

# Our Three Greatest Friends



## 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 greatest 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 (Jn 15:14), was the person among the three friends most severely attacked by Satan (also called the Devil). This was clearly demonstrated on the cross, when the Devil, who was a murderer from the beginning (Jn 8:44), inspired men to kill Christ as prophesied in Gen 3:15. But Christ conquered death and hell (Rev 1:18), and will cast the devil into the lake of fire (Rev 20:10). The controversy, therefore, began in heaven (Rev 12:7-9), and the Devil called also *the old serpent* 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 (Mt 7:7,8; Lk 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 Rev 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), and 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 and **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? Jn 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 grace are ye \_\_\_\_\_ through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the  
\_\_\_\_\_ of God: \_\_\_\_\_ of works, 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 Jn 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 \_\_\_\_\_ came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

Jesus the Lamb came and took the book out of the right hand of Him that sat on the throne.

9. Who is it 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 a. 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 Ps 2:7.

Ans b. Self-Existent or Eternal, Which \_\_\_\_\_ is, Which \_\_\_\_\_ was, and Which \_\_\_\_\_ is the coming one

The name ~~holy~~ יהוה (yeh-ho-vaw') or Jehovah in the English is found 4 times (Ex 6:3; Ps 83:18; Is 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 Rev 1:4; which is, and which was, and which is to come is the same meaning as the word Jehovah.

## 2 THE HOLY SPIRIT



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

**Ans:** and from the seven \_\_\_\_\_ which are before his throne;

**12. 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.

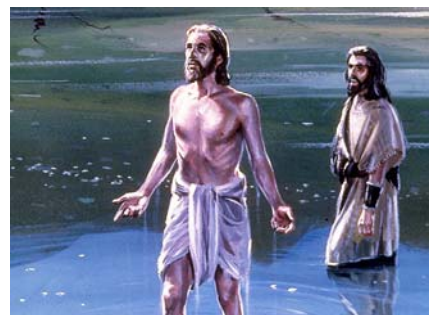
**Ans: b.** And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven \_\_\_\_\_ and seven \_\_\_\_\_, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. Rev 5:6.

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 Kings 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.

**13. 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, therefore, 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).



**14. What did Jesus call the Spirit? Lk 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? Lk 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).

**15. 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 2 A for more detail on how these seven aspects of the Holy Spirit are seen in the book of Revelation.

**16. What does the Spirit of the LORD (Jehovah in the Hebrew) tell us of the work of the Holy Spirit? Heb 9:14 see note below.**

**Ans: a.** 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?

**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. See note below.

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 (Jn 14:16,17; 16:13). In Heb 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.

### 3 JESUS CHRIST



**17. 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 (Lk 12:4). Christ was called the friend of publicans and sinners (Mt 11:19). Jesus loved us so much He laid down His life for us who are sinners (Jn 15:13; Rom 5:8).



**18. 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. Satan could be translated *adversary* (1 Pet 5:8) which is the Greek word *Satana* " (Satanas) 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 who are the angels (Rev 1:20). Satan decided he wanted to be like God. Finally Satan was thrown out onto the earth.

## THE THREE ACCUSATIONS OF SATAN AGAINST GOD

**19. What was the first accusation that Satan brought against Jesus the Son of God? Lk 4:3; Jn 5:18; Phil 2:5,6; Jn 5:23; 1 Jn 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. Lk 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. Jn 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: Phil 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. Jn 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 Jn 2:21-23.

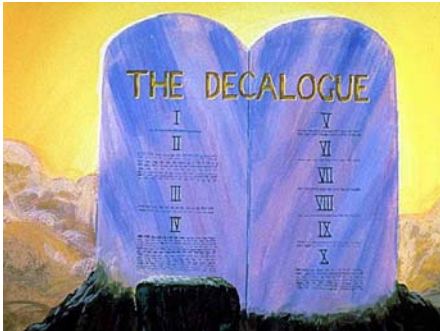
Satan who originally was called Lucifer before His fall, was particularly envious of Jesus the Son of God, and disputed His authority. By trying to cast doubt into Christ's mind that He was really the Son of God when on earth Satan reflected his rebellious spirit against Christ.

**20. What was Satan's second accusation? Jn 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 Jn 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 (Ezek 28:14-16), breaking God's law as a murderer and liar (Jn 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.

**21. What was Satan's third accusation? Heb 8:12; Rom 3:25,26; Zech 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. Zech 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 that He cannot be just and merciful at the same time if Jesus forgives our sins and takes us to heaven to live forever. 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.



**22. Do we need to worry about such a terrible enemy that Satan is; if we are troubled, or afraid? Jn 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

**23. Would you like to accept the grace and peace that our three great friends offer us in protection against Satan and sin? \_\_\_\_\_**