

REVELATION TO EVERY NATION

Our Three Greatest Friends



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All scriptures quotations are taken from the Authorized King James Version.

LESSON TWO

THE ORIGIN OF THE CONTROVERSY

Last lesson, we learned that the book of Revelation goes back into the past, to show us the future (Rev 1:19; 13:8). This lesson, we will look at our three most wonderful friends (Rev 1:4-6). They were attacked by the greatest of all enemies, Lucifer (Satan's name before he sinned – Isa 14:12-14).

Jesus who calls us His friends, if we do what He commands us (John 15:14), was the one member of the Godhead family, among our three great heavenly friends, most severely attacked by Satan. This was clearly demonstrated on the cross, when the Devil who was a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44), inspired men to kill Christ as prophesied in Genesis 3:15. But, Christ conquered death and hell (Rev 1:18), and will cast the devil into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10). This great controversy that began in heaven (Rev 12:7-9), continued on earth when that old serpent called the Devil and Satan, tempted Eve after being thrown out of his heavenly home. The only hope for overcoming this great enemy Satan, is by asking for help from these three great friends (Mat 7:7, 8; Luke 11:13).

THE THREE GROUPS OF PEOPLE TO WHOM REVELATION WAS WRITTEN

1. Who did John write the message of Revelation to? Rev 1:4 first part.

Ans: John to the seven _____ which are in Asia.

The book of Revelation was written for the members of the Seven Churches mentioned in Revelation 1:11.

2. Who else were included in receiving the message of Revelation? Rev 1:1; Rev 22:18 first part; Rev 14:6 last part.

Ans: a. To shew unto his _____ things which must _____ come to pass. Rev 1:1.

Ans: b. For I testify unto _____ that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. Rev 22:18.

Ans: c. Having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every _____, and _____, and _____, and _____. Rev 14:6.

The message of Revelation and the Seven Churches, is not only for the members of those churches mentioned, but also to seven periods of history, that the Seven Churches signify (we will study this in more detail in later lessons). This message is also for every person in every nation. All the Bible, even the Old Testament, was written in this way, applying not only to the people at the time written, but also to those coming after (1 Cor 10:11; Rom 15:4). In fact, even the prophets who wrote the books, did not always understand what they were writing about (Dan 12:8; 1 Pet 1:10-12). Therefore, the message to the Seven Churches is for:

- 1) The members of those Seven Churches.
- 2) The church members down through history that these Seven Churches signified.
- 3) To every person that is alive today in every nation of the world.

THE WONDERFUL GIFT OF GRACE

3. What two things, do our three great friends offer to every person? Rev 1:4.

Ans: John to the Seven Churches which are in Asia: _____ be unto you, and _____.

4. Which of our three friends does grace come to us by? John 1:17.

Ans: For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by _____ Christ.

5. How are we saved? Is there some great work that I have to do to be worthy of grace? Eph 2:8-10.

Ans: For by _____ are ye _____ through _____; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the _____ of God: _____, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them?



The wonderful news of Revelation from our three great friends is: *that salvation is by grace, not by our own works.* Not only that, *it is a completely free gift.* We cannot work hard for grace, or earn it; all we have to do is accept it from Jesus, by asking Him through prayer (1 John 5:14; 1 Tim 2:3, 4).

OUR THREE GREAT FRIENDS

1 – THE FATHER

6. How is the first member of the heavenly trio described, who gives us this wonderful grace and peace? Rev 1:4.



God the Father sitting on the throne.

Ans: From him which _____, and which _____, and which is _____.

7. In Revelation 4 and 5 this same person is sitting on something. What is it? Rev 4:8, 9.

Ans: Saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the _____, who liveth for ever and ever.

8. Who took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat on the throne? Rev 5:6, 7.

Ans: And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a _____ as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And _____ of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

Jesus the Lamb (John 1:29) came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat on the throne.

9. Who is He that sits on the throne? Who is the first person of our three great friends? Rev 3:21; 7:10.

Ans: a. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my _____ in his throne? Rev 3:21.

Ans: b. And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our _____ which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. Rev 7:10.

God the Father is the first member of the heavenly trio mentioned, who brings grace and peace to us (Rev 1:4). He was called the friend of Abraham (Isa 41:8; James 2:23). God the Father is referred to as: *Him which is, and which was, and which is to come* or the equivalent meaning three times in Revelation (Rev 1:4; 4:8; 11:17), and Jesus is also mentioned twice, with this description or its equivalent (Rev 1:8; Rev 16:5).

10. What does the term “which is, and which was, and which is to come” tell us about God the Father? Ps 2:7.

Ans: I will declare the decree: the _____ (Jehovih a variation of Jehovah in the original Hebrew) hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

The name **YHWH** (yeh-ho-vaw') or **Jehovah** in the English is found 4 times (Ex 6:3; Ps 83:18; Isa 12:2; Isa 26:4) as Jehovah, and about 6519 times as **LORD**. It is the name used exclusively for God the Father, or Jesus, or the Holy Spirit and never any other false god or person.

The original Hebrew meaning for this word is: **Self-Existent or Eternal:**

- 1) Which is; present participle, **Which always is.**
- 2) Which was; imperfect tense, **Which ever was.**
- 3) Which is to come; participle, **Which always is the coming one.**

Therefore, the term used for God the Father in Revelation 1:4: “which is, and which was, and which is to come” is the same meaning as the word Jehovah.

11. What does the term “which is, and which was, and which is to come” mean?

Ans: Self-Existent or Eternal, Which _____ is, Which _____ was, and Which _____ is the coming one.

2 – THE HOLY SPIRIT

12. How is the next member of the heavenly trio portrayed? Rev 1:4.

Ans: And from the seven _____ which are before his throne.

13. What other symbols in Revelation signify this person? Rev 4:5; Rev 5:6.

Ans: a. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven _____ of _____ burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Rev 4:5.

Ans: b. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven _____ and seven _____, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. Rev 5:6.



The number seven is a symbol of completeness, [i.e. Creation was completed in seven days (Gen 2:2, 3); Naaman was completely healed from leprosy after dipping seven times in the river Jordan (2 Ki 5:9, 10); and the complete wrath of God is filled up in the seven last plagues (Rev 15:1)]. This will be one of the exciting discoveries of some of the later lessons, as we study the number seven in more detail.

14. Whose work do the seven Spirits, the seven horns and the seven eyes signify? Rev 2:7 first part; 2:11 first part; 2:17 first part; 2:29; 3:6, 13, 22.

Ans: He that hath an ear, let him hear what the _____ saith unto the churches.

The Spirit is mentioned seven times in the message to the Seven Churches, once in each period. The Holy Spirit works through the entire period of the Seven Churches. Therefore, **the seven Spirits is a symbol of the complete work**

of the Holy Spirit, through the history of the Seven Churches, from the time of John until the Second Coming of Christ. The Holy Spirit is to be there always, through each period, to help all in their infirmities (weaknesses) and prayers (Rom 8:26).

15. What did Jesus call the Spirit? Luke 11:13. What other name was He called by? Acts 2:4.

Ans: a. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the _____ to them that ask him? Luke 11:13.

Ans: b. And they were all filled with the _____, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4.

The Spirit is sometimes called the Holy Spirit (three times in the Old Testament and four times in the New Testament). The most common term, however, for our other friend among the heavenly trio, is the Holy Ghost (183 times in the New Testament).

16. What are the seven aspects of the work of the Holy Spirit? Isa 11:2.

Ans: And the spirit of the _____ shall rest upon him, the spirit of _____ and _____, the spirit of _____ and _____, the spirit of _____ and of the _____ of the LORD.

See Appendix 2A to see how the Holy Spirit speaking seven times to the Seven Churches.

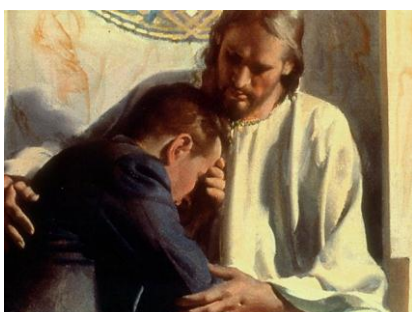
17. Is the Holy Spirit also a person “who was and is and is to come”? Heb 9:14.

Ans: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the _____ Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The word *eternal* used in this verse has the meaning: *without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be, that which is never to cease, or everlasting*, which has the same meaning as the word Jehovah. This is a wonderful encouragement to us, realizing that the Holy Spirit is always there to comfort and guide us (John 14:16, 17; 16:13). In Hebrews 9:14, it can be seen that the three greatest of all friends, Christ, the eternal Spirit and God (the Father), are working together for our salvation.

18. What does the word “eternal” mean in Hebrews 9:14?

Ans: b. The word eternal used in this verse has the meaning: *without beginning and _____, that which always has been and always will be, that which is never to cease, or everlasting* which has the same meaning as the word Jehovah.



3 – JESUS CHRIST

19. Who is the third person mentioned in Revelation as being one of the three, from which grace and peace come from? Rev 1:5

Ans: And from _____ Christ, *who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.*

Jesus called His disciples friends (Luke 12:4). Christ was called the friend of publicans and sinners (Mat 11:19). Jesus loved us so much that He laid down His life for us who are sinners (John 15:13; Rom 5:8).

20. Who is the adversary or enemy of our three greatest friends, God the Father, the Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Isa 14:12-14; Rev 12:7-9.

Ans: a. How art thou fallen from heaven, O _____, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will _____ my throne _____ the stars of _____: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Isa 14:12-14.

Ans: b. 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. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and _____, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Rev 12:7-9.

One of the names given to the Devil is Satan (Rev 20:2). Satan could be translated adversary (1 Pet 5:8) which is the Greek word αντιδικος (antidikos) meaning: adversary, one who opposes another in purpose or act. An adversary is one that contends with, opposes or resists an enemy. Satan is the enemy of God. The Devil wanted to exalt his throne above the stars that are the angels (Isa 14:12-14; Rev 1:20). Satan decided he wanted to be like God. Finally Satan was thrown out onto the earth (Rev 12:9).

THE THREE ACCUSATIONS OF SATAN AGAINST GOD

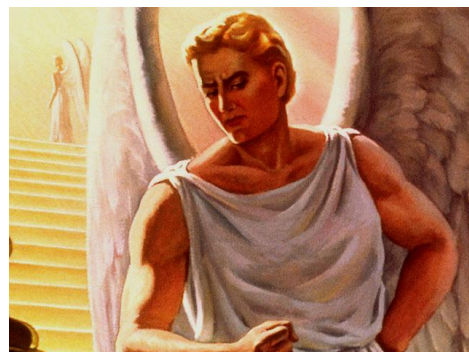
21. What was the first accusation that Satan brought against Jesus the Son of God? Luke 4:3; John 5:18; Phi 2:5, 6; John 5:23; 1 John 2:21-23.

Ans: a. And the devil said unto him, _____ thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. Luke 4:3.

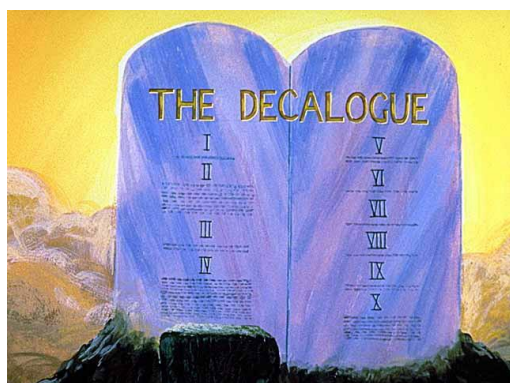
Ans: b. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his _____, making himself _____ with God. John 5:18.

Ans: c. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be _____ with God. Phi 2:5, 6.

Ans: d. That all *men* should honour the _____, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth _____ the Son honoureth _____ the Father which hath sent him. John 5:23.



Ans: e. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. Who is a liar but he that _____ that Jesus is the Christ? He is _____ that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the _____, the same hath not the Father: (*but*) *he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.* 1 John 2:21-23.



Lucifer was particularly envious of Jesus the Son of God, and disputed His authority. By trying to cast doubt into Christ's mind, that He was really the Son of God when on earth, Satan reflected his rebellious spirit against Christ, from the time of his fall in heaven.

22. What was Satan's second accusation? John 8:44; Rom 8:7.

Ans: a. Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a _____ from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar and the father of it. John 8:44.

Ans: b. Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the _____ of God, neither indeed can be. Rom 8:7.

When Lucifer sinned (Eze 28:14-16), breaking God's law as a murderer and liar (John 8:44), he was declaring by his actions, that God's law was not just or needed. Satan's mind was now carnal and at war with God and His law. Satan would now need a Saviour and God's Holy Spirit, to be able to keep the law.

In fact, that is the only way anyone can keep the law of God (Rom 8:1-6). But Satan rebelled and refused to seek reconciliation with God. This was really an attack on God's character of which the law is a transcript. **See Appendix 2B.**

23. What was Satan's third accusation? Heb 8:12; Rom 3:25, 26; Zec 3:1-4; Rev 12:10.

Ans: a. For I will be _____ to their unrighteousness, and their _____ and their iniquities will I remember _____ more. Heb 8:12.

Ans: b. Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the _____ of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be _____, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Rom 3:25, 26.

Ans: c. And he shewed me Joshua the high _____ standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to _____ him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine _____ to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. Zec 3:1-4.

Ans: d. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which _____ them before our God day and night. Rev 12:10.

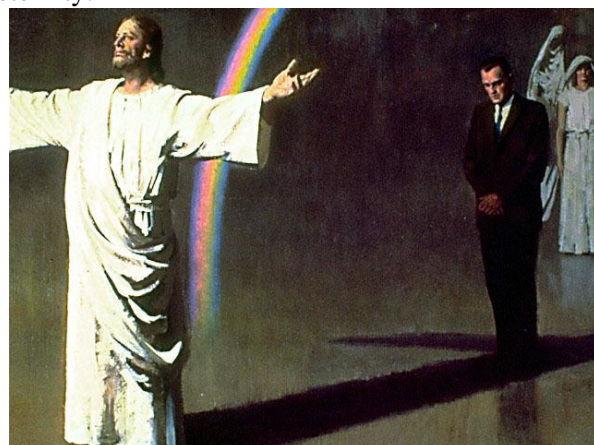
Satan is accusing God day and night (Rev 12:10; Mat 25:40, 45), that He cannot be just and merciful at the same time, if Jesus forgives our sins and takes us to heaven to live forever (Zec 3:1-5). Therefore the three accusations of Satan are:

- 1) That Jesus is not equally God with the Father.
- 2) That God's law is not just or needed.
- 3) That God cannot be just and merciful in saving a sinner for eternity.

24. Do we need to worry about such a terrible enemy that Satan is, if we are troubled, or afraid? John 14:27.

Ans: Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be _____, neither let it be _____.

25. Would you like to accept the grace and peace that our three great friends offer us in protection against Satan and sin? _____.



Appendix 2A

Seven Spirits = the Seven attributes of the Holy Spirit working in Christ during the seven periods of the Seven Churches

- Revelation 1:4** John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from **the seven Spirits** which are before his throne.
- Revelation 3:1** And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath **the seven Spirits of God**, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.
- Revelation 4:5** And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are **the seven Spirits of God**.
- Revelation 5:6** And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having **seven horns** and **seven eyes**, which are the **seven Spirits** of God sent forth into all the earth.

Seven times Christ speaks to the Seven Churches through the Holy Spirit



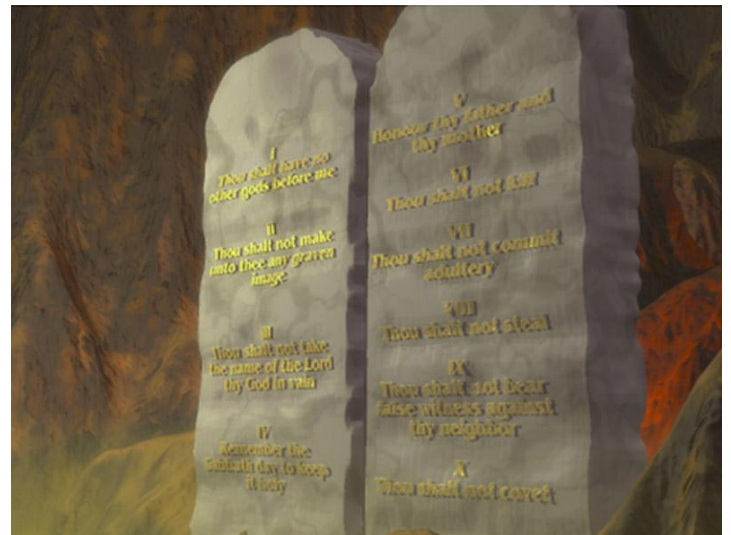
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches	He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches
Ephesus	Smyrna	Pergamos	Thyatira	Sardis	Philadelphia	Laodicea
Revelation 2:7	Revelation 2:11	Revelation 2:17	Revelation 2:29	Revelation 3:6	Revelation 3:13	Revelation 3:22



Appendix 2B

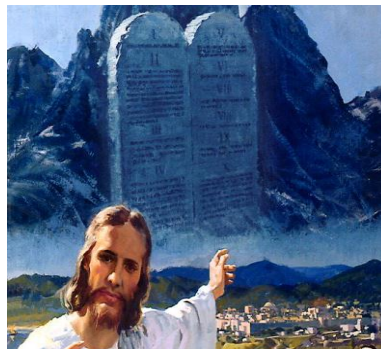
God's law = His character

God's Character attribute		God's law attribute	
Spiritual	John 4:24	Spiritual	Romans 7:14
Love	1 John 4:8	Love	Matthew 22:37-40
Truth	John 14:6	Truth	Psalms 119:142
Righteous	1 Corinthians 1:30	Righteous	Psalms 119:144, 172
Holy	Isaiah 6:3	Holy	Romans 7:12
Perfect	Matthew 5:48	Perfect	Psalms 19:7
Good	Luke 18:19	Good	Romans 7:12
Just	Deuteronomy 32:4	Just	Romans 7:12
Pure	I John 3:3	Pure	Psalms 19:8
Unchanging	James 1:17	Unchanging	Matthew 5:18
Stands forever	Palms 90:2	Stands forever	Palms 111:7, 8
The way	John 14:6	The way	Malachi 2:7-9
Great	Palms 48:1	Great	Hosea 8:12
Teaches	Palms 94:12	Teaches	John 14:26
Light	Palms 27:1	Light	Proverbs 6:23



The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make *it* honourable. **Isaiah 42:21.**

The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple. **Psalm 19:7.**



And I know that his commandment is life everlasting. **John 12:50.**

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. **John 15:10.**