

# THE TEST

Who caused all the trouble?            Why is the world in such a mess?  
Why did Christ have to die?

compiled by Rachel Cory-Kuehl, 2001  
Scripture is from New King James Version unless otherwise noted

You may believe that God is the “creative force,” or the “ultimate cause.” You may believe that “God” is the “collective consciousness” of all the souls who have ever lived. Or you may believe that God is the Divine “Father” of Jesus Christ.

It is one thing to believe in a god. It is quite another thing to believe in Yahweh - the God of the Bible. If you are searching for answers, begin with the resurrection. What is the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead? Once you have concluded that HE did indeed come back to life, you can go on to explore THE BOOK - the Bible – Tanakh (Old Testament) and First Century Writings (New Testament).

In the New Testament writings, you will find Jesus the Christ and His apostles teaching that Satan is very real. He is the enemy. And he is the reason that Yeshua Messiah (Jesus the Christ), the Son of God, had to come into the world as a human being, to live a perfect life, and to die a perfect death.

## **BEFORE THIS WORLD WAS CREATED: THERE WAS WAR IN HEAVEN**

Ezekiel 28:14-15 “You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; 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 you were created, till iniquity (evil) was found in you”

Isaiah 14:12-14 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.”

Revelation 12:7-9 “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

*Lucifer was the highest and greatest created being. He was one of the two “covering cherub” (Ezek 28:14). He rebelled against God the Father, taking one third of the angels of heaven with him (Rev. 12:4). He rebelled because he refused to submit to God’s Son. Lucifer, “the Light Bearer” became Satan, “the adversary,” (1 Pet. 5:8) “the accuser of the brethren” (Rev. 12 10).*

## **DOMINION OF EARTH - GIVEN TO MAN**

Genesis 1:26-28 “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

*“dominion” - meaning sovereignty or lordship*

Psalm 8:3-8 “When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars which You have ordained, what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit [care for] him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet . . .”

## **LUCIFER HAD LOST THE WAR IN HEAVEN. WHAT WOULD BE HIS NEXT MOVE?**

I believe that Lucifer demanded access to Adam and Eve. “If I must be banished,” He said, “then I demand that every created being be tested, and any who fail the test must also be banished.” And so the LORD allowed His enemy access to every sentient created being.

**Dominion was given to Adam on condition of perfect obedience to God the Creator.** Satan knew this. If he could cause Adam or Eve to rebel against the expressed will of God, then he could take over dominion of earth, and of mankind. God would remove His special protection, which supported their dominion. With a powerful being like Lucifer around, the humans would be defenseless.

On earth, the LORD allowed Satan to approach his newly created humans. He was not allowed to follow Adam and Eve everywhere they went. He was limited to “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” And the LORD warned Adam and Eve not to visit that tree. Satan disguised himself as a tree snake, speaking very subtle accusations against the Creator. Eve was deceived and ate of the forbidden fruit. Adam was not deceived, but he loved Eve and chose to share her fate. They disobeyed a direct command of the LORD. They had rebelled. And the rest is history.

**Satan is called:**

**“the prince of this world”** (*John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11*)

**“the ruler of the darkness of this world”** (*Ephesians 6:12*)

**“the god of this world”** (*2 Corinthians 4:4*)

**“the prince and power of the air”** (*Ephesians 2:2*)

“The humans have chosen to obey me, rather than God,” Satan said. They have chosen me as their lord.” You cannot continue to support their dominion. They have broken the covenant.

What could the Father do? If He allowed Adam to continue with dominion over all things on earth then He would appear unjust. It would seem as if He had one law for Lucifer, and another for his “favorites.” Just as soon as the Creator removed the special protection, Satan was free to follow humans and to tempt them constantly. The humans began to fight with each other. Slowly but surely the enemy stole the dominion. And so Satan became the ruler of this world. He has tormented human beings ever since. It is his way of tormenting the Father, because the Father loves us. His rulership was not complete however, for a couple of reasons.

### **SATAN’S POWER IS LIMITED**

First: Humans who break the law of God – die. Separated from God, their life does not continue indefinitely. Therefore Satan can only dominate them while they live. They do have children however, and Satan has claimed dominion over every descendant.

Second: If a human being cries out to God, praying forgiveness for his/her rebellion, God will forgive them. The Son of God and His loyal angels, will help human beings who want to return to God. Satan, of course, cries “foul” at this interference in “his” kingdom, but the Father said that Lucifer had stolen the earth through deception. Therefore Adam and Eve, and any descendant could be forgiven and restored to the Heavenly family.

### **How would the Father, recover dominion of the “lost” world, for mankind ?**

**The “first Adam” lost the dominion - because of disobedience.**

**The “last Adam” would recover the dominion - through perfect obedience.**

*Yeshua the Messiah is called the “last Adam” in 1Corinthians 15:45.*

“My Son,” the Father told Satan, “will come to earth as a human being. You may test Him in any way you wish. And if **He passes every test, then dominion of the earth dimension will be given to Him**. He will then decide which humans he will accept into His kingdom, and you Satan, will finally have no further access to any part of my creation.”

This was the Father’s plan, which began long before Adam sinned. **God knew** that Adam and Eve would sin against Him. **He knew** that the dominion would be stolen. And He beget a Son in His exact image, before anything was created.

God beget a Son, because **there would need to be two - of Him**. God the Father could not “empty Himself” of all divine power to incarnate as a human infant, and then die, while at the same time “upholding all things.” He beget a Son, “in His express image” - in His exact likeness, for this exact purpose (*Heb. 1:1-3*).

### **He really was a human being.**

Philippians 2:5-7 “In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature of God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness” (NIV).

*NOTE: “Made himself nothing” is translated as “emptied Himself” in several versions.*

Hebrews 2:16 “For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham” (KJV).

Hebrews 2:9 “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”

*NOTE: Angels cannot die physical death. They can only die the “second” type of death - spirit death. So Jesus “was made” “a little lower than the angels that He might taste death”. He became human, so that he could physically die - for us.*

Hebrews 4:15 “For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

*NOTE: The word “tempt” means “test.” When we are tempted - we are tested. Our temptations arise most often because of our physical weaknesses.*

I have heard the argument that it was not possible for Christ to sin because He was divine. I would argue that He emptied Himself of all divine power when He incarnated as a man. His human body was flesh, just as the body of Adam. Adam was made from the dust of the ground. Adam was not created with an immortal spiritual body and neither was Christ. This tells me that Adam was on probation when he was created. If he passed the test - then he would receive immortality. And just so with Christ. He incarnated into mortal human flesh. If He had sinned against His Father in any way - He would have died, and all mankind with him - forever.

### **All the power came from His Father**

Acts 2:22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—”

John 14:10 “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”

John 3:34 [Speaking of Christ] “... because the one whom God sent speaks God's words. For God does not give him the Spirit in limited degree ...” (CJB)

*NOTE: To be “one” with God, is to be filled with Him - with His Spirit - His mind - His power. This sharing of Spirit can come by degrees - from a little, to unlimited. Christ received this Spirit, without limit.*

### **He did not resurrect Himself from the grave.**

Galatians 1:1 “Paul, an apostle not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead,”

Acts 3:15 “ ... and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.” (Acts 4:10)

Acts 13:30 “But God raised Him from the dead.”

Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Ephesians 1:17-20 “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, ... according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,”

1Thessalonians 1:10 “ ... and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

[See also Romans 6:9, Romans 7:4, Colossians 2:12]

### Let's review.

*Adam and Eve were given dominion of the earth, under God.  
Satan used deception to cause them to rebel against God's expressed command.  
When they sinned, God removed His special protection of their dominion.  
Satan then began to dominate men, because he was stronger.  
He stole the dominion. He began to rule.  
God allowed Satan a limited dominion,  
but helps those humans who cry out to Him for help-asking for forgiveness.  
Satan points to our sins as a reason why we should be banished from God.*

*How was God to recover the dominion of earth - for mankind?  
**How could the Father give the dominion back to mankind - without appearing unjust?  
He needed a perfect man.***

### GOD NEEDED A PERFECT MAN

***If God could find even one perfectly loyal human being,**  
who gave no obedience or service to Satan,  
who never rebelled against the Father in the slightest degree,  
**He could take the dominion from Satan and give it to that man.***

*But “all have sinned” (Romans 3:23).  
There was no perfect human being ----- until Jesus.*

*The Father had promised that His Son would come to earth as a man, to be tested by Satan.  
The Son of God became a man - a human being - nothing more.  
He lived a life of perfect loyalty and obedience to God His father.  
He did not sin.*

***There was no sin (selfish rebellion) in Christ which Satan could point to  
as a reason why He should not be given dominion of the earth.***

## UNFAIR ADVANTAGE?

I need to explain something here about the nature of man. Ever since the sin of Adam, human beings have been born with a carnal (selfish) nature. Why? Because we are not born with the indwelling of the Spirit of God. Without that indwelling, we are selfish. We are born this way because the indwelling must be requested or chosen.

Adam had the indwelling, when he was created, but he lost that indwelling when he rebelled against His God. Because we are now under the dominion of Satan, **we must ask for the divine connection**. By the time we ASK for the connection, we already have a slew of bad habits.

The Son of God existed in Heaven with His Father before He was reborn (incarnated) with human flesh and nature. He could ask for the indwelling - before being born as a human. He is called “the second Adam,” (*1 Cor. 15:45*) because, like Adam who was indwelt from the moment of His creation (until He sinned), **Christ was indwelt from the moment of His birth**.

The divine indwelling enables a human being to resist selfish temptations. It does NOT force the choice, or make the choice for him/her. It allows a choice. Without the indwelling - sin is inevitable.

*NOTE: You can understand why “every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually,” (Gen 6:5) speaking of those who lived just before the flood of Noah. This is what wicked humanity will be like, just before Christ returns in glory.*

I know you’re thinking that this gave Christ an unfair advantage in the “test.” Satan was probably yelling, “Foul!” But **the Father gave Satan permission to test His Son in a way that no other human being will ever be called upon to endure**.

How did the Father create a fair test?

He allowed Satan to test His Son - even to the point of death.

As Jesus was being tortured - His Father LEFT HIM.

He withdrew His Spirit. He treated His Son as a condemned sinner.

He was “cut off” from God.

Do you remember what Jesus cried out, hanging on the cross, just before He died?

“Why have You forsaken me?” (*Matt 27:46, Mark 15:34*).

Jesus suffered the “wrath of God” - for us (*Romans 8:32, Isaiah 53:10*).

## THE STORY OF JOB HOLDS A CLUE

God held a council and Satan came to that meeting as the self-proclaimed ruler of earth. God pointed out that He still had a few loyal human subjects living on earth. “Have you considered My servant Job,” He said, “a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil” (*Job 1:6-8*).

“Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has and he will surely curse You to Your face!’” (*Job 1:9-11*).

We know the story. His children, his servants, his flocks, his herds – everything of value, everything Job held dear – everything was taken in a single day. The only one left was Job’s nagging wife, who told him to “curse God and die.” If Job’s wife had been anything but discouraging, the Devil would have slain her too.

You’re thinking that if Job was a “perfect and upright man” why wasn’t the dominion given to him. If you read the book carefully, you will see that Job was not really “perfect.” He had a little problem with self-righteousness. He was indeed a very good man - but he wasn’t “perfect.” He was not giving God any credit. And he accused the LORD of injustice. When He finally heard the Lord speak he “repented in dust and ashes” (*Job 42:6*).

Job did not realize that He needed a Savior. The Apostle Paul, speaking of himself, said that “concerning the law” he was “blameless.” But when he saw Christ and his eyes were opened, He saw that he had not really kept the Law at all - not in his heart (*Romans 7:14, Phil. 3 4-9*).

“All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” - including Job (*Romans 3:23*).

**“But you have not let me touch his flesh.”**

Once again the council met. “And the LORD said to Satan, ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.’”

“So Satan answered the LORD and said, ‘**Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.** But stretch out Your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!’” (*Job 2:3-5*).

“Behold, **he is in your hand, but spare his life,**” God said to Satan (*Job 2:6*).

Now, can you see the scene in Gethsemane? This time God said to Satan, “He is in your hand - period.” No limit to the torment. “Do your worst - physically, and mentally. My Son will remain loyal to me.”

**In Gethsemane, and on the cross - Christ was given into the hand of Satan. Every angel of Hell was there to torment Him. He had no protection. He was completely alone. He did this for you, and for me.**

IF THE FATHER HAD SPARED HIS SON IN ANY WAY  
- IT WOULD HAVE LEFT OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF DOUBT.

I can just hear Satan. "Well, how do we really know? How can we know that in the final darkness - feeling death about to swallow Him - that He would not have bailed? How can we know that in that last moment, He will not reject this death, opt out, rebel against the expressed will of God His Father? How can we know???"

*Death by crucifixion was the Father's will, for His Son.*

**THANK GOD WE KNOW. "HE WAS OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH."**

Philippians 2:5-11 "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation taking the form of a servant and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is LORD to the glory of God the Father."

### **SATAN'S DOMINION CHALLENGED**

We see the confrontation over and over.

Satan insinuated his dominion - Christ challenged that dominion.

Satan caused a storm (*Mark 4, Luke 8*).

Christ said "peace be still"

Satan caused disease.

Christ said "come out of Him" (*Mark 1, Mark 9, Luke 4*) - "you are made whole" (*John 5:14*) - "take up your bed" (*Matt. 9, Mark 2, John 5*).

Satan said "this is my kingdom."

Christ said, "all authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (*Matthew 28:18*).

## DOMINION GIVEN TO THE SON OF MAN

Romans 3:4 “Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar. As it is written: “That You may be justified in Your words, and may overcome when You are judged.” (Psalm 51:4)

*Notice! It is God Himself who is being judged here. (It is the Divine Son of God, the mediator, who stands as God to us. He will be judged by created beings. Amazing thought - God allows created beings to judge His Son.)*

Daniel 7:9-10 “I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days [God the Father] was seated . . . Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated and the books were opened.”

Daniel 7:13-14 “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom the one which shall not be destroyed”

Daniel 7:26-27 “But the court shall be seated and they shall take away his [Satan’s] dominion to consume and destroy it forever. Then the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.”

*The dominion is given to Christ, who will then share that dominion with His redeemed.*

*Some believe this heavenly judgment scene took place shortly after the ascension of Christ, but I do not agree. In the vision given to Daniel, the little horn (Anti-Christ) is at the height of his power, “speaking pompous words.” The “saints of the Most high” are persecuted by this evil power for three and a half years (Daniel 7:21-22) just before the court sits in heaven. These things have not yet taken place.*

Hebrews 2:8 “For in that He [God] put all in subjection under Him [Christ], He left nothing that is not put under Him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him.”

*God speaks of what will be, as if it already is.  
The betrothal is legally binding, even through the marriage has not yet taken place.*

## UNTIL THAT DAY

**Because He passed the test, Christ can now stand before the throne of God as our advocate.** He can offer our prayers to His Father as if they were His own, and Satan cannot point to any sin in Christ as a reason why the Father should not immediately grant every petition.

*When Christ says, "I want to help Rachel," the Father says, "Granted!"*

Romans 8:32 "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?"

John 5:22 "All judgment is committed to the Son."

The Father wanted to restore this earth to mankind, but He could not do so without leaving doubts about His justice which would tear apart His kingdom in heaven. So His Son became a man, and lived a life of absolute loyalty. In the process Satan was unmasked! He revealed himself as a murderer, a liar, and a thief. The Father could then give the earth into the hand of His Son. As our human brother, Christ has won the right to give us power against our enemy.

Christ has dominion - over you, and over me - if we want Him as our LORD. Very soon, the Father will "put all things under His feet" (*Psalm 8:6; I Corinthians 15:25,27*).

He was obedient unto death

- so that He could reclaim this earth and become our everlasting King.

I want a part in His everlasting kingdom.

*We pray this study will prove a blessing.  
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