BIBLE THE EPIC BATTLE

God and Lucifer's battle for the position of "Most High God" "Ruler of Heaven and Earth"

A fascinating overview of God's plans and purpose to reconcile all things, both in heaven and earth, to the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ, "the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

I TIMOTHY 6:15

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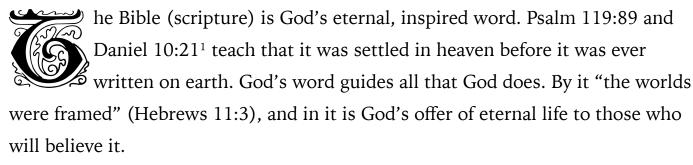
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INTRODUCTION



God's word is His revelation to us of Himself. We know God through His word. The central person of the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ, the living Word of God (John 1:1). He is pictured in some way in every one of its books. Hebrews 10:7 says, "... in the volume of the book it is written of me." He is the seed of the woman, the great high priest, the "Most High God" in Ages to Come, the Passover lamb, the kinsman redeemer, the rock of salvation, the chief cornerstone, the seed of David, the great "I am," the Son of God, the Head of the church, and so much more. Jesus Christ is also rightfully "the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords" of all things—both in heaven and on earth (I Timothy 6:15; Colossians 1:16).

However, since Lucifer's fall, there has been rebellion in *both* realms of God's kingdom. The Bible reveals God's two-fold plan to end the rebellion, "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth..." (Philippians 2:10). Through Israel—the nation God

¹ An angel told Daniel that he would show him "that which **is** noted in the scripture of truth." Daniel recorded what the angel told him and those words become part of the Bible. Daniel 11 was already written in heaven before Daniel wrote it down on earth!

created and will one day redeem—He will reclaim the earth. Through the body He is currently creating—"the body of Christ"²—He will reclaim the heavenly places.

Thus, "in the dispensation of the fullness of times" He will "gather together in one **all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth**..."³ This is the eternal purpose and two-fold plan of God revealed in the Bible. *The "Epic Battle" is a big picture view of God's plan for the ages* written to help you see how and where *you* fit into the outworking of this plan.

² I Corinthians 12:27

³ Ephesians 1:10

SCRIPTURE VERSES

Psalm 119:89

Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

Daniel 10:21

But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

I Timothy 6:15

Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

Colossians 1:16

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Philippians 2:10

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

I Corinthians 12:27

Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

Ephesians 1:10

That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

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"RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH"

Seeing how and where *you* fit into the outworking of God's plan is vital because, while all the Bible is *for us*, it is not all *to* us or *about* us. We cannot open the Bible and apply any and all verses to ourselves. For example, many passages command animal sacrifices. Obviously, no true Christian would teach that we should offer animal sacrifices today. Exodus 31:15 says whosoever does any work on the Sabbath day he shall surely be put to death. We know that this does not apply to us *today* but exactly why? We must distinguish between verses that apply today and verses that do not. We must "rightly divide the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

Understanding "The Epic Battle," and God's two-fold plan, will help us do this.

SALVATION

In no other area is "rightly dividing" more important than it is in understanding how to be saved from hell and stand completely forgiven and justified before a holy God. From cover to cover, the Bible teaches that salvation is by faith in God's word, for "without faith it is impossible to please Him" (Hebrews 11:6), and "...faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Saving faith is always a positive response to God's *revealed* word. However, God's revealed word has not always been the same in every age. So, it is imperative that you know what His word is TO YOU!

Time Past

The shed blood of Christ is the payment for the sins of all men of all ages. No one, in any age, could ever be saved except by the shed blood of Christ. However, in time past, prior to the cross, people did not know this. God had not revealed it yet, so their faith had to be placed in God's revealed word to them *at that time*. When it was, God looked ahead to the cross in order to forgive their sins (Romans 3:25).

According to Hebrews 11, by faith Abel offered a sacrifice, Noah prepared an ark, Abraham left his land and offered up Isaac, and Moses forsook Egypt. Clearly, Israelites living under the law could not have had true faith in God and at the same time refuse to offer the sacrifices commanded in the law. The sacrifices did not save them, but they were the evidence of their faith in God's revealed word to them. In time past, then, faith was manifest by works.

"But Now" (Romans 3:21)

Today, though, God's Word tells us that we are not under the law, but under grace (Romans 6:14). God has revealed to us who live after the cross that Christ has done all the work necessary to save us—He shed His blood as the full payment for all of our sins, died, and rose again as proof that God has accepted the payment (Romans 3:21-28 and 4:25). Today God tells us to STOP WORKING for salvation and trust in the work of His son for our justification:

"But to him that **worketh not**, but **believeth on him** that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness" (Romans 4:5).

True faith today, then, will be manifest by resting in the shed blood of Christ, and that *alone*, for justification. Adding works of any kind (water baptism, committing your life to Christ, walking an aisle, keeping the law, repeated confession of sins...) to the work of Christ *in order to obtain forgiveness or salvation* is a denial that HIS work is enough. It is not faith in God's good news in this age of grace.

AGES TO COME

What about in the future? This age of grace will not last forever. One day the church, the body of Christ, will be taken home to heaven, and God will have

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another message for the world—one that will again require works, such as not taking the mark of the beast (Revelation 14:9-12). But this will be much clearer after reading *The Bible—The Epic Battle*.

SCRIPTURE VERSES

II Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (KJV)

Hebrews 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 3:24-25

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

²⁵ Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Romans 3:21

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

²⁷ Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

Romans 4:25

Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

Romans 6:14

For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.