



# Showing Up the Enemy

# The Accusations

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- 2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.**
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- 7. God's law is arbitrary.**
- 8. God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**
- 9. God is lying about all the above.**

# Divine Response

**“How shall the universe know that Lucifer is not a safe and just leader? To their eyes he appears right. They cannot see, as God sees, beneath the outward covering. They cannot know as God knows. Then to work to unmask him and make plain to the angelic host that his judgment is not God’s judgment, that he has made a standard of his own and exposed himself to the righteous indignation of God, would create a state of things which must be avoided.”**

**— Letter 16a, 1892**

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**“God desired that a change take place, and that the work of Satan be brought out in its genuine aspect. But the exalted angel standing next to Christ was opposed to the Son of God. The underworking was so subtle that it could not be made to appear before the heavenly host as the thing that it really was.”**

**—Letter 162, 1906**

**“Satan could not be presented to the universe at once in his real character. His crooked course must be allowed to continue until he should reveal himself as an accuser, a deceiver, a liar, and a murderer.”**

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**“Satan had disguised himself in a cloak of falsehood, and for a time it was impossible to tear off the covering, so that the hideous deformity of his character could be seen. He must be left to reveal himself in his cruel, artful, wicked works.”**

**— *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 319**

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**God's purpose [is] to place things upon an eternal basis of security. Time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his government. The heavenly universe must see worked out the principles which Satan declared were superior to God's principles. God's order must be contrasted with Satan's order. The corrupting principles of Satan's rule must be revealed. The principles of righteousness expressed in God's law must be demonstrated as unchangeable, perfect, eternal.**

*— Review and Herald, September 7, 1897*

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**“No verbal description could reveal God to the world. Through a life of purity, a life of perfect trust and submission to the will of God, a life of humiliation such as even the highest seraph in heaven would have shrunk from, God himself must be revealed to humanity.”**

*— Review and Herald, June 25, 1895*

# Jesus' Mission

**“Without the correct knowledge of God, the human family would be divested of all divine strength. With false attributes kept before the mind as belonging to God, the human family would be the dupes of satanic lies and the subjects of satanic agencies, and he could practice upon their credulity with success.”**

**— Manuscript 51, 1890**

# Jesus' Mission

**Jesus came to earth “to teach men how to live a life of self-denial and self-sacrifice, and how to carry out practical religion in their daily lives.... He labored constantly for one object; all His powers were employed for the salvation of men, and every act of His life tended to that end.”**

*— Testimonies, vol. 4, 373*

# Jesus' Method

**“The great object that brought Christ to the earth was to reveal the Father.”**

*— Signs of the Times, June 27, 1895*

**“‘God is love.’ This was the great truth that Christ came to the world to reveal.... The object of Christ’s mission to the world was to reveal the Father.”**

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**“In all His ministry, all His self-denial and self-sacrifice, Christ’s object was to reveal God to the world.”**

*— Letter 58, 1906*

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**“Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to Him the praise, and giving to Him the credit, of the whole purpose of His own mission on earth—to set men right through the revelation of God....**

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# **Jesus' Method**

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**“Christ.... is the perfect representation of the Father. His life of sinlessness, lived on this earth in human nature, is a complete refutation of Satan's charge against the character of God.”**

**— Bible Training School, October 1, 1902**

# Jesus' Method

**“Had God the Father come to our world and dwelt among us, veiling His glory and humbling Himself, that humanity might look upon Him, the history that we have of the life of Christ would not have been changed in unfolding its record of His own condescending grace. In every act of Jesus, in every lesson of His instruction, we are to see and hear and recognize God. In sight, in hearing, in effect, it is the voice and movements of the Father.”**

**— Letter 83, 1895**

**“He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”**

**— John 14:9**

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**“Jesus could not express in words to the understanding of man the love of the Father; he could only say, ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’**

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**“Had Christ unmasked Judas, this would have been urged as a reason for the betrayal. And though charged with being a thief, Judas would have gained sympathy, even among the disciples. The Saviour reproached him not, and thus avoided giving him an excuse for his treachery.”**

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**“The originator of sin worked with all his deceptive powers..., and the Lord permitted this rebellion to develop before anything was done to save the angelic host from apostasy.”**

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**“How shall the universe know that Lucifer is not a safe and just leader? To their eyes he appears right.... Then to work to unmask him... would create a state of things which must be avoided.”**

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# The Pivot Point

**“Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings.... The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.**

*— Desire of Ages, 761*

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# **The Four Stage War**

- 1. 6,000 years ago—The members of the Godhead understood Satan's plans and arguments, and rejected them.**
- 2. 2,000 years ago—Angels and unfallen worlds understood Satan's plans and arguments, and rejected them.**
- 3. Near future (hopefully)—The 144,000 will understand Satan's plans and arguments, and will reject them.**
- 4. 1,000 years later—The wicked will understand Satan's plans and arguments, and will reject them.**

# Where We Are Now

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# Where We Are Now

“Every eye in the unfallen universe is bent upon those who profess to be Christ’s followers. Here, in this atom of a world, an earnest warfare is going on—a battle in which Christ, our substitute and surety, has engaged in our behalf, and conquered. **Now we, Christ’s purchased possession, must become soldiers of his cross, and conquer in our own behalf, on our own account, through the power and wisdom given us from above. The influence of the cross of Calvary is to vanquish every earthly and spiritual evil power; and we need to know the plan of the battle, that we may work in harmony with Christ.**”

— *Review and Herald*, September 29, 1891

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We ended our last meeting with this list of Satan's accusations against God and His government.

And I left you with a closing question: Suppose you were God, and Lucifer started spreading these ideas; what would you do about it?

Have you given any thought to that? At first, it may seem like there were lots of options for God to choose from. He could vaporize Lucifer, maybe. Or just change Lucifer and everyone else back to what they were in "the good old days." Seems like there should have been dozens of choices.

But Ellen White doesn't paint that picture. Strangely enough, she talks a lot about what God couldn't do!

## **Divine Response**

**“How shall the universe know that Lucifer is not a safe and just leader? To their eyes he appears right. They cannot see, as God sees, beneath the outward covering. They cannot know as God knows. Then to work to unmask him and make plain to the angelic host that his judgment is not God’s judgment, that he has made a standard of his own and exposed himself to the righteous indignation of God, would create a state of things which must be avoided.”**

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— *Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 4, 319

“Impossible” is not the word we commonly associate with things God wants to do. But notice the last sentence, and it’s use of the word “must.”

Just as “impossible” limits God’s options, so also does the requirement of things that “must” be done. For One with omnipotence, the idea that “you must do this and only this” seems like foreign territory.

But it’s not!

## Divine Response

**God's purpose [is] to place things upon an eternal basis of security. Time must be given for Satan to develop the principles which were the foundation of his government. The heavenly universe must see worked out the principles which Satan declared were superior to God's principles. God's order must be contrasted with Satan's order. The corrupting principles of Satan's rule must be revealed. The principles of righteousness expressed in God's law must be demonstrated as unchangeable, perfect, eternal.**

*— Review and Herald, September 7, 1897*

This whole idea of God being pretty much free to do whatever He wants isn't holding up well! Look at the requirements of the case here.

CLICK for highlighting:

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— *Review and Herald*, September 7, 1897

It really doesn't look like God had a lot of choices!

But look closely at the steps marked out here, the method to be used:

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Everything to be gained here is given as a matter of perception. Confusion must be eliminated; the true state of things must be seen.

Mark this point well, for the revelation of God's character is the only weapon in heaven's arsenal, the only appropriate method of response to Satan's attack. REPEAT.

And notice that—as far as Satan was concerned—the damage was to be all self-inflicted. It was his own demonstration of his “corrupting principles” that would defeat him.

But Satan's failure could only discredit himself, it couldn't remove all the doubts he had raised about God. For that to happen, God Himself had to respond, and the universe understood that.

## Divine Response

**“The unfallen worlds saw that the character of God could be vindicated only through this trial and conflict of the two forces. The attributes of God must be made to appear. Of the stability of his government there must be no question.”**

— *Youth's Instructor*, April 15, 1897

This is something we frequently see in earthly politics. So maybe you've got two politicians, and they are both saying terrible things about the other. At some point, you have to ask yourself, "What if they are both telling the truth about their opponent?"

God couldn't just let Satan discredit himself; He had to vindicate His own character; He had to show that He was, indeed, worthy of His position as ruler of the worlds He had created.

But how was He going to do that?! The simple answer is, He had to convince everyone in the universe that His government was the only government they wanted.

Notes continue on next page

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That's a pretty tall order!

And what if there were other ideas out there. You know, some countries have twenty different political parties. With gazillions of inhabitants in the universe, isn't it likely that someone, somewhere would say, "Well, Satan's plan was kind of messed up, but I still see some problems with God's ideas. Here's what I think should be done"?

The only way to get past that is to be willing to do more, to go further for the good of those gazillions of citizens than anyone else would. How do you suppose God could do that?

## Divine Response

**“No verbal description could reveal God to the world. Through a life of purity, a life of perfect trust and submission to the will of God, a life of humiliation such as even the highest seraph in heaven would have shrunk from, God himself must be revealed to humanity.”**

*— Review and Herald, June 25, 1895*

In effect, God said, “This is what I’m willing to do to help those I’ve created. Anyone else want to do more? Anyone else even willing to do this?”

Since there were no volunteers, the divine response went ahead.

But notice, again, this is a matter of “revealing,” of showing, of clarifying. It’s a matter of actually correcting our perception of God, of re-wiring our brains. The fancy new, technical name for that is neuro-plasticity, and it’s one of the hottest areas of medical research right now. As usual, though, God was way out ahead of the game in knowing what was important.

## Jesus' Mission

**“Without the correct knowledge of God, the human family would be divested of all divine strength. With false attributes kept before the mind as belonging to God, the human family would be the dupes of satanic lies and the subjects of satanic agencies, and he could practice upon their credulity with success.”**

— Manuscript 51, 1890

If incorrect knowledge can rob us of “all divine strength,” and leave us “dupes” of Satan, it seems wise to ask how critical this issue is. How *\*much\** misconception does it take to harm us? Is this a matter of just generally “getting the right idea,” or a matter of “getting every detail right”?

How important was this to Christ?

## Jesus' Mission

**Jesus came to earth “to teach men how to live a life of self-denial and self-sacrifice, and how to carry out practical religion in their daily lives.... He labored constantly for one object; all His powers were employed for the salvation of men, and every act of His life tended to that end.”**

— *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 373

This last statement is important. Notice that teaching self-denial, self-sacrifice, and practical religion are all included in the “one object” of Christ’s life—the salvation of men.

That was His goal, but how did He go about it? What was He actually doing?

## Jesus' Method

**“The great object that brought Christ to the earth was to reveal the Father.”**

— *Signs of the Times*, June 27, 1895

**“‘God is love.’ This was the great truth that Christ came to the world to reveal.... The object of Christ’s mission to the world was to reveal the Father.”**

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**“In all His ministry, all His self-denial and self-sacrifice, Christ’s object was to reveal God to the world.”**

— *Letter 58*, 1906

CLICK for two items

Aha, self-denial and self-sacrifice again—those lessons that are tied up in the salvation of men—now we see that they are also the very means Christ used to reveal the Father.

That’s important. But Ellen White makes it stronger and clearer.

## **Jesus' Method**

**“Christ exalted the character of God, attributing to Him the praise, and giving to Him the credit, of the whole purpose of His own mission on earth—to set men right through the revelation of God....”**

“The whole purpose”? What happened to saving sinners? It’s still there, of course; it’s the same as “setting men right.”

This is amazing stuff, and maybe a little strange sounding, since we seldom think of salvation in this way. But here we see that the “whole purpose of [Christ’s] mission to earth” was to “set men right,” and it was all to be accomplished by helping us see what God is like.

But the statement continues....

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— *Signs of the Times*, January 20, 1890

Again, the “object of His mission” was to reveal the character of the Father.

We usually think Jesus came just to save us! Well, He did come to save us—and more, besides—but the way to do all of that was to reveal the character of God.

And when Jesus did that, He pushed it to the limit!

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**“God... sent His Son into the world to reveal, so far as could be endured by human sight, the nature and the attributes of the invisible God.”**

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**“Christ revealed all of God that sinful human beings could bear without being destroyed.”**

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— Bible Training School, October 1, 1902

CLICK for two additional items

Notice, this is not some random project; this is a direct response to, and refutation of, Satan's accusations against God's character.

I hope you see how precise, how meticulous, how intentional this all is. There are issues driving the controversy, and I think it's time God's people figured out what He's been trying to accomplish so we can get on the same page!

So... that's what Jesus was trying to do, reveal the Father. Ellen White calls it a “perfect representation,” but how perfect is perfect?

## Jesus' Method

**"Had God the Father come to our world and dwelt among us, veiling His glory and humbling Himself, that humanity might look upon Him, the history that we have of the life of Christ would not have been changed in unfolding its record of His own condescending grace. In every act of Jesus, in every lesson of His instruction, we are to see and hear and recognize God. In sight, in hearing, in effect, it is the voice and movements of the Father."**

— Letter 83, 1895

**"He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"**

— John 14:9

18

Jesus said the same, of course. Remember His comment to Philip?

CLICK for second text:

For reasons which will show up more in future meetings, it's imperative that we understand all we can of Jesus' method, His strategy, His tactics in making this all-important revelation. Just exactly how did He do it?

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

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.

11 "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or

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There’s a problem here. Words—even Jesus’ words, even the most famous verse in the Bible—weren’t enough. Words simply could not express the love of the Father.

Not that the words were bad! They were great words, blessed words, “wonderful words of life,” whatever you want to call them. Nothing wrong with them at all. It’s just that they couldn’t do the job!

Jesus needed something more:

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**“Jesus could not express in words to the understanding of man the love of the Father; he could only say, ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’ But he did express the love of God in his actions.”**

— *Signs of the Times*, November 28, 1892

**“The Saviour of the world devoted more time and labor to healing the afflicted of their maladies than to preaching.”**

— *Testimonies*, vol. 4, 225

Actions... what a fascinating idea. That's probably why...

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What strikes me as odd here is how little we focus on these matters, and how fragmented our ideas of Christ's work have become. We emphasize the sacrifice of the cross, but too often see it as simply a payment for sin and fail to recognize its role in what Ellen White calls “the whole purpose” of Christ's mission to earth.

And when we do consider His work of revealing the Father, we seldom see it as the means, the active agent, in the salvation of sinners. And yet....

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**“Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees.”**

— *Matthew 16:6*

Just in passing, we need to notice one particular aspect of Christ's dealing with Judas. This statement comes from a time quite late in Jesus' ministry:

CLICK for text:

Now that was wise. But every course of action, even a wise one, has ramifications. And my question here is, what effect did this policy have on the other disciples? How did they regard Judas?

Remember, Jesus said quite a few things like...

CLICK for second text:

But He never said anything like that about Judas....

## **Jesus' Method**

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**—Letter 271a, 1903**

**“How shall the universe know that Lucifer is not a safe and just leader? To their eyes he appears right.... Then to work to unmask him... would create a state of things which must be avoided.”**

**—Letter 16a, 1892**

Jesus' treatment of Judas may strike us as odd, not so much because of the way it affected Judas, but because it seems like Christ missed a lot of opportunities to help His loyal disciples understand the apostasy that was going on right in their midst!

What's important here is that this circumstance helps us understand both the far distant past, and what I hope is the near future. Do you remember this statement from yesterday?

CLICK for text:

Jesus faced the same problem with Judas that He had faced with Lucifer--

CLICK for text

Notes continue on next page :

## **Jesus' Method**

**“The originator of sin worked with all his deceptive powers..., and the Lord permitted this rebellion to develop before anything was done to save the angelic host from apostasy.”**

**—Letter 271a, 1903**

**“How shall the universe know that Lucifer is not a safe and just leader? To their eyes he appears right.... Then to work to unmask him... would create a state of things which must be avoided.”**

**—Letter 16a, 1892**

It turns out that—both with Lucifer in heaven and with Judas on earth—Jesus had done all that could be done—up to that point in time—for the angelic host and the loyal disciples to “save them from apostasy.”

What had He done? He had demonstrated the love, wisdom, and power of God in their behalf. The only thing that could save either the angels or the disciples was faith in God, faith in Christ. What Lucifer lost, is the only thing that could save anyone else.

But it was all by faith. The “righteousness by faith” kind of faith. The “victory that has overcome the world” kind of faith. The “whatsoever is not of faith is sin” kind of faith.

And it was all part of the only plan that could successfully address the problem at hand...

## Jesus' Method

**[Christ's] "life of sinlessness, lived on this earth in human nature, is a complete refutation of Satan's charge against the character of God."**

— Letter 1, 1902

**"When the object of His mission was attained—the revelation of God to the world—the Son of God announced that His work was accomplished, and that the character of the Father was made manifest to men."**

— *Signs of the Times*, January 20, 1890

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That problem—the big problem, the problem that threatened not only our world but the whole universe of God's creation—was Satan's accusations against the government of heaven.

CLICK for text:

Every act of Jesus' life had been calculated to inspire His disciples' faith in Him. That was—and would continue to be—their only safety. And so He didn't say a word about Judas. Remember, words can only do so much. Instead, He did the one last thing He could do to get them—and us—to trust Him.

CLICK for text:

So now—after the crucifixion—let's look at the scorecard in the great controversy.

## **The Accusations**

- 1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.**
- 2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.**
- 3. God is selfish.**
- 4. God is unforgiving and revengeful.**
- 5. God's law is defective, and needs to be changed.**
- 6. Neither angels nor human beings can obey God's law.**
- 7. God's law is arbitrary.**
- 8. God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**
- 9. God is lying about all the above.**

Remember these? God said the only way to deal with these accusations was through the process of demonstration. OK. Fair enough. How was that working out? How did things look at the time of Christ's ascension?

Satan himself showed how false the first two claims were. As the unfallen universe followed his course of action, his lack of wisdom and the clear distinction between himself and Christ became apparent to all.

## The Accusations

1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.
2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.
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6. Neither angels nor human beings can obey God's law.
7. God's law is arbitrary.
8. God's law makes forgiveness impossible.
9. God is lying about all the above.

Numbers three and four were shown false by the self-denial and self-sacrifice of Christ in His incarnation, and most spectacularly in the ultimate sacrifice of the cross.

## The Accusations

1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.
2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.
3. God is selfish.
4. God is unforgiving and revengeful.
5. **God's law is defective, and needs to be changed.**
6. **Neither angels nor human beings can obey God's law.**
7. **God's law is arbitrary.**
8. **God's law makes forgiveness impossible.**
9. **God is lying about all the above.**

Satan's fifth and sixth claims were eliminated by the simple fact that Christ lived a life of perfect obedience in human nature.

## The Accusations

1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.
2. God was unfair when He exalted Jesus above Lucifer.
3. God is selfish.
4. God is unforgiving and revengeful.
5. God's law is defective, and needs to be changed.
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9. **God is lying about all the above.**

After the cross, Lucifer's first six accusations didn't make any sense at all. It had taken 4,000 years, but now everything had changed. Even Lucifer knew....

## The Pivot Point

**“Satan saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer. By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of the heavenly beings.... The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.**

— *Desire of Ages*, 761

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Four thousand years may seem like a long time to wait before responding to Satan’s accusation, but it was “the fullness of time,” the perfect moment, the first moment that earth and all the unfallen worlds were prepared to see and recognize the truth about Lucifer.

And notice that word “Sympathy.” Evidently, angels in heaven “sympathized” with Lucifer. Now, there are two kinds of sympathy: there’s the “Oh you poor thing!” kind, and there’s the “Well, he does have a point” kind. Which kind of sympathy is this talking about? I have no idea. But does it matter? Which is worse, to feel sorry for someone, or to think that their lies might be true?

And remember, God knew all about the angels’ sympathy—but as long as they had enough faith to obey, He knew they’d be safe.

## The Accusations

1. Angels are holy by nature and wise enough to govern themselves, so they don't need God's law.
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That's progress! True, three of Lucifer's claims remain on the table, but they will be addressed.

Unfortunately, those three items have extended the reign of sin from the time of the cross all the way down to today. Why? Because responding to those final items requires the revelation of yet another aspect of God's wisdom and love.

So why didn't Jesus take care of that when He was here?

Well, in one sense He did... but in another sense, He didn't.

## **The Four Stage War**

- 1. 6,000 years ago—The members of the Godhead understood Satan's plans and arguments, and rejected them.**
- 2. 2,000 years ago—Angels and unfallen worlds understood Satan's plans and arguments, and rejected them.**
- 3. Near future (hopefully)—The 144,000 will understand Satan's plans and arguments, and will reject them.**
- 4. 1,000 years later—The wicked will understand Satan's plans and arguments, and will reject them.**

You remember the “war in heaven” mentioned in Revelation 12? It's actually rather more prolonged than we commonly think of it. I can't take time to give you line and verse for this slide, but you can find it on page 490 of *Desire of Ages*.

CLICK for four items:

As you can see, Jesus finished Stage Two. Which means, of course, that everyone in the entire universe is waiting for Stage Three...

So, what's the hold up?

## Where We Are Now

**“Every eye in the unfallen universe is bent upon those who profess to be Christ’s followers. Here, in this atom of a world, an earnest warfare is going on—a battle in which Christ, our substitute and surety, has engaged in our behalf, and conquered.**

Read TEXT;

Now this seems kind of strange.... Jesus has fought and won a great battle, but... everyone in the universe is looking at His followers! That’s us!

Something odd here... until we read the rest of the statement.

## Where We Are Now

“Every eye in the unfallen universe is bent upon those who profess to be Christ’s followers. Here, in this atom of a world, an earnest warfare is going on—a battle in which Christ, our substitute and surety, has engaged in our behalf, and conquered. **Now we, Christ’s purchased possession, must become soldiers of his cross, and conquer in our own behalf, on our own account, through the power and wisdom given us from above. The influence of the cross of Calvary is to vanquish every earthly and spiritual evil power; and we need to know the plan of the battle, that we may work in harmony with Christ.**”

— *Review and Herald*, September 29, 1891

Read TEXT;

OK, let’s wrap up for now. The government of heaven was confronted with a daring rebellion, and charged with gross incompetence, selfishness, and dishonesty. So what was the response? When human beings fell into sin and were hopelessly lost, what was the response? What was the “whole purpose of Christ’s mission on earth”?