

The History of Redemption Series Study Chart

GUIDE BOOK

THE GREAT PANORAMA



Tell The World.

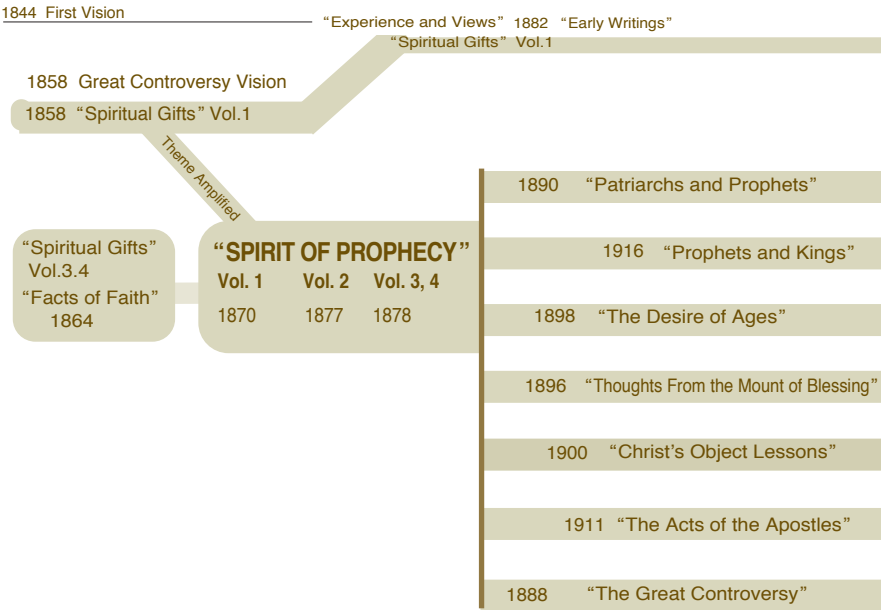
TELL THEM NOW!

Development of

The History of Redemption Series

“Ever since the first promise of redemption was spoken in Eden, the life, the character, and the mediatorial work of Christ have been the study of human minds. Yet every mind through whom the Holy Spirit has worked has presented these themes in a light that is fresh and new. The truths of redemption are capable of constant development and expansion. Though old, they are ever new, constantly revealing to the seeker for truth a greater glory and a mightier power.

In every age there is a new development of truth, a message of God to the people of that generation.” *COL 127*



1844–1915

I. The Purpose and Reason to Study The Great Controversy Series



1. To intensify and increase the meaning of the plan of salvation

“This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent”(Jn 17:3).

The knowledge of salvation is as broad and meaningful as the universe. It is our most precious privilege to understand God’s plan of salvation. As we desire to study and understand, the light will dawn on us and increase to the utmost brightness. The secret glory revealed to mankind through the past 6,000 years has been being magnified in all its height, width and depth. Every interpretation of the Bible that was obscure has become plain, for the book of Daniel which was once closed has been opened. Thus, the meaning of Revelation has become clearer, and God has bestowed upon Sister Ellen G. White the gift of prophecy in 1844, and revealed to her the past, present and future of the great controversy between Christ and Satan.

The writings of E. G. White have contributed to and enriched the knowledge of salvation, which have given the remnant’s religious experience a firm foundation. Therefore, through this increase of knowledge heaven has been able to cooperate more extensively in the development of character of believers.

The Spirit of Prophecy says on this knowledge as follows:

“Having received the faith of the gospel, the next work of the believer is to add to his character virtue, and thus cleanse the heart and prepare the mind for the reception of the knowledge of God. This knowledge is the foundation of all true education and of all true service. It is the only real safeguard against temptation; and it is this alone that can make one like God in character. Through the knowledge of God and of His

Son Jesus Christ, are given to the believer things that pertain unto life and godliness. No good gift is withheld from him who sincerely desires to obtain the righteousness of God”(AA 530).

“This is life eternal, Christ said, “That they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent”(Jn 17:3). And the prophet Jeremiah declared: ‘Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercise loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the Lord’(Jer 9:23, 24). Scarcely can the human mind comprehend the breadth and depth and height of the spiritual attainments of him who gains this knowledge”(AA 531).

It is not an exaggeration to say that most of Sister Ellen G. White’s writings are focused on the history of the great controversy. The revelation that Sister White received was so broad that through the years she had to write many books to cover this topic.

The revelation of the great controversy was written early in her writing career and was published under the title “Spiritual Gifts” The second book was published as a supplement to “Spiritual Gifts” and was titled, “The Spirit of Prophecy vol. 1-4” and the “Sketches From the life of Paul” More books followed, and those that were completed in her later years were Patriarchs and Prophets, Prophets and Kings, The Desire of Ages, and The Great Controversy. These writings, known as the Conflict of Ages series, became precious sources of the knowledge of salvation for the remnant today.

It is very important to possess the knowledge of the great controversy.

“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" (Ed 190).

As we frequently peruse the Conflict of Ages Series, we can observe the wide panorama of the history of God's love. It is not so easy to understand the chronological order, historical events, and the fields of conflict between Christ and Satan in a broad revelation thoroughly at once.

Therefore many brethren have drawn charts to understand and study history more effectively. Through a study of these charts they have helped us to understand the plan of God's salvation. These charts are also the fruition of much diligent study of the Conflict of Ages Series, and also a study of other books and charts. We can gain help and insight by referring to these charts. When we appeal through such aids, learning is much easier.

"God himself employed pictures and symbols to represent to His prophets lessons which He would have them give to the people, and which could thus be better understood than if given in any other way. He appealed to the understanding through the sense of sight. Prophetic history was presented to Daniel and John in symbols, and these were to be represented plainly upon tables, that he who read might understand"(1BC 1106 - E. G. WHITE).

2. To enhance the development of character through the knowledge of salvation

Now, some may question why we must acquire such seemingly broad and complicated knowledge when dealing with salvation. The Spirit of Prophecy answers us in two ways as follows:

"Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour's mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God. The precious hours, instead of being given to pleasure, to display, or to gain seeking, should be devoted to an earnest, prayerful study of the word of truth. The subject of the sanctuary and the

investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God. All need a knowledge for themselves of the position and work of their great High Priest. Otherwise it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose. Each has a case pending at the bar of God. Each must meet the great Judge face to face. How important, then, that every mind contemplate often the solemn scene when the judgment shall sit and the books shall be opened, when, with Daniel, every individual must stand in his lot, at the end of the days.

All who have received the light upon these subjects are to bear testimony of the great truths which God has committed to them. The sanctuary in heaven is the very center of Christ's work in behalf of men. It concerns every soul living upon the earth. It opens to view the plan of redemption, bringing us down to the very close of time and revealing the triumphant issue of the contest between righteousness and sin. It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them"(GC 488).

We should not neglect our duty to reach a pure, solid understanding and knowledge of the sanctuary and investigative judgment. Concerning all who are ignorant of these, "it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose"(GC 488).

Why is understanding such knowledge so important, and does our salvation depend upon this matter?

To answer this we ought to discuss the privilege and duty of the remnant. Firstly, salvation can be divided into three categories: essential, experiential, utmost. The final salvation of the 144,000 must have these three kinds of salvation in their own experience. They are called "the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb."

God has granted His revelation to the remnant through the Spirit of Prophecy for the sake of the perfect and highest development of character. So we have become the people entrusted with a rich amount

of knowledge to grasp more fully the infinite breadth, length, depth and height of God's love.

We should be more eager today in studying the prophecies which were given to us, and should be taught to understand clearly the harmony between the standard that the law requires in heaven's most holy place, the investigative judgment, and the present truth about Christ as our righteousness. Therefore, the clear understanding about the meanings of salvation "from their sins"(Ma 1:21) and sins being "blotted out"(Ac 3:19) is needed. In other words faith must be worked until the power of the cross as symbolized by the altar reaches the investigative judgment and perfection in the most holy place. We should manifest accordingly the beautiful harmony of the law and gospel in our lives.

We must be drawn to consciously search ourselves and experience deep repentance in this great Day of Atonement as ones who stand before the solemn bar of judgment. In our daily sanctified character we must show the saving power of the law. We repeat, concerning all who lack such knowledge "it will be impossible for them to exercise the faith which is essential at this time or to occupy the position which God designs them to fill. Every individual has a soul to save or to lose." How important and appropriate the word of warning that "Those who would share the benefits of the Saviour's mediation should permit nothing to interfere with their duty to perfect holiness in the fear of God. ... The subject of the sanctuary and the investigative judgment should be clearly understood by the people of God"(GC 488).

Dear brethren, are we not neglecting the study of the word of God, being set up by the heavy whirlwind of competition of birthright? While we sleep, Satan studies and works without slumber, and unless we are sober he will insert heresies that are difficult to discern. These wild winds of doctrine will blow ever more strongly.

"Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive"(GC 625).

Let us be on guard against the heresy of new theology. We should

especially beware of charismatic theology and preaching that appeals to feeling, placing merit on faith in great emphasis. Faith is a means, not an end in itself.

We should not accept any teaching that denies the heavenly sanctuary and investigative judgment. We should refrain from hearing the words that destroy the confidence in and inspiration of the Spirit of Prophecy, and if the teaching of the Spirit of Prophecy isn't discussed or voiced more strongly in the church, it will deteriorate. The sentinels of the church must keep the door more firmly shut against worldly customs flowing into the church.

Satan is standing on the seashore to fight against those who have the Spirit of Prophecy. We must undertake this spiritual battle with full assurance of faith and if we love the Spirit of Prophecy and obey the principles of the word of God, the Lord will be our shield in this war. But to those who make little of the Spirit of Prophecy and neglect to obey and regard it as important, Satan will not prevent them from backsliding. Finally they will desert the war and lose the heavenly bounty.

We should develop firm confidence in God as the rock of our salvation. By accumulating a knowledge of salvation through daily reading and studying **the Conflict of Ages Series** daily more deeply, we may work unceasingly as God's coworkers in the history of salvation. The more we have in experiential knowledge, the more we will have faith in salvation and the greater our desire in ministry.

"In all ages, through the medium of communion with heaven, God has worked out His purpose for His children, by unfolding gradually to their minds the doctrines of grace. His manner of imparting truth is illustrated in the words, 'is going forth is prepared as the morning' (Hos 6:3). He who places himself where God can enlighten him, advances, as it were, from the partial obscurity of dawn to the full radiance of noonday"(AA 564).

When we crave for the light and ask for it, the knowledge of salvation increases; "the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth the more and more unto the perfect day"(Pr 4:8) and "teach a just man, and he will increase in learning"(Pr 9:9).

3. To encourage mission-driven evangelism of the present truth

“It is of the utmost importance that all should thoroughly investigate these subjects and be able to give an answer to everyone that asketh them a reason of the hope that is in them”(GC 488).

The statement that “Each has a case pending at the bar of God” is referring to everyone who is registered in the Lamb’s book of life. Currently, a lot of Protestant church members who have been called in the name of Christ are not aware of this fact, and are being deceived by the theology of the Immortality of the Soul and the doctrine of the false Sabbath. While we are neglecting our duty Satan has confounded the truth of salvation by other theories and theological logic. People’s souls are starving for the lack of present truth. Because we have known and understood this truth, the duty and responsibility to witness and to give an account rests upon us.

Certainly we will be required to answer for the amount of light and time given to us. How many hours are we devoting to the winning of souls? Have we neglected to invest our time in truly gaining a knowledge of salvation by instead laying the responsibility of soul-winning purely on ministers as if this work would be only for them? If our mind is absorbed in this world, it is a result of not knowing God, and if we readily forget that which we have learned, it is because we haven’t shared it with others.

After Jesus was resurrected, He walked with some of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. He taught them by beginning with the writings of Moses. When Stephen was witnessing before the priests he also began from “our father Abraham.” Because of their lack of present faith, they had forgotten the past. Today, if we desire deliverance from the condition of Laodicea and have an earnest desire for repentance and the grace of purity, we should begin to study the writings of Moses and the prophecies of the past and future.

The proclamation of the first angel's message should be echoed all over the earth. With the clear voice of Elijah which says “fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come”, we should

invite people to take a stand for God as Elijah did on mount Carmel.

“We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history”(LS 196).

This chart is not sufficient to make us understand every part of God's plan of salvation and the real position of the law. Nevertheless, if it will help us realize the need to study the Bible and the Conflict of Ages series, and if one's mind is made up to share it with the multitudes, how fortunate would we be in using it in our studies?

By studying this chart I hope that we will be filled with a sense of responsibility to know and share the third angel's message and to gain a clearer understanding of prophecy and history. In the last days, when the Sunday law is beginning to be enforced, the Conflict of Ages Series will have been around for a long time. It is true that it is hard to find sincere people. But such reasons do not lessen our duty. Whatever their reaction may be, we should continually work to spread this series and finish the work of warning which we have been commanded to follow. Let us do our part while probationary time lingers.

I pray that when the readers study this chart, the Spirit of God's revelation will be with them.

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God”(Eph. 3:17-19).



II. Summary and Composition of the Chart



To help in understanding this chart, I have summarized the basic matter of the controversy between Christ and Satan and when possible will provide explanations by citing statements from the Conflict of Ages series.

A. The basis of the controversy begun from heaven

1. The nature of God's law



The nature of God's law contains both mercy and justice, and these have a relationship as follows:

“God's love has been expressed in His justice no less than in His mercy. Justice is the foundation of His throne, and the fruit of His love. Christ shows that in God's plan they are indissolubly joined together; the one cannot exist without the other. 'Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other'(Ps. 85:10)”(DA 762).

God's law is a copy of His character, and His law is a law of love.

“ ‘God is love’ (1 Jn 4:16). His nature, His law, is love. It ever has been; it ever will be. The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose ways are everlasting, changeth not. With Him ‘is no variableness, neither shadow of turning’ (Isa 57:15; Hab 3:6; Jas 1:17)”(PP 33).

2. The creature and the law of God

The happiness of the creature is gained through keeping the law of love.

“Every manifestation of creative power is an expression of infinite love. ... The law of love being the foundation of the government of God, the happiness of all intelligent beings depends upon their perfect accord with its great principles of righteousness”(PP 33, 34).

3. Free moral beings

God created His creatures with free will to choose whether or not to serve Him.

“God desires from all His creatures the service of love service that springs from an appreciation of His character. He takes no pleasure in a forced obedience; and to all He grants freedom of will, that they may render Him voluntary service”(PP 34).

“Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. God made them free moral agents, capable of appreciating the wisdom and benevolence of His character and the justice of His requirements, and with full liberty to yield or to withhold obedience”(PP 48).

4. When the creature sincerely accepts the law, the universe is guaranteed to be in perfect harmony

“So long as all created beings acknowledged the allegiance of love, there was perfect harmony throughout the universe of God. It was the

joy of the heavenly host to fulfill the purpose of their Creator. They delighted in reflecting His glory and showing forth His praise. And while love to God was supreme, love for one another was confiding and unselfish” (PP 35).

5. The abuser of freedom appeared

“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, 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 exalt my throne above the stars of God 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).

“Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee”(Eze. 28:17).

“There was no note of discord to mar the celestial harmonies. But a change came over this happy state. There was one who perverted the freedom that God had granted to His creatures. Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and was highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven”(PP 35).

“Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation. The Scripture says, “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness”(Eze 28:17). “Thou hast said in thine heart, ... I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. ... I will be like the Most High”(Isa 14:13, 14). Though all his glory was from God, this mighty angel came to regard it as pertaining to himself. Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator”(PP 35).

6. Lucifer’s defiance against the law

“Sin is the outworking of a principle at war with the great law of love which is the foundation of the divine government”(GC 493).

- **Demanding an improvement upon Jehovah's law**

“The discord which his own course had caused in heaven, Satan charged upon the government of God. All evil he declared to be the result of the divine administration. He claimed that it was his own object to improve upon the statutes of Jehovah”(PP 42).

- **Abusing the Lord's goodness.**

“God could employ only such means as were consistent with truth and righteousness. Satan could use what God could not—flattery and deceit. He had sought to falsify the word of God and had misrepresented His plan of government, claiming that God was not just in imposing laws upon the angels; that in requiring submission and obedience from His creatures, He was seeking merely the exaltation of Himself”(PP 42).

- **Became God's enemy**

“Lucifer persistently defended his own course, and fully committed himself to the great controversy against his Maker. Thus it was that Lucifer, ‘the light bearer,’ the sharer of God's glory, the attendant of His throne, by transgression became Satan, “the adversary” of God and holy beings and the destroyer of those whom Heaven had committed to his guidance and guardianship”(PP 40).

7. War occurred in heaven

Satan was driven away from heaven and was defeated in his war against Christ.

“And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” “And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth”(Rev. 13:7-9; 12:4).

8. The reason God reserved Lucifer's penalty

Although Satan was driven away from heaven, the Infinite Wise One did not destroy him.

“Since only the service of love can be acceptable to God, the allegiance of His creatures must rest upon a conviction of His justice and benevolence. The inhabitants of heaven and of the worlds, being unprepared to comprehend the nature or consequences of sin, could not then have seen the justice of God in the destruction of Satan. Had he been immediately blotted out of existence, some would have served God from fear rather than from love. The influence of the deceiver would not have been fully destroyed, nor would be the spirit of rebellion have been utterly eradicated. For the good of the entire universe through ceaseless ages, he must more fully developed his principles, that his charges against the divine government might be seen in their true light by all created beings, and that the justice and mercy of God and the immutability of His law might be forever placed beyond all question”(PP 42).

“Therefore God permitted him to demonstrate the nature of his claims, to show the working out of his proposed changes in the divine law. His own work must condemn him. … The whole universe must see deceiver unmasked”(PP 42).

“Satan's rebellion was to be a lesson to the universe through all coming ages—a perpetual testimony to the nature of sin and its terrible results. The working out of Satan's rule, its effects upon both men and angels, would show what must be the fruit of setting aside the divine authority. … Thus the history of this terrible experiment of rebellion was to be a perpetual safeguard to all holy beings, to prevent them from being deceived as to the nature of transgression, to save them from committing sin, and suffering its penalty”(PP 42, 43).

9. The work of creation

Soon after God exiled Satan, the creation of earth was accomplished.

- **Everlasting life is promised on the condition of obedience**

“Immortality was promised them on condition of obedience; by transgression they would forfeit eternal life. ... In order to possess an endless existence, man must continue to partake of the tree of life”(PP 60).

- **To re-populate Heaven After the test**

“God created man for His own glory, that after test and trial the human family might become one with the heavenly family. It was God’s purpose to re-populate heaven with the human family, if they would show themselves obedient to His every word. Adam was to be tested, to see whether he would be obedient, as the loyal angels, or disobedient. If he stood the test, his instruction to his children would have been only of loyalty. His mind and thoughts would have been as the mind and thoughts of God. He would have been taught by God as His husbandry and building. His character would have been moulded in accordance with the character of God”(Letter 91, 1900).

- **Testing faithfulness**

“Our first parents, though created innocent and holy, were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing. God made them free moral agents, capable of appreciating the wisdom and benevolence of His character and the justice of His requirements, and with full liberty to yield or to withhold obedience. They were to enjoy communion with God and with holy angels; but before they could be rendered eternally secure, their loyalty must be tested. At the very beginning of man’s existence a check was placed upon the desire for self-indulgence, the fatal passion that lay at the foundation of Satan’s fall. The tree of knowledge, which stood near the tree of life in the midst of the garden, was to be a test of the obedience, faith, and love of our parents. While permitted to eat freely of every other tree, they were forbidden to taste of this, on pain of death. They were also to be exposed to the temptations of Satan; but if they endured the trial, they would finally be placed beyond his power, to enjoy perpetual favor with God”(PP 48).

10. Adam's transgression and fall

- **Adam's failure**

"God made upright; He gave him noble traits of character, with no bias toward evil. He endowed him with high intellectual powers, and presented before him the strongest possible inducements to be true to his allegiance. Obedience, perfect and perpetual, was the condition of eternal happiness. On this condition he was to have access to the tree of life ..." (PP 49).

- **Satan's strong accusation on the pretext of Adam's transgression**

"Satan had pointed to Adam's sin as proof that God's law was unjust, and could not be obeyed" (DA 116).

- **Adam, the deceived and the only hope**

Although man's nature was corrupted, the hope of redemption is not lost forever.

"Understanding the character of God, knowing His goodness, Satan chose to follow his own selfish, independent will. This choice was final. There was no more that God could do to save him. But man was deceived; his mind was darkened by Satan's sophistry. The height and depth of the love of God he did not know. For him there was hope in a knowledge of God's love. By beholding His character he might be drawn back to God" (DA 762).

11. The plan of salvation

Jesus, the Son of God, was looking upon the sinner with compassion and "offered to atone, with His own life, for their transgression. A period probation would be granted them, and through repentance and faith in Christ they might again become the children of God" (PP 66).

- **The plan of salvation**

“To man the first intimation of redemption was communicated in the sentence pronounced upon Satan in the garden. The Lord declared, “I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” Genesis 3:15. This sentence, uttered in the hearing of our first parents, was to them a promise. While it foretold war between man and Satan, it declared that the power of the great adversary would finally be broken. Adam and Eve stood as criminals before the righteous Judge, awaiting the sentence which transgression had incurred; but before they heard of the life of toil and sorrow which must be their portion, or of the decree that they must return to dust, they listened to words that could not fail to give them hope. Though they must suffer from the power of their mighty foe, they could look forward to final victory” (PP 65).

- **The proclamation of the plan of salvation and the decision of Satan**

When Satan heard that there would be enmity between himself and woman, and his seed and her seed, he understood that his work to the corrupt men’s nature would be hampered, but he decided to fight till the end by corrupting mankind.

12. Re-creation in Christ

- **The Law of God and the Christian believer**

One becomes God’s child through faith in Christ and by the power of Christ. In obeying the law of God, he is able to be a witness to God’s children.

- **As man longs for God**

“As your soul yearns after God, you will find more and still more of the unsearchable riches of His grace. As you contemplate these riches you will come into possession of them and will reveal the merits of the

Saviour's sacrifice, the protection of His righteousness, the fullness of His wisdom, and His power to present you before the Father 'without spot, and blameless'(2 Pe 3:14)"(AA 567).

- **Sanctification is through practicing the principle of love**

"True sanctification comes through the working out of the principle of love. 'God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.' 1 Jn 4:16. The life of him in whose heart Christ abides, will reveal practical godliness. The character will be purified, elevated, ennobled, and glorified. Pure doctrine will blend with works of righteousness; heavenly precepts will mingle with holy practices"(AA 560).

Therefore man's salvation is a cooperative work. The grace of God provides the power of obedience. By surrendering the will and by practicing the living principle of God's law, that law is glorified. If we work in a manner of addition the Lord will work in a manner of multiplication. By our full surrender we will be living proof of the power of salvation to the whole universe and the apostatized world seeking to make God's law of none effect. Finally, God will be able to silence the accusation of Satan through our witness.

- **The relationship between the grace heaven has appointed and its law is as follows:**

"God does not use His grace to make His law of none effect, or to take the place of His law. ... God's grace and the law of His kingdom are in perfect harmony; they walk hand in hand. His grace makes it possible for us to draw nigh to Him by faith. By receiving it, and letting it work in our lives, we testify to the validity of the law; we exalt the law and make it honorable by carrying out its living principles through the power of the grace of Christ; and by rendering pure, whole-hearted obedience to God's law, we witness before the universe of heaven, and before an apostate world that is making void the law of God, to the power of redemption"(RH 1896. 9. 15).

The mercy and justice of God's kingdom are in perfect harmony and are closely interrelated. This is God's character, and the law is the

expression of His character.

Although man possesses a corrupted nature, through Christ he is able to keep God's law and reflect God's character.

13. The stratagem of Satan

Satan is doing his best to gain proof that it is impossible for man to keep the law.

- **He has some basic strategies**

1. Separates mercy and justice.
2. By leaning towards justice, he makes one become a legalist.
3. By leaning towards mercy, he makes one become a liberal.
4. By materializing the notion of Immortality of the soul he supports the assertion that though a man sins against God's law, he will not die.
5. He effaces, adds, or changes God's law, using the time granted to us and influences us to do our own selfish will as we wish.

Satan works in the final controversy to corrupt mankind by perverting the truth. But the Son of God has worked to mercifully intervene in the history of the conflict between good and evil.

Summary

From the study above we can get the following answers:

1. God's law is a copy of His character.
2. The happiness of the human race is attained through obedience to God's law.
3. Man was created a moral being who can choose between obedience and disobedience.
4. Sin originated from Lucifer who abused his freedoms.
5. Satan dared to malign the attributes of God's law and asserted that it was impossible for men and angels to keep God's law. He claimed that the law should be changed and said that it should be abolished.

As a result he deceived one third of the angels and they shared his downfall.

6. God delayed judgment and allowed Satan to continue his work so that both his deceptive nature and the result of disobeying the law would be demonstrated to the whole universe.
7. Satan secured proof for his assertion by tempting Adam and Eve to disobey the law.
8. God revealed the secret hidden from the foundation of the world that man is indeed able to keep the law of God through the incarnation of Christ and by His redemption and example.
9. The controversy is developed between Christ and Satan regarding man's obedience to God's law, thus putting it in the center of the controversy.
10. Satan has corrupted mankind for 4,000 years, but God has had righteous people who obeyed the law fully in every age, and they became the living witnesses of Christ.
11. Through the death of God's son, the attributes of Satan were revealed to the entire universe. Jesus gained the victory by giving Himself up to mankind as a sacrifice and living a life obedient to the law. He then became our High priest after ascending to heaven.
12. In 1844, the investigative judgment began in heaven when Christ entered as High priest into the most holy place of heaven. He seals everyone who is living according to the law by blotting out their sins.
13. They are "the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." They are proof of Christ that would silence the accusation of Satan forever.
14. Once they are sealed, these victors will be tried by Satan without the intercession of Christ until the end.
15. When the 144,000 vindicate God's law and His character by holding onto the promises of God, keeping their faith in Christ, and firmly keeping God's law until the end, the whole universe will fully recognize all of Satan's deceptions for what they are. The great controversy is finished.

B. Historical review

The great controversy began in heaven and it will be continue till the end of the earth. As we are in the last phase of history, I believe it would be very profitable to study the history of this controversy during the past 6,000 years. Let's focus on two events during the great controversy that became pivotal turning points in Earth's history.

1. From the Time of Adam ~ Noah

Satan did his best to attain evidence that it was impossible to keep God's law, and he was very successful in corrupting men during 1,600 years. Now, as he claimed, it seemed impossible for mankind to keep the law for mankind.

- **God determined judgment**

“And God saw that the wickedness of man as great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved hi at his heart, and the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them”(Gen. 6:5-7).

- **Satan's opposition against God by causing man to sin**

“[The minds of the men of Noah's generation] were blinded to [God's] majesty and power; they ceased to realize the holiness of His character, or the sacred, unchanging nature of His requirements. As sin became general, it appeared less and less sinful, and they finally declared that the divine law was no longer in force; that it was contrary to the character of God to punish transgression; and they denied that His judgments were to be visited upon the earth. Had the men of that generation obeyed the divine law, they would have recognized the voice of God in the warning of His servant; but their minds had become so blinded by rejection of light that they really believed Noah's

message to be a delusion”(PP 96).

But God had faithful people like Enoch and Noah who obeyed His law and quietly revealed Satan’s accusations to be false. God had risen to work. “It is time for Thee, Lord, to work, for they have made void thy law”(Ps 119:126). Therefore God swept everyone away except Noah and his eight family members. Enoch, Noah and many other righteous men served as witnesses of the justice of Jehovah’s law.

2. From the Time of Abraham ~ First advent of Christ

● Theocratic nation of Israel

After that, God entrusted His divine law to the descendants of Abraham, the people of Israel. God led them from their liberation from Egypt to the experience at the Red Sea, receiving of the divine covenant with the Decalogue at Mount Sinai, and in their wanderings in the wilderness. A long time passed since they had left Egypt and in the wilderness God taught them the sanctuary system. Nevertheless, they fell to Satan’s deceptive idolatry and failed to keep the law. Those who neglected the law were taken captive to Babylon and tasted a bitter end.

● After the Babylon captivity

“After the return from Babylon, much attention was given to religious instruction. All over the country, synagogues were erected, where the law was expounded by the priests and scribes. And schools were established, which, together with the arts and sciences, professed to teach the principles of righteousness. But these agencies became corrupted. During the captivity, many of the people had received heathen ideas and customs, and these were brought into their religious service. In many things they conformed to the practices of idolaters.

As they departed from God, the Jews in a great degree lost sight of the teaching of the ritual service. ... They trusted to the sacrifices and ordinances themselves, instead of resting upon Him to whom they pointed. In order to supply the place of that which they had lost, the priests and rabbis multiplied requirements of their own; and the more

rigid they grew, the less of the love of God was manifested. They measured their holiness by the multitude of their ceremonies, while their hearts were filled with pride and hypocrisy”(DA 29).

Finally, the Israelites gave up their privilege as a theocratic nation entrusted with God’s law, by crucifying the Son of God and exchanging God’s law with man’s law. When they abolished God’s law, they were destroyed by Rome and met a pitiful end. Satan seemed to have won a victory.

- **Christ’s redemption and example**

“By His life and His death, Christ proved that God’s justice did not destroy His mercy, but that sin could be forgiven, and that the law is righteous, and can be perfectly obeyed. Satan’s charges were refuted. God had given man unmistakable evidence of His love”(DA 762).

Therefore Christ became a living witness to all of Israel, and Satan was revealed as a murderer. Christ silenced Satan’s accusations against God’s law. Jesus ascended to heaven and was inaugurated for the service in the heavenly sanctuary. The faithful disciples who followed His truth were filled by the Holy Spirit and learned the power of obedience to God’s will through beholding Jesus in the heavenly sanctuary.

3. From the time of the Apostles ~ last days

- **The organization of the church and its purpose of existence**

Christ formed the church to accomplish the purpose which was to be fulfilled by the Israelites.

“That which God purposed to do for the world through Israel, the chosen nation, He will finally accomplish through His church on earth today. He has ‘let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen,’ even to His covenant-keeping people, who faithfully ‘render Him the fruits in their seasons.’ Never has the Lord been without true representatives on this earth who have made His interests their own. These witnesses for

God are numbered among the spiritual Israel, and to them will be fulfilled all the covenant promises made by Jehovah to His ancient people”(PK 713, 714).

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. The members of the church, those whom He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light, are to show forth His glory. The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest, even to ‘the principalities and powers in heavenly places’(Eph 3:10) the final and full display of the love of God”(AA 9).

- **Satan’s new deception after the cross**

Satan has put another new deception forward, that at the cross God’s mercy put aside His justice.

“Another deception was now to be brought forward. Satan declared that mercy destroyed justice, that the death of Christ abrogated the Father’s law. Had it been possible for the law to be changed or abrogated, then Christ need not have died. But to abrogate the law would be to immortalize transgression, and place the world under Satan’s control. It was because the law was changeless, because man could be saved only through obedience to its precepts, that Jesus was lifted up on the cross. Yet the very means by which Christ established the law Satan represented as destroying it. Here will come the last conflict of the great controversy between Christ and Satan”(DA 763).

Therefore, liberal theologians developed a theory of sanctification that has no basis in the Bible. Most of the Protestant churches are deceived by this.

“The sanctification now gaining prominence in the religious world carries with it a spirit of self-exaltation and a disregard for the law of God that mark it as foreign to the religion of the Bible. Its advocates

teach that sanctification is an instantaneous work, by which, through faith alone, they attain to perfect holiness. 'Only believe,' say they, 'and the blessing is yours.' No further effort on the part of the receiver is supposed to be required. At the same time they deny the authority of the law of God, urging that they are released from obligation to keep the commandments"(GC 470).

- **Power to work for 42 months**

Satan received authority to work for 1,260 years and during this time he threw the truth of the heavenly sanctuary upon the earth, and by destroying, removing, adding, and changing the actual law of God in heaven's most holy place, he presumed to change the Sabbath day to Sunday. Most of the Protestant churches then became Satan's living witnesses for his assertion that because God's law is impossible to keep, it must be changed.

Also, the theory of the immortality of soul and the theory of everlasting hell were distributed throughout almost all religious society.

- **Unto two thousand and three hundred days**

Just before 1844, God raised up an advent movement that proclaimed the first angel's message, and invited every believer into heaven's most holy place. The light of truth was rejected by the majority, but there were a few people who followed the light. A few people who entered into the second apartment received a new mission, and they became the repairers of the foundations that had been broken down for many generations. A group was born who upheld God's laws.

- **The investigative judgment, revival and reformation**

The remnant entered into the antitypical experience of the day of atonement with repentance by searching deeply their own hearts and purifying the body and soul to reflect the words of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Finally the perfection of the law of God is restored in them and when their deeds are in harmony with God's law, Jesus the High Priest will reveal His glory by granting them grace in blotting out their sins. They will reflect God's character. They will become "the

firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb”(Rev. 14:4). They will become co-workers of God who will silence forever every accusation of Satan.

- **The latter rain and the loud cry**

Satan will make his assertions more visible. God shall work through the remnant. Finally they will be filled by the latter rain. The remnant proclaims God’s law with a loud voice and enters into the final controversy. They call out His people who have remained in Babylon.

“Men will surely set up their laws to counterwork the laws of God. They will seek to compel the consciences of others, and in their zeal to enforce these laws they will oppress their fellow men.”

“The warfare against God’s law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time. Every man will be tested. Obedience or disobedience is the question to be decided by the whole world. All will be called to choose between the law of God and the laws of men. Here the dividing line will be drawn. There will be but two classes. Every character will be fully developed; and all will show whether they have chosen the side of loyalty or that of rebellion”(DA 763).

- **The sign of faithfulness as the seal of the living God**

The focus of the final great controversy is between God’s law and man-made laws.

“He who reads every heart and tries every motive will leave none who desire a knowledge of the truth, to be deceived as to the issues of the controversy. The decree is not to be urged upon the people blindly. Everyone is to have sufficient light to make his decision intelligently.

The Sabbath will be the great test of loyalty, for it is the point of truth especially controverted. When the final test shall be brought to bear upon men, then the line of distinction will be drawn between those who serve God and those who serve Him not. While the observance of the false sabbath in compliance with the law of the state, contrary to the fourth commandment, will be an avowal of allegiance to a power that is in opposition to God, the keeping of the true Sabbath, in obedience to God’s law, is an evidence of loyalty to the Creator. While

one class, by accepting the sign of submission to earthly powers, receive the mark of the beast, the other choosing the token of allegiance to divine authority, receive the seal of God”(GC 605).

Then the faithful remnant, upon whose hearts were engraved God’s law, proclaim before the world the saving power of that law.

“We exalt the law and make it honorable by carrying out its living principles through the power of the grace of Christ; and by rendering pure, whole-hearted obedience to God’s law, we witness before the universe of heaven, and before an apostate world that is making void the law of God, to the power of redemption”(RH 1896. 9. 15).

They are historical living witnesses and the final fruition of the power and sacrifice manifested at the Lord’s cross. They verify that true faith is a faith which is accompanied by works.

- **The end of the period of grace**

“Then Jesus ceases his intercession in the sanctuary above. He lifts his hands, and with a loud voice says, ‘It is done;’ and all the angelic host lay off their crowns as he makes the solemn announcement: ‘He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still; and he that is holy, let him be holy still’(Rev. 22:11). Every case has been decided for life or death”(GC 613).

- **Final conflict, Jacob’s trouble.**

Finally the time of probation comes to a close and the character of the believers will be tested before the world, angels, and the universe. They must come before God without an intercessor in heaven. Satan will try with much effort to cause them to disobey God’s law. This is the time of Jacob’s trouble. When this trouble ends, they will hear the voice of God, and the blessings which are to be given to the people who keep God’s law will be proclaimed. Then their faces will be lit up by the glory that was upon the face of Moses.

- **The law engraved in the heart is reflected upon the face and shines with the light of knowing God's glory**

“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart ... but if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious? For if the ministration of cndemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory ... But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”(2Cor. 3:2-3, 7-9, 18).

“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”(2Cor. 4:6).

- **The remnant will vindicate God's law and will stand as witnesses before the whole universe**

The glory of the law that is revealed upon the face of the final victors is the last sign that the precept of God's law is everlasting and perfect. Satan flees from us. The great controversy is finished and Christ is shown the victor.

“But not so when the great controversy shall be ended. Then, the plan of redemption having been completed, the character of God is revealed to all created intelligences. The precepts of His law are seen to be perfect and immutable. Then sin has made manifest its nature, Satan his character. Then the extermination of sin will vindicate God's love and establish His honor before a universe of beings who delight to do His will, and in whose heart is His law ... (DA 764).

“He that ruleth in the heavens is the one who sees the end from the

beginning—the one before whom the mysteries of the past and the future are alike outspread, and who, beyond the woe and darkness and ruin that sin has wrought, beholds the accomplishment of His own purposes of love and blessing. Though ‘clouds and darkness are round about Him: righteousness and judgment are the foundation of His throne’(Ps 97:2, R.V). And this the inhabitants of the universe, both loyal and disloyal, will one day understand. ‘His work is perfect: for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He’(Dt 32:4) ”(PP 43).

Therefore the important subject that the student should consider is :

“The warfare against God’s law, which was begun in heaven, will be continued until the end of time”(DA 763).

“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”(Ed 190).

Now, we will be able to understand the chart more clearly by studying the Bible and knowing the basis of the controversy.

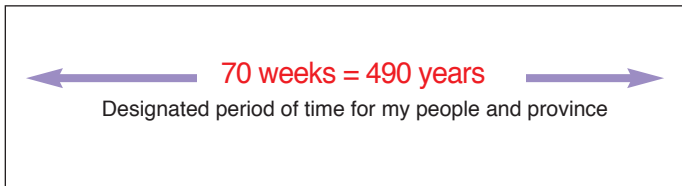


III. Explanatory Notes for Understanding the Chart

This chart is composed of several basic principles.

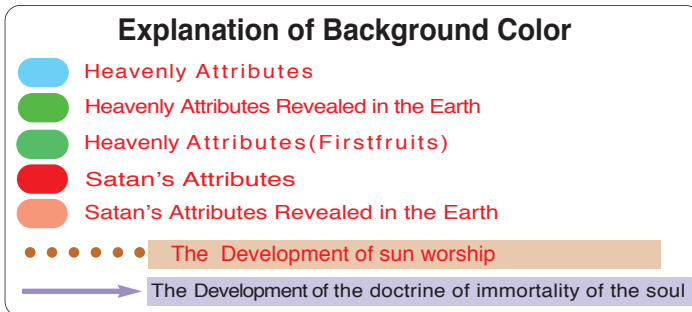
- Coordinating marks are used to make things easier to find:
Up and down is designated by numbers (1, 2, 3...)
Left and right is designated by letters (A, B, C...)

Example : If you want to find the coordinate of J7, you would look for J in horizontal direction (right and left), and 7 in the vertical direction (up and down).



J7

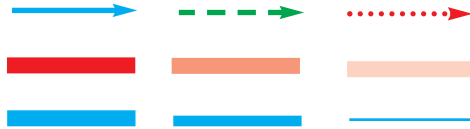
- Classification by color: every event is classified by a different color



This key is located in the upper left corner of the chart

- Shape and classification of color of the lines in the chart: every event is indicated by the line's color, shape, and width.

Example :



- Dual lines are for special study: the development of the doctrine of the immortality of the soul, the development of Sunday worship, and the history of the conflicts waged to keep the Holy Land of Jerusalem are represented by the dual lines shown below.



History of wars waged to destroy Jerusalem



Development of Sunday worship

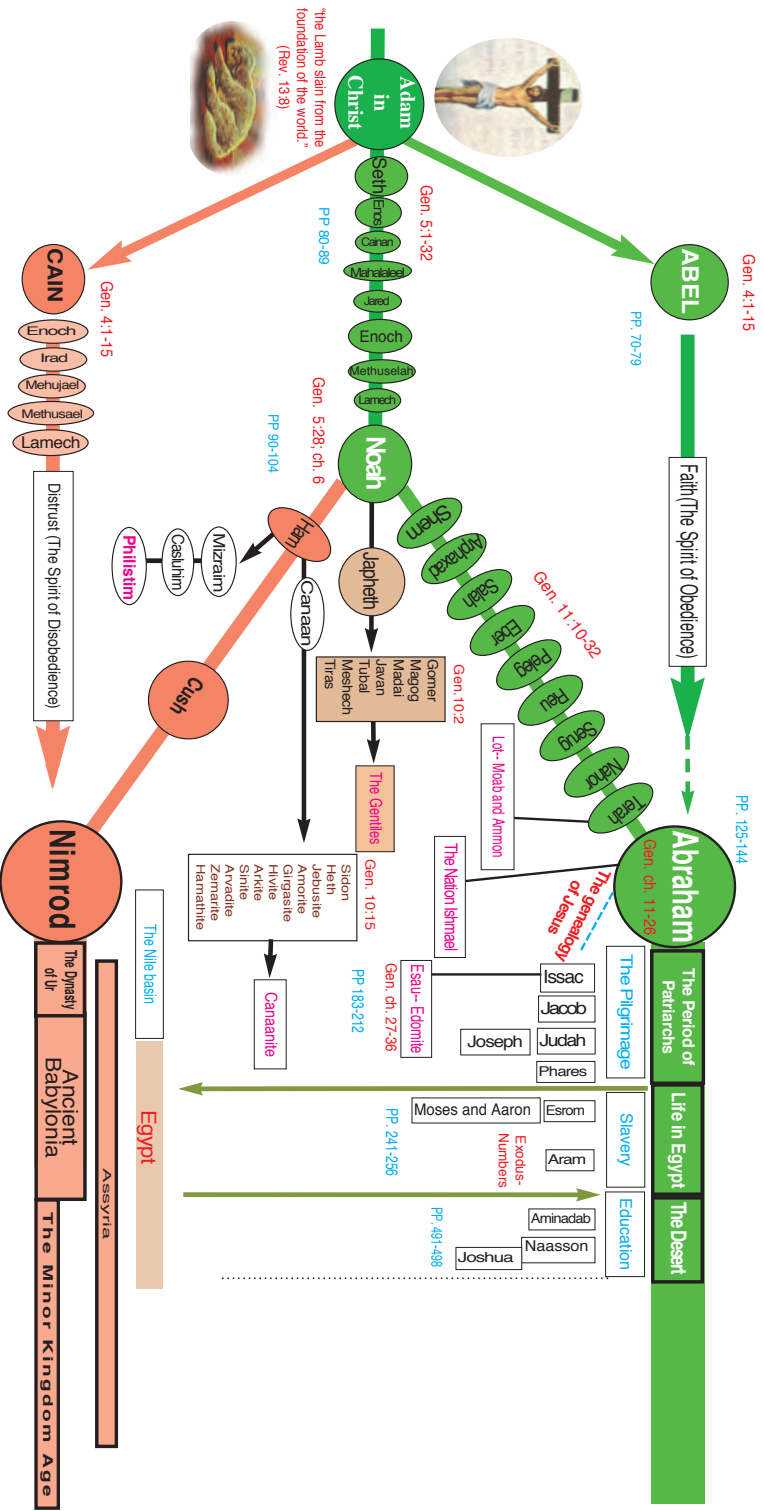


Development of the doctrine of the immortality of the soul



The history of vindication for justice and mercy in God's law

- Time markers: due to the difficult nature of evenly marking the years on a vertical scale, each event is accompanied by a year designation. (the source of the dates are from the SDA commentary)



o **The controversy between good and evil in the center of the chart** : the remnant who are loyal to the faith (spirit of obedience) are represented by the color green, and representatives of Satan who are disbelieving (spirit of disobedience) are represented by the color red. These designations are helpful for the researcher's understanding.