

Great Controversy Series
The Great Controversy Ends...
“Which Side Will You Be On?”
Chapter 42 - The Controversy Ended
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“God has a church. It is not the great cathedral, neither is it the national establishment, neither is it the various denominations; it is the people who love God and keep His commandments. "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). Where Christ is even among the humble few, this is Christ's church, for the presence of the High and Holy One who inhabiteth eternity can alone constitute a church.” The Upward Look p. 315 Ellen White

Remember the great controversy is a very intense strife or conflict between two opposing sides. It is a universal spiritual war between good and evil, light and darkness, God and Satan, God’s people and Satan, life and death. Jesus is actively contending to reveal the truth and save us from sin and eternal death.

Jesus is making His plead and calling us to his side to SAVE US!

Micah 6:2

2 Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S **controversy (pleading)**, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will **plead** (argue or convict) with Israel.

Jesus is not lacking in this controversy. He is shy but calling us with a strong voice and knocking at the door of our hearts.

Revelation 3:20

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and **knock**: if any man **hear my voice**, and **open the door**, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

How does Jesus summarize the GREAT CONTROVERSY?

John 10:10-11

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

What is Jesus’ plead now to us in the great controversy?

Mark 1:15

15 And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

Jesus has fulfilled the time of prophecy at each phase of His ministry on earth and in heaven. In Daniel 8:14 and 9:25 & 26 it predicted the anointing of Jesus at his baptism, fulfilled in 27 AD; the crucifixion of Christ, fulfilled in 31 AD and his move from the holy to the most holy place, time of judgment the anti-typical day of atonement, started in 1844, soon to end. Jesus knows the controversy will come to an end. His message is still the same, repent and believe the everlasting gospel that will give you everlasting life! Turn from death and choose life and live life in Jesus Christ before it is too late!

Ezekiel 18:30-32

30 Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from **all your transgressions**; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

31 Cast away from you **all your transgressions**, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a **new heart** and a **new spirit**: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore **turn yourselves**, and **live ye**.

This is Jesus' urgent plea before the doors of probation is closed! The great controversy will come to an end which side will you be on?

Revelation 14:7

7 for the **hour of his judgment** is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

How do you stand in the investigative judgment now?

Ezekiel 44:23-24

23 And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. ["They" are the true ministers and people of God]

24 And in **controversy they shall stand in judgment**; and they shall judge it according to my judgments: and they shall keep my laws and my statutes in all mine assemblies; and they shall hallow my sabbaths.

What will God do to those who reject His pleading, His everlasting gospel TRUTH and LAW at the end of the controversy?

Hosea 4:1, 6

1 Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy (pleading) with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

The great controversy has an ending. At the end of the great controversy which side are you going to be on? That will depend on what side you are on now. Now to the time to make it known to the world whose side you are on. Not be just words but actions! Will you die for the truth? Do you know the true Jesus as revealed in the Bible? Are you watching, praying, and sharing the everlasting gospel now? Is your love for the truth greater than Satan's hate for it?

"Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion, a religion of words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court. God calls for a revival and a reformation. The words of the Bible and the Bible alone, should be heard from the pulpit. But the Bible has been robbed of its power, and the result is seen in a lowering of the tone of spiritual life. In many sermons of today there is not that divine manifestation which awakens the conscience and brings life to the soul. The hearers cannot say, "Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the Scriptures?" Luke 24:32. There are many who are crying out for the living God, longing for the divine presence. Let the word of God speak to the heart. Let those who have heard only tradition and human theories and maxims, hear the voice of Him who can renew the soul unto eternal life." Ellen White, Prophets and Kings p. 626.

How does the GREAT CONTROVERSY finally end?

In our previous study we looked at the events that will take place during the second coming of Jesus and after Jesus return to heaven with ALL His saints.

Review questions

What happened to the wicked living at the coming of Jesus? They were destroyed by the brightness of the coming. They were not buried but laid as dung scattered through out the earth.

What is the condition of the earth after the coming of Jesus? It is a desolate wasteland described as the “bottomless pit”.

What happens to Satan and angels after Jesus comes? They are imprisoned on the desolate wasteland described as a “bottomless pit”. They will not be able to free roam the universe. They will be in bound to this dark inhabitable world with no one to tempt or torment.

How long will Satan and his demons be bound to this earth before their destruction? 1000 years

Where will the saints of God be during the 1000 years? Heaven with Jesus

What specific task are the saints given during the 1000 years in Heaven? Judging all who are lost... (not responsible for the investigative and executive (punishment) phase of Judgment – Jesus is solely responsible)

What phase of judgment will the saints actively participate in with instructions from Jesus? Sentencing phase of judgment (between the investigative and executive phase). This phase will determine the length and intensity of hell fire for each of the wicked lost and Satan and his demons.

What happens at the end of the 1000 years?

Revelation 21:2-3

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

Jesus with the saints and New Jerusalem descends out of heaven and returns to the earth. New Jerusalem (Heavenly), the holy city will be set up on earth.

Revelation 20:5-6

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

When Jesus returns the third time to the earth with His saints and New Jerusalem He will resurrect ALL the wicked dead who is on the earth in preparation to execute their punishment. They will see the saints in the heavenly city with Jesus high and lifted up!

“At the close of the thousand years, Christ again returns to the earth. He is accompanied by the host of the redeemed and attended by a retinue of angels. As He descends in terrific majesty He bids the wicked dead arise to receive their doom. They come forth, a mighty host, numberless as the sands of the sea. What a contrast to

those who were raised at the first resurrection! The righteous were clothed with immortal youth and beauty. The wicked bear the traces of disease and death.” GC 662

What will the wicked’s response be when they are ALLOWED to behold the majesty of Jesus Christ with the saved saints, and all that they lost?

“Every eye in that vast multitude is turned to behold the glory of the Son of God. With one voice the wicked hosts exclaim: "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!" It is not love to Jesus that inspires this utterance. The force of truth urges the words from unwilling lips. As the wicked went into their graves, so they come forth with the same enmity to Christ and the same spirit of rebellion. They are to have no new probation in which to remedy the defects of their past lives. Nothing would be gained by this. A lifetime of transgression has not softened their hearts. A second probation, were it given them, would be occupied as was the first in evading the requirements of God and exciting rebellion against Him.” GC 662

Specifically, where does Christ stand when He steps foot on this earth after 1000 years?

After Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection during his ministry on this earth where was His last steps on this earth before He was taken to Heaven?

Acts 1:9-12

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the **mount called Olivet**, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

Jesus last steps on the this earth was on Mount Olivet when He completed His earthly ministry.

Remember when Jesus returns the second time will He touch this earth? NO. The saints of God will meet the Lord in the air! Jesus only touches this earth again when He comes the third time after the 1000 years in the same place He took his last steps, Mount Olivet!

Zechariah 14:5, 4

5 ...the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee. (point of context)

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

Mount Olivet is also known as the Mountain of Olives, an orchard full of olive trees. In the Bible olive oil represents the Holy spirit and Holy anointing. It was on the mount of Olives before Christ ascended to heaven that Jesus promised the disciples the anointing of the Holy Spirit to do an extraordinary work in spreading the gospel to the utter most parts of the earth! Before New Jerusalem rest on Mount Olivet, Jesus first anoints it with His holiness and glory.

“As the New Jerusalem, in its dazzling splendor, comes down out of heaven, it rests upon the place purified and made ready to receive it, and Christ, with His people and the angels, enters the Holy City.” GC 663

After Satan and his demons are bound for a thousand years on this desolate earth, what happens to them after the wicked are resurrected?

Revelation 20:2-3

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be **loosed a little season**.

Satan and his demon will be loosed for a LITTLE season of time.

What did Satan do once he was loosed for a little season?

Revelation 20:7-8

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 And shall go out to **deceive the nations (the wicked)** which are in the four quarters of the earth, **Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle:** the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

Satan will see a multitude as the sand of the sea, the evil dead raised to back to life. They were NOT raised up with vigor and youth like those who were part of the first resurrection. The wicked are raise up in the same condition they were when they died. They also have the same rebellious character. But Satan gets excited because he has a people he can tempt and control again. He along with his demonic angels look at the saints in the New Jerusalem city, and see that his evil multitude greatly out numbers those in the city. In his blind and deceived thinking, Satan believes that he can overtake New Jerusalem. There are thousands of evil giants and great intelligent that were destroyed by the world wide flood because of their evil and rebellious deeds. There are thousands of warriors and military generals and strategist who were successful in conquering large territory in the past.

Satan presents himself to the mass multitude as an angel light and savior to the world. He lies and tells the evil multitude that he rose them from the dead. He tells them that he came to save them from those who are invading the planet. He points to the New Jerusalem, he tells the mass of people and military generals that they can overtake the city. He, his demons, along with military generals put together a plan of war to conquer New Jerusalem. Weapons of war are put together. **They are gather together and ready for war!**

Who is Gog and Magog as described in Revelation 20:8?

This gathering and preparation for war is called Gog and Magog in Revelation 20:8. According to Ezekiel chapters 38 and 39 Gog was a literal wicked king over the land of Magog who come from the north to attack Israel. In the last great and mighty battle, Satan is compared to king Gog who is the leader of an evil multitude of people like Magog.

This great gathering for earth's final battle, Gog and Magog is prophesied by Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 38:14-16

14 Therefore, son of man, prophesy and say unto Gog, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In that day when my people of Israel dwelleth safely, shalt thou not know it?

15 And thou shalt come from thy place out of the north parts, thou, and many people with thee, all of them riding upon horses, a great company, and a mighty army:

16 And thou shalt come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the **latter days**, and I will bring thee against my land, that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes.

The wicked people are given commands from Satan and his generals. **Billions of the evil multitude are ready for war. They march to the city and see the glory of the saints inside the beautiful city of God. They surround the city of the New Jerusalem and ready to overtake it! God's people inside the city are not shaken, because the king of king and the Lord of Lords is their king! They stand in the glory of God knowing who is about to fight and win!**

“Their warfare is ended, their victory won. They have run the race and reached the prize. The palm branch in their hands is a symbol of their triumph, the white robe an emblem of the spotless righteousness of Christ which now is theirs.” GC 665

Revelation 7:9

9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands.

What happens next as the wicked army with Satan as its leader surround the city, New Jerusalem?

Revelation 20:11-12

11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

“Now Christ again appears to the view of His enemies. Far above the city, upon a foundation of burnished gold, is a throne, high and lifted up. Upon this throne sits the Son of God, and around Him are the subjects of His kingdom. The power and majesty of Christ no language can describe, no pen portray. The glory of the Eternal Father is enshrouding His Son. The brightness of His presence fills the City of God, and flows out beyond the gates, flooding the whole earth with its radiance.” GC 665

The wicked who will soon receive their just punishment stand in awe of the glory and majesty of Jesus lifted up on His throne so ALL eyes can see His glory.

“In the presence of the assembled inhabitants of earth and heaven the **final coronation** of the Son of God takes place. And now, invested with supreme majesty and power, the King of kings **pronounces sentence** upon the rebels against His government and executes justice upon those who have transgressed His law and oppressed His people.” GC 666

As the books are opened they see the great controversy clearly revealed to them. They see how Jesus plead with them time and time again to save them. They see the ministry of Jesus flash before their eyes!

“Above the throne is revealed the cross; and like a panoramic view appear the scenes of Adam's temptation and fall, and the successive steps in the great plan of redemption. The Saviour's lowly birth; His early life of simplicity and obedience; His baptism in Jordan; the fast and temptation in the wilderness; His public ministry, unfolding to men heaven's most precious blessings; the days crowded with deeds of love and mercy, the nights of prayer and watching in the solitude of the mountains; the plottings of envy, hate, and malice which repaid His benefits; the awful, mysterious agony in Gethsemane beneath the crushing weight of the sins of the whole world; His betrayal into the hands of the murderous mob; the fearful events of that night of horror--the unresisting prisoner, forsaken by His best-loved disciples, rudely hurried through the streets of Jerusalem; the Son of God exultingly displayed before Annas, arraigned in the high priest's palace, in the judgment hall of

Pilate, before the cowardly and cruel Herod, mocked, insulted, tortured, and condemned to die--all are vividly portrayed.” GC 666

They see all that Jesus went through to save ALL people. While the wicked realize all they lost by rejecting Jesus, the saved saints realize all gained through Jesus, and praise His holy name. They throw their crowns at the feet of Jesus and bow before Him.

“The whole wicked world stand arraigned at the bar of God on the charge of high treason against the government of heaven. They have none to plead their cause; they are without excuse; and the sentence of eternal death is pronounced against them.” GC 668

“As if entranced, the wicked have looked upon the coronation of the Son of God. They see in His hands the tables of the divine law, the statutes which they have despised and transgressed. They witness the outburst of wonder, rapture, and adoration from the saved; and as the wave of melody sweeps over the multitudes without the city, all with one voice exclaim, "Great and marvelous are Thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints" (Revelation 15:3); and, falling prostrate, they worship the Prince of life.” GC 668

Satan and his evil demons also fall down and recognize the king of Kings and the Lords of Lords, Jesus.

Philippians 2:10-11

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

“With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: ‘Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.’” GC 670

Satan and his evil demons are fully exposed as losers in this great controversy. Their schemes are fully unmasked that led millions to their eternal destruction! The wicked realized that their characters are not fitted for Heaven. They wholly believed the lies of Satan! They also realize all that they lost!

What happens next? How does the wicked feel about Satan after he is fully unmasked?

“Notwithstanding that Satan has been constrained to acknowledge God's justice and to bow to the supremacy of Christ, his character remains unchanged. The spirit of rebellion, like a mighty torrent, again bursts forth. Filled with frenzy, he determines not to yield the great controversy. The time has come for a last desperate struggle against the King of heaven. He rushes into the midst of his subjects and endeavors to inspire them with his own fury and arouse them to instant battle. But of all the countless millions whom he has allured into rebellion, there are none now to acknowledge his supremacy. His power is at an end. The wicked are filled with the same hatred of God that inspires Satan; but they see that their case is hopeless, that they cannot prevail against Jehovah. Their rage is kindled against Satan and those who have been his agents in deception, and with the fury of demons they turn upon them.” GC 672

While the wicked and Satan surround the city, New Jerusalem, now fighting each other what happens next?

Revelation 20:9-10

9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Hell fire and the total destruction of the wicked, Satan, and his demons!

Ezekiel 38:22-23

22 And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

23 Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Psalms 11:6

6 Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.

Will the wicked, Satan, and demons be totally destroyed? Will they ever come back? Will they be burning forever and ever?

Isaiah 34:2

2 For the indignation of the LORD is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.

Malachi 4:1, 3

1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and 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.

3 And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

“Some are destroyed as in a moment, while others suffer many days. All are punished ‘according to their deeds.’ The sins of the righteous having been transferred to Satan, he is made to suffer not only for his own rebellion, but for all the sins which he has caused God's people to commit. His punishment is to be far greater than that of those whom he has deceived.” GC 673

The GREAT CONTROVERSY will be forever burned up! Sin will NOT raise up another time! All the saved are purified by the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of Lords. The only reminder of the results of sins will be the scars of His sacrifice for us on the cross in his forehead, hands, feet, and side. Worthy worthy is the Lamb and praises Him will be our response when we see those precious scars!

After the wicked up burned up and the earth purified by fire what happens next?

Revelation 21:1

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

After the earth is purified and all traces of sin burned up we will actually see Jesus recreate a new heaven and earth right before our eyes. NO human being has EVER seen thing before! This is going to be one of the most amazing sights to see!

Psalms 37:29

29 The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever.

1 Corinthians 2:9

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

Isaiah 32:18

18 And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, and in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;

Isaiah 65:21-22

21 And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.

22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

Last words paragraph of “The Great Controversy” says, referring to our time on the new heaven and earth,

“The great controversy is ended. Sin and sinners are no more. The entire universe is clean. One pulse of harmony and gladness beats through the vast creation. From Him who created all, flow life and light and gladness, throughout the realms of illimitable space. From the minutest atom to the greatest world, all things, animate and inanimate, in their unshadowed beauty and perfect joy, declare that God is love.” GC 678