

Habakkuk's Two Tables #45

PART SIX: 1989

THE RISE OF THE GREAT CONTROVERSY

“The Bible is its own expositor. Scripture is to be compared with scripture. The student should learn to view the word as a whole, and to see the relation of its parts. He should gain a knowledge of its grand central theme, of God’s original purpose for the world, of **the rise of the great controversy**, and of the work of redemption. He should understand the nature of the two principles that are contending for supremacy, and should **learn to trace their working through the records of history and prophecy, to the great consummation**. He should see how this controversy enters into every phase of human experience; how in every act of life he himself reveals the **one or the other of the two antagonistic motives**; and how, whether he will or not, he is even now deciding upon which side of the controversy he will be found.” *Education*, 191.

MICHAEL: “WHO IS LIKE GOD?”

Revelation 12:7–9

“In so deceptive a way did he [Lucifer] work that the sentiments that he inculcated could not be dealt with until they had developed in the minds of those who received them.

“The influence of mind on mind, so strong a power for good when sanctified, is equally strong for evil in the hands of those opposed to God. This power Satan used in his work of instilling evil into the minds of the angels, and he made it appear that he was seeking the good of the universe. As the anointed cherub, Lucifer had been highly exalted; he was greatly loved by the heavenly beings, and his influence over them was strong. Many of them listened to his suggestions and believed his words. ‘And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.’

“Cast out of heaven, **Satan set up his kingdom in this world**, and ever since, he has been untiringly striving to seduce human beings from their allegiance to God. He uses the same power that he used in heaven—**the influence of mind on mind**. Men become tempters of their fellow men. The strong, corrupting sentiments of Satan are cherished, and they exert a masterly, compelling power. Under the influence of these sentiments, men bind up with one another in confederacies.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 7, 973.

MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

Jude 1:5–9

“Satan exulted that he had succeeded in causing Moses to sin against God. For this transgression, **Moses came under the dominion of death**. If he had continued faithful, and his life had not been marred with that one transgression, in failing to give to God the glory of bringing water from the rock, he would have entered the Promised Land, and would have been translated to Heaven without seeing death. **Michael, or Christ**, with the angels that buried Moses, came down from Heaven, after he had remained in the grave a short time, and resurrected him, and took him to Heaven.

“As Christ and the angels approached the grave, Satan and his angels appeared at the grave, and were guarding the body of Moses, lest it should be removed. As Christ and his angels drew nigh, Satan resisted their approach, but was compelled, by the glory and power of Christ and his angels, to fall back. **Satan claimed the body of Moses**, because of his one transgression; but Christ meekly referred him to his Father, saying, ‘**The Lord rebuke thee.**’ Christ told Satan that he knew Moses had humbly repented of this one wrong, that no stain rested upon his character, and that his name in the heavenly book of records stood untarnished. Then Christ resurrected the body of Moses, which Satan had claimed.” *The Spirit of Prophecy*, volume 1, 342–343.

DANIEL’S LAST VISION

SAR: H8269—a *head* person (of any rank or class):—captain (that had rule), chief (captain), general, governor, keeper, lord, ([-task-]) master, **prince** (-ipal), ruler, steward.

Occurs 420 times in the Old Testament. It refers especially to military commanders.

And the captain [**sar**] of the Lord’s host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy. And Joshua did so. Joshua 5:15.

“[Daniel 10:12–13 quoted.] By this we see that heavenly agencies have to contend with hindrances before the purpose of God is fulfilled in its time. **The king of Persia was controlled by the highest of all evil angels.** He refused, as did Pharaoh, to obey the word of the Lord. Gabriel declared, He withstood me twenty-one days by his representations against the Jews. But **Michael** came to his help, and then he remained with the kings of Persia, holding the powers in check, giving right counsel against evil counsel. Good and evil angels are taking a part in the planning of God in His earthly kingdom. It is God’s purpose to carry forward His work in correct lines, in ways that will advance His glory. But Satan is ever trying to counterwork God’s purpose. Only by humbling themselves before God can God’s servants advance His work. Never are they to depend on their own efforts or on outward display for success.

“We have before us in the Word of God instances of heavenly agencies working on the minds of kings and rulers, while at the same time satanic agencies were also at work on their minds. No human eloquence, in strongly set forth human opinions, can change the working of satanic agencies. Satan seeks continually to block the way, so that the truth shall be bound about by human devising; and those who have light and knowledge are in the greatest danger unless they constantly consecrate themselves to God, humiliating self, and realizing the peril of the times.” *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 4, 1173.

THE SIDES OF THE NORTH

Isaiah 14:12–17; Psalm 48

“The determination of **antichrist** to carry out **the rebellion he began in heaven** will continue to work in the children of disobedience.” *Testimonies*, volume 9, 230.

“To secure worldly gains and honors, the church was led to seek the favor and support of the great men of earth; and having thus rejected Christ, she was induced to yield allegiance to **the representative of Satan—the bishop of Rome.**” *The Great Controversy*, 50.

“**Through the pope of Rome the same work has been carried on here on earth as was carried on in the courts of heaven** before the expulsion of the prince of darkness. Satan sought to correct the law of God in heaven, and to supply an amendment of his own. He exalted his own judgment above that of his Creator, and placed his will above the will of Jehovah, and in this way virtually declared God to be fallible. The pope also takes the same course and, claiming infallibility for himself, seeks to adjust the law of God to meet his own ideas, thinking himself able to correct the mistakes he thinks he sees in the statutes and commands of the Lord of heaven and earth. He virtually says to the world, I will give you better laws than those of Jehovah. What an insult is this to the God of heaven!” *Signs of the Times*, November 19, 1894.

“This compromise between paganism and Christianity resulted in the development of ‘the man of sin’ foretold in prophecy as opposing and exalting himself above God. **That gigantic system of false religion** is a masterpiece of Satan’s power—a **monument of his efforts to seat himself upon the throne to rule the earth according to his will.**” *The Great Controversy*, 50.