

The Great Controversy



Week Five

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Revelation 12:7–11



See videos at
www.inverseible.org/SDAH05-a

MORE THAN JUST A THEORY

The great controversy is the metanarrative of the whole Bible. Understanding that there's a battle between good and evil that started in heaven provides a backdrop for the pain, sadness, and problems we face every day. We can see this battle throughout the Bible and human history. Soon after the early Christian church era, Christianity made a series of compromises with paganism that led to the active suppression of the Bible during the Dark Ages.

The Reformation began to peel back layers of superstition through the influence of men like John Wycliffe, John Huss, Jerome, Martin Luther, and John Wesley. Other believers such as the Waldenses and Anabaptists promoted key biblical teachings and suffered severe persecution for it. These various historical events were succinctly summarized in the late 1850s when God gave Ellen White a vision that eventually became the book *The Great Controversy*.

The theme of the great controversy is the lens through which we view and understand all biblical truth. The remarkable Cambridge physicist Stephen Hawking wrote that should scientists discover the long-sought “theory of everything” to explain how the universe works, “we should know the mind of God” (*A Brief History of Time* [1998]). As Adventist theologian Herbert Douglas wrote in response, “Adventists have been given... a perspective which provides a ‘theory of everything.’ It introduces us to the ‘mind of God.’ We didn’t discover it; it was given to us. We call it the Great Controversy Theme” (“The Great Controversy Theme: What it Means to Adventists,” in *Ministry Magazine* [2000], 5, 6).



inScribe

Write out Revelation 12:7–11 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out a portion of the primary passage. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map it.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Why do you think Satan specifically targeted the vision on the great controversy?

How can knowing that the controversy is much bigger than we are change our perspective on the issues and trials we may endure?



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inTerpret

After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How do you think the angels would've responded if God had immediately annihilated Satan in response to his rebellion?

How can weak sinners like us hope for victory over Satan?



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What relationship do the following verses have with Revelation 12:7-11?

Satan and his attacks against God:

- Isaiah 14:12-14
- Ezekiel 28:12-18
- Genesis 3:1-6
- Genesis 2:15-17
- Job 1:6-20

Character of God:

- Deuteronomy 32:4
- 1 John 4:16

Michael the archangel's voice:

- Jude 9
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17
- John 5:28, 29

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Revelation 12:7-11.



Meditate on the primary passage again and look for where Jesus is.



How do you think God handles all the pain He witnesses knowing it's the result of the choice He gave us?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

Prayer Response:



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Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?

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After this week's study of the
chapter, what are some decisions
that must be made in your
personal life?

What are some practical
decisions you must make in your
school, family, workplace, and
church life?



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Spirit of Prophecy at
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inquire

Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



What kind of risks does love require? Why can it never be forced?

Why do you think the lie that following God is restrictive and following Satan is freedom deceives so many?

In what ways can our understanding of God's character be impacted if we don't understand the great controversy theme?

Why does Satan direct his accusations against both God *and* God's children?

How does the fact that Ellen White faced such difficulties when she received the vision and wrote *The Great Controversy* add to the importance of the message?

How does the cross demonstrate the true characters of God and of Satan at the same time?