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# Star Wars!

**I**n imagination, let's travel back in time to the beginning of creation. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit were then—and still are—equal. One was not inferior. God wanted to have many children upon whom to shower their infinite love and gifts, so they began an enormous experiment—to create intelligent beings.

A major challenge they faced was to decide what these beings would be like. Shall we create them to be like robots who have no choice but to obey us, they considered, or shall we give them free will? The idea of free will carried an enormous risk. What if any of those beings, they pondered—on one of those planets where they will live—turn against us and choose to disobey us? What if they try to set up their own government, bringing certain chaos to the universe? What would we do? Would we just wipe them off the map the moment even one thought of rebellion enters their minds?

In the heart of God, the plan of salvation was born. God knew a crisis would come. Yet the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit decided that the coming crisis would give them the only real opportunity to prove their love for those they had created. Words were not enough. It was not enough to say to created beings, “I love you, I love you—just believe me that I love you!”

No, that was not enough. They knew that a crisis would come. They knew that the crisis would even lead to violence. Yet they knew too that they would prove that they loved their created beings more than their own lives.

The first person of the Godhead turned to the second person of the Godhead, whom we call Jesus Christ.

“If such a revolution should happen on any of the planets we are going to create,” He asked, “are You willing to carry out this tremendous experiment fully by going there to save them? Are You willing to become one of them, giving up the form You have now? Are You willing to become weak, laying all Your power at my feet, and live there only by the power I will give You through the Holy Spirit?”

“You will accomplish nothing by Your own strength for yourself. You will become obedient to me in everything, proving that the laws we have created are only for the good of the universe. Our law is not for evil—not to set up a tyranny, not to make a slave camp—but is for everyone’s good.

“And are You willing to go even farther? Are You willing that I shall put the sin, the rebellion of that planet, upon You, to punish You instead of them and give them a second chance?”

“Yes, Father, I am willing to carry out this beautiful plan,” Jesus replied. “Then if You are willing to become my Son and humble Yourself to that degree,” the Father continued, “then You will be the only spokesperson between the whole universe and me. They will only see You.

“You are the one that should create, not I. I will go into the background, You will go into the foreground. You deal with every intelligent being that we create.”

This is why, after Jesus came to earth, He said, “The Father loves me because I lay down my life.”

### **Jesus Christ, the Creator of “All Things”!**

John put it this way: “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.” John 1:10-12, NKJV.

“He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew him not.” John 1:10, KJV.

Paul says of Jesus: “He is the image of the invisible God. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:15-17.

God the Son created world after world. He populated those worlds with intelligent beings such as you and me. There is one big difference between us and all other created beings, however. We are sinners, and they are not. They never age, never get sick, and never die. They have never experienced pain, sickness, or death.

The Son of God referred to these sinless worlds and to Planet Earth in the story He told of the man who owned a hundred sheep, one of which got lost. “Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.” Luke 15:3-7.

Jesus was here referring, primarily, to one lost person, but secondarily to Earth—the one lost planet. Planet Earth is the only world—of the vast number God has created—that has a sin problem, an aging problem, or a death problem. This is the planet where the Son of God, the Shepherd, came.

God paid an enormous price. He spent the resources of the universe to remove the curse of sin, aging, and death from Earth. And He will be successful: “Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.” One day, Planet Earth will be free of sin, pain, aging, and death—and you and I can be part of that exciting life.

God is a God of order. He established first a government with beings of supreme intelligence, beauty, and power. They became the seat of the government, to rule over the whole universe. The leader? A supreme being. The most wonderful creature God ever made. His name was Lucifer, “Son of the morning.” Lucifer had the seal of God, which meant that all that God did passed through his hands. Yet Lucifer is the same one whose name was later changed to Satan, or the Devil. In the book of Revelation he is even called the Dragon.

## What Does the Devil Look Like?

Lucifer is a real being. He wears no red pajamas and carries no pitchfork. He was created a beautiful, wise, powerful, and perfect angel. He retains much of his former beauty, intelligence, and power, but none of his original

perfection. God loved Lucifer. Lucifer and Christ, Lucifer and the Father, Lucifer and the Holy Spirit were intimate friends.

We do not know how long they were such friends. Lucifer stood on the left side of the throne of God and Christ on the right. Nevertheless, as Lucifer watched the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit meet occasionally in secret council, he began to wonder. “Why can’t I be part of that inner circle? Am I not as powerful as they are?”

He began to eye the Son of God with jealousy. “Couldn’t I uphold the universe with my own strength?” he asked himself.

The Lord God said of Lucifer, “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering. You were the anointed” covering angel. “You were on the holy mountain of God. You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created, until” you chose sin. Ezekiel 28:12-15, NKJV.

### **The Devil Has “I” Problems**

“Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor.”

“How you are fallen from heaven O Lucifer, son of the morning!” “You said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” Ezekiel 28:17, 6; Isaiah 14:12, NKJV; 14:13, 14.

Jesus often approached Lucifer. “Son,” He would say, “I made you. I love you. I put great wisdom and ability into you. No one is like you anywhere. You have the highest privileges. So son, please do not be jealous of me. You are a created being. We, on the other hand, have existed from eternity—with no beginning. There is a difference. Please be satisfied with the power and authority I have given you. Do not be jealous. Do not think rebellious thoughts.”

But Lucifer was headstrong. He approached the other created beings stationed at the seat of God’s government, pretending to want to honor God.

“I only have the best interest for God,” he told them. “I want to honor Him, I want to improve His government and His laws, but to do so, I have to be part of that secret council.”

Because he was so intelligent, loved, and respected, many sided with him, and that gave him a feeling of power.

Jesus came to him repeatedly. “Lucifer, I know what you’re doing. I told you that I love you, I forgive everything you’ve said against us. I know what your plans are. Please stop—you are destroying yourself.”

“Oh, no, I will not,” Lucifer protested. “I want to be a part of that secret council. I want to be God, like You!”

Lucifer became bolder and bolder, because he found sympathetic hearers. “God’s law is too rigid,” he would say to the angels. “It is developing into tyranny. God is a stern Judge over His whole creation. He is merciless. God immediately destroys anyone who disagrees with His ideas. He is not willing to serve—He only commands. He demands that everyone serve Him like a slave.”

“He also does not know anything about humility. He has the gall to say that we have free will, but He does not allow us to do what we want.”

Lucifer put God on trial before the whole universe. Imagine—God on trial before the whole universe! God could have destroyed Lucifer instantly. Lucifer was a created being. So God could have withdrawn life immediately, in a split second, but what would have been the result? The whole universe would have said, “Oh, look—you say something against God, and He wipes you out! Maybe Lucifer was right after all.”

Lucifer plunged the whole universe into a crisis. An atmosphere of fear would have filled the whole universe if God had then destroyed Lucifer. But God did not want to have a universe that would obey Him out of fear. He wants to be loved wholeheartedly.

Lucifer chose to rebel against the government of God. He convinced one third of the angels of heaven to join his rebellion against God, God’s law, and His government. Lucifer thought he had it made. I do not know what weapons he had available. We know just a little now—having discovered hydrogen bombs and lasers—about what he could have used. However, he attacked God at headquarters with all the power that he had available. One third of God’s government was with him.

## **Star Wars**

The first revolution happened right where God is—at His headquarters. It was a foolish experiment. Of course, Lucifer lost. Here again, after Lucifer lost the battle, Christ could have destroyed him as a punishment. But no. That would be all wrong. All the rest of the universe would have been in

fear. Was Lucifer right? Throughout eternity, they would have doubted and wondered, “Maybe Lucifer had a point.” No, God would remove Lucifer’s disguise. He would permit the whole universe to see Lucifer’s real intent, his true nature, over a long period of time.

“And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” Revelation 12:7-9.

“God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.’” Genesis 1:26. Today, Lucifer is seeking to convince all of the human race to follow his rebellion. The book of Genesis tells us about his attempt to convince our first parents, Adam and Eve, to join his rebellion. The Son of God had warned Adam and Eve of Lucifer. They knew about his rebellion.

Jesus also told them of two special trees in the garden. One was the Tree of Life and the other was the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God wanted Earth’s first couple to be happy. Eating from the Tree of Life would bring them a happy, satisfying, everlasting life. But eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil would unite them in rebellion with Lucifer and result in death.

God asked them to avoid even getting near that tree. Jesus told them that only there would He permit Lucifer to tempt them into joining his rebellion. If they avoided that tree and stayed together, they would continue to enjoy everlasting life and happiness.

Lucifer knew that to get Adam and Eve to join his rebellion, he would have to use deception. He could not succeed in talking with them directly. Had he done so, they would have called for help from God, and Lucifer was no match for God.

Lucifer chose to disguise himself to Adam and Eve and used a snake as a puppet. He made it appear as if the snake could talk. Eve wandered away from Adam one day and found herself looking at the fruit tree from which Christ had warned her to stay away. She saw a snake in the tree eating the very fruit the Son of God had told her would bring death. Yet not only was the snake eating the fruit—he also spoke her name. This was truly amazing! She had never seen anything like this before. If Lucifer had spoken to her directly, she would have run away. This tree was the test of loyalty for the human race.

## She Talked to the Devil

Adam and Eve would have run had they seen an angel talking to them at this tree, but this was no angel. This was something new and amazing! Eve spoke with the snake, who told her that she could have greater happiness!

“Look at what I, a snake, can do. I can talk with you. When have you ever seen a snake talk to either you or Adam? God has told you not to eat of this fruit, but look at me. I ate it, and I can talk. You eat it, and you will enter a world of endless opportunities. You will know as much as God knows.” Today Lucifer is still making promises. He hides behind glamorous advertising, promising us happiness, social acceptance, and “coolness” if we will only drink this or smoke that. After losing our health to emphysema, cancer, cirrhosis of the liver, or any number of other diseases, we sometimes finally realize that all of Lucifer’s promises are just an illusion.

We know the rest of the story. Eve joined Lucifer’s rebellion and convinced Adam to join also. The result is that they died and brought death to the whole human race.

## Christ Reveals the Plan of Salvation

Christ spoke to Satan and said, “I will put enmity [dislike] between you and the woman. And between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” Genesis 3:15.

This is the first Bible reference to the plan of salvation. This was the promise that Christ Himself would come, being born of one of Eve’s descendants. He would wage war with Satan. In that war, Satan would “strike Christ’s heel” (cause Him suffering) but Christ would “crush Satan’s head” (eventually destroy Satan).

Perhaps what Christ said to Adam and Eve went something like this: “I love you—we love you—and though Lucifer has deceived you into choosing death, there is still hope.”

He told them of the plan of salvation. They saw death for the first time when the Lord killed an animal and made clothes for them.

“Adam and Eve,” Christ might have said, “just as you saw the animal die, I will come one day to suffer and die the death your sin deserves. In that way, you can have the life I deserve. You will have children. One day I will be born from one of those who will descend from them. I will become a helpless human baby. I will continue to grow until I become a little boy and then a man. I will live the life of obedience that you should have lived. I will

prove to the universe that my law is just and fair and can be obeyed. I will live a sinless life, and I will die a terrible death to save you. I will pay the just claims of my law.

“By faith, you can have my sinless life credited to your account. After my death, I will return to heaven to prepare a home for you and your children who accept my substitute death, my forgiveness, and my love in their lives.

“But you must leave this Eden home now. You will see it again if you accept the forgiveness and changing power of my love. I can only offer this to you if you will have faith in my future sinless life, suffering, and death as a human.

“You can show your faith by confessing your sins over the head of an innocent lamb. ‘The wages of sin is death.’ You will then kill the innocent lamb. He will die in your place. In the death of each innocent lamb, you will see an example of my future suffering and death for you.”

Adam and Eve were stunned! They now saw the immensity of their sin, and their love for God was great as they saw that God would suffer for them to save them.

Lucifer had won a major battle in his warfare against God. He had brought pain, suffering, and death into a pain-free, death-free, contented universe of worlds. Now Planet Earth had become the theater of the universe. God kept sin confined to Earth, and the Son of God was coming to win the battle. He was not coming to win it with force but with love. He was coming to unmask Lucifer and reveal to the universe what God is really like.