, **they might be led to despise and reject Jesus.**—*Early Writings, 158-159.*

“I was shown that **Satan and his angels were very busy during Christ’s ministry, inspiring men with unbelief, hate, and scorn.** Often when Jesus uttered some cutting truth, reproving their sins, the people would become enraged. **Satan and his angels urged them on to take the life of the Son of God. More than once** they took up stones to cast at Him, but angels guarded Him and bore Him away from the angry multitude to a place of safety. **Again,** as the plain truth dropped from His holy lips, the multitude laid hold of Him and led Him to the brow of a hill, intending to cast Him down. A contention arose among themselves as to what they should do with Him, when the angels again hid Him from the sight of the multitude, and He, passing through the midst of them, went His way.

“Satan still hoped that the great plan of salvation would fail. **He exerted all his power to make the hearts of the people hard and their feelings bitter against Jesus. He hoped that so few would receive Him as the Son of God that He would consider** His sufferings and sacrifice too great to make for so small a company. But I saw that if there had been but two who would have accepted Jesus as the Son of God and believed on Him to the saving of their souls, He would have carried out the plan.”—*Early Writings, 159.*

SATAN URGED CHRIST NOT TO GO TO CERTAIN DEATH, BUT TO CONTINUE LIVING

—Space is lacking for this quotation. Read *Desire of Ages, 486:1*; the entire paragraph.

BUT, WITHIN A FEW WEEKS, HE WAS URGING THE PRIESTS TO KILL CHRIST!

—Space is lacking. Read *Desire of Ages, 541:1.*

AT THE TRIAL BEFORE THE PRIESTS, SATAN INCITED THE MOB TO HATRED IN ORDER TO CAUSE CHRIST TO DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD STOP THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION

“[At the trial] **Satan led the cruel mob in its abuse of the Saviour. It was his purpose to provoke Him to retaliation if possible, or to drive Him to perform a miracle to release Himself,** and thus break up the plan of salvation. One stain upon His human life, one failure of His humanity to endure the terrible test, and the Lamb of God would have been an imperfect offering, and the redemption of man a failure. But He who by a command could bring the heavenly host to His aid—He who could have

driven that mob in terror from His sight by the flashing forth of His divine majesty—submitted with perfect calmness to the coarsest insult and outrage.”—*Desire of Ages, 734.*

“Wonder, O heavens, and be astonished, O earth! **Behold the oppressor and the oppressed!** A vast multitude enclose the Saviour of the world. Mockings and jeerings are mingled with the coarse oaths of blasphemy. His lowly birth and humble life are commented upon by unfeeling wretches. His claim to be the Son of God is ridiculed by the chief priests and elders, and vulgar jests and insulting derision are passed from lip to lip. **Satan was having full control of the minds of his servants. In order to do this effectually, he commences with the chief priests and elders, and imbues them with religious frenzy.** They are actuated by the same satanic spirit which moves the most vile and hardened wretches. **There is a corrupt harmony in the feelings of all,** from the hypocritical priests and elders down to the most debased. Christ, the precious Son of God, was led forth, and the cross was laid upon His shoulders. At every step was left blood which flowed from His wounds.”—*2 Testimonies, 207-208.*

AT THE TRIAL BEFORE HEROD, SATAN INCITED EVERYONE TO VIOLENCE

“No sooner were these words spoken than a rush was made for Christ. **Like wild beasts, the crowd darted upon their prey.** Jesus was dragged this way and that, Herod joining the mob in seeking to humiliate the Son of God. **Had not the Roman soldiers interposed, and forced back the maddened throng, the Saviour would have been torn in pieces.**”—*Desire of Ages, 731.*

AT THE TRIAL BEFORE PILATE, SATAN COULD NOT RESIST INCITING THE MOB TO DEMAND CHRIST’S DEATH

“Pilate thought to arouse them to a sense of justice. He hoped to gain their sympathy for Jesus in opposition to the priests and rulers. So, turning to the crowd, he said with great earnestness, **‘Whom will ye that I release** unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?’

“Like the bellowing of wild beasts came the answer of the mob, **‘Release unto us Barabbas!’** Louder and louder swelled the cry, Barabbas! Barabbas! Thinking that the people had not understood his question, Pilate asked, ‘Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?’ But they cried out again, ‘Away with this Man, and release unto us Barabbas!’ **‘What shall I do then with Jesus** which is called Christ?’ Pilate asked. **Again the surging multitude roared like demons. Demons themselves, in human form,**

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**PART TWO
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were in the crowd, and what could be expected but the answer, **'Let Him be crucified?'**—*Desire of Ages*, 733.

**AT CALVARY, SATAN WAS ONCE AGAIN
TOTALLY OUT OF SELF-CONTROL AND
DETERMINED TO KILL CHRIST**

"Satan with his angels, in human form, was present at the cross. The archfiend and his hosts were co-operating with the priests and rulers. The teachers of the people had stimulated the ignorant mob to pronounce judgment against One upon whom many of them had never looked, until urged to bear testimony against Him. Priests, rulers, Pharisees, and the hardened rabble were confederated together in a satanic frenzy. Religious rulers united with Satan and his angels. They were doing his bidding.

"Jesus, suffering and dying, heard every word as the priests declared, 'He saved others; Himself He cannot save.'"—*Desire of Ages*, 746-749 [There is a picture for page 747 and a blank page for page 748 in the ABC edition.]

"The spirit of hatred and revenge originated with Satan, and it led him to put to death the Son of God. Whoever cherishes malice or unkindness is cherishing the same spirit, and its fruit will be unto death. In the revengeful thought the evil deed lies enfolded, as the plant in the seed."—*Mount of Blessing*, 56.

"The principalities and powers of darkness were assembled around the cross, casting the hellish shadow of unbelief into the hearts of men . . . Who could recognize in the fallen angels the glorious seraphim that once ministered in the heavenly courts?"

"Satanic agencies confederated with evil men in leading the people to believe Christ the chief of sinners, and to make Him the object of detestation. Those who mocked Christ as He hung upon the cross were imbued with the spirit of the first great rebel. He filled them with vile and loathsome speeches. He inspired their taunts. But by all this he gained nothing."—*Desire of Ages*, 760-761.

**THE DEATH OF CHRIST WOULD INEVITABLY BRING
THE DESTRUCTION OF SATAN,
HIS KINGDOM, AND HIS SUBJECTS**

"In dying, Christ secured eternal life for all who believe in Him. In dying, He condemned the originator of sin and disloyalty to suffer the penalty of sin—eternal death."—*6 Testimonies*, 230-231.

"According to the law Christ Himself gave, the forfeited inheritance was ransomed by the nearest of kin. Jesus Christ laid off His royal robe, His kingly crown, and clothed His divinity with humanity, in order to become a substitute and surety for humanity, **that dying in humanity He might by His death destroy him who had the power of death.** He could not have done this as God, but by coming as man Christ could die. By death He overcame death. **The death of Christ bore to the death him who had the power of death,** and opened the gates of the tomb for all who receive Him as their personal Saviour."—*7 Bible Commentary*, 925-926.

"When Christ bowed His head and died, He bore the pillars of Satan's kingdom with Him to the earth. He vanquished Satan in the same nature over which in Eden Satan obtained the victory. The enemy was overcome by Christ in His human nature. The power of the Saviour's Godhead was hidden. He overcame in human nature, relying upon God for power. This is the privilege of all. In proportion to our faith will be our victory."—*5 Bible Commentary*, 1108.

"By causing the death of the Sovereign of heaven, Satan defeated his own purposes. The death of the Son of God made the death of Satan unavoidable."—*Christ Triumphant*, 14.

**AS SOON AS CHRIST WAS DEAD—SATAN
RECALLED THAT WHICH HE
ALREADY KNEW SO WELL:
CHRIST'S DEATH WOULD DESTROY HIM**

"Jesus cried with a loud voice, which struck terror to the hearts of His murderers, 'It is finished' . . . **Satan did not then exult as he had done. He had hoped to break up the plan of salvation; but it was laid too deep. And now by the death of Christ he knew that he himself must finally die, and his kingdom be given to Jesus.** He held a council with his angels. He had prevailed nothing against the Son of God, and now they must increase their efforts and with their power and cunning turn to His followers. They must prevent all whom they could from receiving the salvation purchased for them by Jesus."—*Early Writings*, 177-178.

"Jesus did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and exclaimed with His departing breath: 'It is finished.' Satan was then defeated. He knew that his kingdom was lost. Angels rejoiced as the words were uttered: 'It is finished.' The great plan of redemption, which was dependent on the death of Christ, had

been thus far carried out. And there was joy in heaven that the sons of Adam could, through a life of obedience, be finally exalted to the throne of God. Oh, what love! What amazing love! that brought the Son of God to earth to be made sin for us, that we might be reconciled to God, and elevated to a life with Him in His mansions in glory. Oh, what is man, that such a price should be paid for his redemption!"—*2 Testimonies, 211-212.*

"The cross of Calvary, while it declares the law immutable, proclaims to the universe that the wages of sin is death. **In the Saviour's expiring cry, 'It is finished,' the death knell of Satan was rung. The great controversy which had been so long in progress was then decided, and the final eradication of evil was made certain.** The Son of God passed through the portals of the tomb, **that 'through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.'** Hebrews 2:14. Lucifer's desire for self-exaltation had led him to say: 'I will exalt my throne above the stars of God . . . I will be like the Most High.' **God declares: 'I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth . . . and never shalt thou be any more.'** Isaiah 14:13, 14; Ezekiel 28:18, 19. When 'the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven . . . all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.' Malachi 4:1."—*Great Controversy, 503-504.*

IT WAS IN BRUISING THE HEEL OF CHRIST THAT SATAN'S HEAD WAS CRUSHED (Gen. 3:15)

"When the Saviour finally appeared 'in the likeness of men' (Philippians 2:7), and began His ministry of grace, **Satan could but bruise the heel, while by every act of humiliation or suffering Christ was bruising the head of His adversary.** The anguish that sin has brought was poured into the bosom of the Sinless; yet while Christ endured the contradiction of sinners against Himself, He was paying the debt for sinful man and breaking the bondage in which humanity had been held. Every pang of anguish, every insult, was working out the deliverance of the race.

"**Could Satan have induced Christ to yield to a single temptation, could he have led Him by one act or even thought to stain His perfect purity, the prince of darkness would have triumphed** over man's Surety and would have gained the whole human family to himself. But while Satan could distress, he could not contaminate. He could cause agony, but not defilement. **He made the life of Christ one long scene of conflict and trial, yet with every attack he was losing his hold upon humanity.**

"**In the wilderness of temptation, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on the cross, our Saviour**

measured weapons with the prince of darkness. His wounds became the trophies of His victory in behalf of the race. When Christ hung in agony upon the cross, while evil spirits rejoiced and evil men reviled, then indeed **His heel was bruised by Satan. But that very act was crushing the serpent's head. Through death He destroyed 'him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.'** Hebrews 2:14. **This act decided the destiny of the rebel chief,** and made forever sure the plan of salvation. In death He gained the victory over its power; in rising again, He opened the gates of the grave to all His followers. In that last great contest we see fulfilled the prophecy, 'It shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.' Genesis 3:15."—*Prophets and Kings, 701-702 [italics ours].*

**THE LAST VESTIGE OF SYMPATHY,
BY THE UNIVERSE, FOR SATAN ENDED
WHEN HE KILLED CHRIST**

"'But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified' (Matt. 27:22, 23). **In this choice the principles of Satan were made manifest;** and the hosts of heaven, and all the worlds that God had created, judged that Satan was an accuser of the brethren, a liar, and a murderer. In heaven and among the unfallen worlds the question of Satan's deceiving power, of his malignant principles, was settled, and the perfect purity and holiness of Christ, who was bearing the test and trial in behalf of fallen man, was forever proved. **Through the development of Satan's character and principles, he was forever uprooted from the affection of the unfallen worlds, and the controversy concerning his claims and the claims of Christ was forever settled in heaven.** The righteousness manifested in the character of Christ was forever to be the anchor, the saving hope, of the world."—*1 Selected Messages, 348.*

"**In carrying out his enmity to Christ until He hung upon the cross of Calvary, with wounded, bruised body and broken heart, Satan completely uprooted himself from the affections of the universe.** It was then seen that God had in His Son denied Himself, giving Himself for the sins of the world, because He loved mankind. The Creator was revealed in the Son of the infinite God. Here the question, 'Can there be self-denial with God?' was forever answered. Christ was God, and condescending to be made flesh, He assumed humanity and became obedient unto death, that He might undergo infinite sacrifice."—*7 Bible Commentary, 974.*

"Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to do, and **with His parting breath He exclaimed, 'It is finished.'** John 19:30. **The battle had been won . . .** To the angels and the unfallen worlds the cry, 'It is finished,' had a deep significance. It was for them as well as for

us that the great work of redemption had been accomplished. They with us share the fruits of Christ's victory.

"Not until the death of Christ was the character of Satan clearly revealed to the angels or to the unfallen worlds. The archapostate had so clothed himself with deception that even holy beings had not understood his principles. They had not clearly seen the nature of his rebellion."—*Desire of Ages*, 758.

CHRIST'S DEATH PROVIDED THE REDEMPTION PRICE

"When Christ cried, 'It is finished,' God's unseen hand rent the strong fabric composing the veil of the temple from top to bottom. **The way into the holiest of all was made manifest. God bowed His head satisfied.** Now His justice and mercy could blend. He could be just, and yet the justifier of all who should believe on Christ. He looked upon the victim expiring on the cross, and said, 'It is finished. The human race shall have another trial.' **The redemption price was paid, and Satan fell like lightning from heaven.**"—*5 Bible Commentary*, 1150.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST REFUTED SATAN'S FALSE CHARGES

"The sophistry and falsehood by which he had sought to hinder the work of Jesus, the hatred manifested through the children of disobedience, his cruel accusations against Him whose life was one of unexampled goodness, all sprang from deep-seated revenge. **The pent-up fires of envy and malice, hatred and revenge, burst forth on Calvary against the Son of God, while all heaven gazed upon the scene in silent horror.**

"When the great sacrifice had been consummated, Christ ascended on high . . .

"Now the guilt of Satan stood forth without excuse. He had revealed his true character as a liar and a murderer. It was seen that the very same spirit with which he ruled the children of men, who were under his power, he would have manifested had he been permitted to control the inhabitants of heaven. He had claimed that the transgression of God's law would bring liberty and exaltation; but it was seen to result in bondage and degradation. **Satan's lying charges against the divine character and government appeared in their true light.**"—*Great Controversy*, 501-502.

"By His life and His death, Christ proved that God's justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can be perfectly obeyed. **Satan's charges were refuted.**"—*Desire of Ages*, 762.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST REVEALED THE CHARACTER OF GOD

"They [the universe] watched the battle between light and darkness as it waxed stronger. And as Christ

in His expiring agony upon the cross cried out, 'It is finished' (John 19:30), **a shout of triumph rang through every world and through heaven itself.** The great contest that had been so long in progress in this world was now decided, and Christ was conqueror. **His death had answered the question whether the Father and the Son had sufficient love for man to exercise self-denial and a spirit of sacrifice. Satan had revealed his true character** as a liar and a murderer."—*Patriarchs and Prophets*, 69-70.

THE DEATH OF CHRIST MADE CERTAIN THAT SIN WILL NEVER AGAIN ARISE

"The death of Christ upon the cross made sure the destruction of him who has the power of death, who was the originator of sin. When Satan is destroyed, there will be none to tempt to evil; **the atonement will never need to be repeated; and there will be no danger of another rebellion** in the universe of God. That, which alone can effectually restrain from sin in this world of darkness, will prevent sin in heaven. **The significance of the death of Christ will be seen by saints and angels.** Fallen men could not have a home in the paradise of God without the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. Shall we not then exalt the cross of Christ? The angels ascribe honor and glory to Christ, for even they are not secure except by looking to the sufferings of the Son of God. **It is through the efficacy of the cross that the angels of heaven are guarded from apostasy.** Without the cross they would be no more secure against evil than were the angels before the fall of Satan. Angelic perfection failed in heaven. Human perfection failed in Eden, the paradise of bliss. All who wish for security in earth or heaven must look to the Lamb of God."—*5 Bible Commentary*, 1132.

AS SOON AS CHRIST DIED, SATAN DECIDED THAT HE MUST KEEP HIM IN THE GRAVE FOREVER

"When Jesus was laid in the grave, Satan triumphed. He dared to hope that the Saviour would not take up His life again. He claimed the Lord's body, and set his guard about the tomb, seeking to hold Christ a prisoner. He was bitterly angry when his angels fled at the approach of the heavenly messenger. **When he saw Christ come forth in triumph, he knew that his kingdom would have an end, and that he must finally die.**"—*Desire of Ages*, 782.

"Terror seized the Roman guard. Where was now their power to keep the body of Jesus? They did not think of their duty or of the disciples stealing Him away. As the light of the angels shone around, brighter than the sun, that Roman guard fell as dead men to the ground. One of the angels laid hold of the great stone and rolled it away from the door of the

8 sepulcher and seated himself upon it. The other entered the tomb and unbound the napkin from the head of Jesus. **Then the angel from heaven, with a voice that caused the earth to quake, cried out, 'Thou Son of God, Thy Father calls Thee! Come forth.'** Death could hold dominion over Him no longer. **Jesus arose from the dead, a triumphant conqueror.** In solemn awe the angelic host gazed upon the scene. And as Jesus came forth from the sepulcher, those shining angels prostrated themselves to the earth in worship, and hailed Him with songs of victory and triumph.

"Satan's angels had been compelled to flee before the bright, penetrating light of the heavenly angels, and they bitterly complained to their king that their prey had been violently taken from them, and that He whom they so much hated had risen from the dead. **Satan and his hosts had exulted that their power over fallen man had caused the Lord of life to be laid in the grave, but short was their hellish triumph.** For as Jesus walked forth from His prison house a majestic conqueror, Satan knew that after a season he must die, and his kingdom pass unto Him whose right it was. He lamented and raged that notwithstanding all his efforts, Jesus had not been overcome, but had opened a way of salvation for man, and whosoever would might walk in it and be saved.

"The evil angels and their commander met in council to consider how they could still work against the government of God."—*Early Writings, 182-183.*

AFTER THE DEATH OF CHRIST, SATAN'S WORK WAS MORE RESTRICTED

"Satan saw that [by killing Christ] his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. **He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted.** Whatever attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came from the heavenly courts, and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. **The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.**

"Yet Satan was not then destroyed. The angels did not even then understand all that was involved in the great controversy. The principles at stake were to be more fully revealed. And for the sake of man, **Satan's existence must be continued.**"—*Desire of Ages, 761.*

KNOWING HIS OWN DESTINY WAS SEALED,
SATAN DECIDED TO KEEP AS MANY
AS POSSIBLE FROM ACCEPTING SALVATION

"The casting down of Satan as an accuser of the brethren in heaven was accomplished by the great work of Christ in giving up His life. Notwithstanding Satan's persistent opposition, the plan of redemption was being carried out. Man was esteemed of sufficient value for Christ to sacrifice His life for him. **Satan, knowing that the empire he had usurped would in the end be wrested from him, determined to spare no pains to destroy as many as possible** of the creatures whom God had created in His image. He hated man because Christ had manifested for him such forgiving love and pity, and he now prepared to practice upon him every species of deception by which he might be lost; he pursued his course with more energy because of his own hopeless condition."—*7 Bible Commentary, 973-974.*

WELL MAY WE ALL REJOICE: SATAN IS A CONQUERED FOE

"By a life of rebellion, Satan and all who unite with him place themselves so out of harmony with God that His very presence is to them a consuming fire. The glory of Him who is love will destroy them.

"At the beginning of the great controversy, the angels did not understand this. Had Satan and his host then been left to reap the full result of their sin, they would have perished; but it would not have been apparent to heavenly beings that this was the inevitable result of sin. A doubt of God's goodness would have remained in their minds as evil seed, to produce its deadly fruit of sin and woe.

"But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. **Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor** before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law.

"Well, then, might the angels rejoice as they looked upon the Saviour's cross; for though they did not then understand all, they knew that the destruction of sin and Satan was forever made certain, that the redemption of man was assured, and that the universe was made eternally secure. Christ Himself fully comprehended the results of the sacrifice made upon Calvary. **To all these He looked forward when upon the cross He cried out, 'It is finished.'**"—*Desire of Ages, 764.*

"The world that Satan has claimed and has ruled over with cruel tyranny, **the Son of God has, by one vast achievement, encircled in His love** and connected again with the throne of Jehovah."—*Mount of Blessing, 104.*