

The First Gifts Given to Sinful Man

Of the many gifts given to mankind by God, three stand out as incredible evidences of the love of God for fallen man.

- Gift #1: **Genesis 3:15** – God places _____ between fallen man and Satan. This gave mankind a conscience, placing us at war with the enemy.
- Gift #2: **Genesis 3:21** – God covers them with _____ to substitute the death that was deserved, pointing forward to Jesus.

The sacrificial system was instituted at the outset of the fall of mankind. Every single lamb that has ever been sacrificed, from that very first in Eden to those right before the death of Christ, all pointed forward to Jesus. Now, every knee that bows and confesses, from those right after the death of Christ to the very last before the Second Coming of Christ, all point backward to Jesus. From the first sin of Eve to the last sin at the end of the world, every single sin down through the ages that has been or will be confessed by a humble and contrite heart was in that moment placed upon the shoulders of Jesus who had no sin. He died the death that was ours so that we might have the life that was His.

His death was the ultimate expression of Self-Sacrificing Love.

Gift #3: Sanctuary: God's Blueprint for Salvation

The Sanctuary model is one of the most special gifts ever given to mankind. It shows us the _____ of Jesus; we may walk through the steps and into the presence of God. Our study of the Sanctuary will reveal 4 things:

- God's earthly mission: perfect _____ sacrifice
- God's heavenly mission: perfect _____ intercession
- The fate of Satan: total _____ after judgment
- The focal point of the controversy: God's _____ of love.

The Sanctuary Furniture Model

The Sanctuary is the Bible's gospel message "juiced" down to the essential elements. Within the Sanctuary we find the details of the plan of salvation that were given to the nation of Israel before there existed a Bible to codify all the elements. At this point in earth's history, the people of God were all but wiped out; Satan was exercising control over almost the entire planet. It was the purpose of the Sanctuary to bring the minds of the Israelites, recently redeemed from pagan Egypt, an introduction to the true nature of God's law of love so that they could take the gospel message of a coming Messiah to the world. Every element within the Sanctuary points forward to Jesus Christ.

- Alter of Burnt Offering: _____ (John 1:36)
- Laver or Washbasin: _____ (Mark 1:8)
- Table of Showbread: _____ (Luke 4:4)
- Alter of Incense: _____ (Psalm 141:2)
- 7-Branch Candlestick: _____ (Matthew 5:16)
- Ark of the Covenant: _____ (Exodus 25:22)

Psalm 77:13 – the very _____ of God is found inside the walls of the Sanctuary. The physical elements all have spiritual symbolism.

Big Picture Bible Study

No. 01: How the War Began

To fully understand the Bible's message about the future, we must first understand the Bible's story about the past.

What makes Christianity and the Bible so special?

In a world that is more concerned with tolerance than truth, the Bible and the God to which it points has been degraded from a position of absolute authority and added to a list of interchangeable labels that we call religion. This situation begs the question be asked of every Truth-seeker: "Why should I believe the *Christian message*?" Is it simply because I was born into a Christian family in a Christian nation? By that logic, had I been born in Saudi Arabia, India, or China then I would be a Muslim, Hindu, or Buddhist. Does my spiritual identity only go as far as my inherited tradition? That is not good enough for me.

- **Isaiah 41:23** contains God's _____ to anyone claiming to be God. "If any of you can accurately _____ about the future, you can be God."

When Jesus was on earth, He claimed the name of Yahweh (the "I AM") and He also claimed the same power to look into the future (John 13:19, 14:29).

The prophecy found in _____ spans 2,500 years of secular history and describes the rise and fall of all four empires: *Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome!*

The Bible is _____ true; that is to say that if no one in the entire world believed it, it would still be true.

As the book of Daniel continues, it gives more information about each kingdom, naming them literally by name and giving such detailed information that it stupefies the purely secular mind. The Bible is so consistent with archaeology and secular history that, from a purely scientific standpoint, the possibility of it all being just a coincidence would be labeled statistically _____.

Future events foretold—events long past described

In Daniel 7, the Little Horn power is the enemy of God and His people. He fights in a battle against Jesus Christ that is a continuation of a war that started long ago. Within this war we find the big picture context to study the Bible.

- Who is the Prince of princes? _____ (Daniel 8:25)
- Who has the voice of the archangel? _____ (1 Thess. 4:16)
- What was His name to the angels? _____ (Jude 1:9)

These are the only two times in the Bible where the term "archangel" is used. Jesus is called "Michael the Archangel" because the word *angel* means "messenger", it does not imply that Jesus is a created being; just that He is in charge of the army of angels in Heaven.

Jesus is "Emmanuel, God With Us" and the hosts of Heaven knew Him as Michael the Archangel. It was against the Son of God, that the dragon or _____ fought. This is how the war began; this is how sin started. Jesus won the war but the defeated enemy is trying to take us down with him.

How Rebellion Began in a Perfect Place

The true fact of the matter is that no one can really explain *how* sin began in a perfect place other than to recount the events. God did not create defective angels, but He did create them with freewill. Although Lucifer had never seen, experienced, or felt sin, he made the decision to put his will above God.

- God has lovingly created everything perfect and with _____
- In Heaven there is a _____ and it is a _____ by _____ which the earthly Sanctuary was built (**Psalm 102:19; Hebrews 8:5**).

The purpose of the Sanctuary was for the presence of God to dwell among sinful man. This is where perfect _____ meets perfect _____.

- What are the two passages that give us a picture of Lucifer in Heaven:
 - _____
 - _____
- Lucifer was a _____ in the Sanctuary. He was allowed to be closer to God than any other created being, standing in His literal and physical presence. It must have been here that he noticed that there was a _____ that existed before any sin ever came into his heart.

God created humanity with the freedom of choice knowing that if they rebelled, He Himself would be willing to come and die for us. Heaven was built on this principle of self-sacrificing love.

“The Law of Self-Sacrificing Love” – God’s foundational law.

Lucifer’s job was to cover, protect and defend the law of God that uplifted selflessness above all else. He understood the law; he knew better than any what love was like. There is no greater expression of God’s character that could ever be shown to him. It was in this position that he chose to uplift selflessness and therefore _____ was found in him. He did not decide to be evil; he believed that because he was perfect that there was no need for him to be under the law. By focusing on self instead of selflessness, he began to break the very law he had been created to protect.

- Lucifer was shown the error of his way, but was too proud to recant his message. He started a _____ of beliefs with Michael the Archangel (Jesus Christ) but was soon cast out of Heaven (**Revelation 12:7-9**). This all happened before the creation of our planet and our race.

All of Heaven Polarized

When Lucifer decided to continue in his rebellion after he knew that he was wrong, he crossed the point of no return. God did not destroy him right then and there because the angels did not yet see the difference. The debate was still on varying degrees of _____. All the angels had to make a choice; no one was able to sit on the fence. Everyone had to choose to believe God and follow His word or to believe Lucifer and follow his argument.

Heaven was polarized into two distinct groups:

VS _____

The War Comes to Earth

The Sanctuary in Heaven is a pattern for the earthly Sanctuary. In the earthly model, the covering cherubs were attached to the Mercy Seat that covered the Ten Commandments. This is the same unchanging law that was placed below the literal throne of God in the Heavenly Sanctuary only it is a _____ version that sinful man can understand and apply to their lives.

- **Deuteronomy 19:16-19** – the principle of _____ says that when two parties are in a conflict, there must be a third party to decide the case.

God chose not to destroy Lucifer because all of His creations would then only follow Him out of fear. The true nature of sin was not yet understood. All were genuinely unaware of where Lucifer’s actions and teachings would take the universe. _____ was created to sit as jury in the greatest controversy of the universe.

- **I Corinthians 6:3** – We shall one day judge _____
- **Ezekiel 28:17** – God said He would lay Lucifer before _____
- **Genesis 1:28** – God gave humanity _____ over the earth

Satan Bribes the Jury

Lucifer became Satan when he rejected God’s grace and persisted in his rebellion. He came to the perfect couple in the Garden of Eden and God allowed them to make their own freewill decision. Satan told Eve that she did not need to follow the _____ in order to be holy—the same argument he used in Heaven!

- **Isaiah 59:2** – the result of sin is _____ from God.

Genesis 3 tells the story of humanity’s fall from perfect communion with God. The presence of God surrounded Adam and Eve in robes of light, but when they sinned they felt naked and ashamed. They tried to clothe themselves with fig leaves as we often do with our good works, but this ultimately, was insufficient.

- **Romans 8:2** – Sin placed man under the law of _____
- **Romans 6:23** – The recompense for sin is _____

“The Law of Sin and Death” – Satan’s counterfeit law

Two Contrasting Laws

- God’s Government: Self-Sacrificing Love; focus on _____
- Satan’s Government: self-centered love; focus on _____

The Bible is clear that those who keep God’s _____ and uphold the original law of Heaven will be they who have right to go to Heaven. Our obedience to this law is not legalism, nor does it obtain for us salvation; obedience is simply the natural outcome of being saved and is the result, the very byproduct, of having genuine faith.

- **Romans 1:4** – the _____ of faith is the evidence of salvation.
- **Romans 16:25-26** – the mystery of salvation through Jesus Christ has been revealed to bring about the _____ of faith through Him.