

THREE SOURCES OF "HOPE"

Genesis 2:1-7- 3:1-15 (Ezekiel 28; Job 38; Luke 4; 2 Corinthians; Jude 9; Revelation 12)

Introduction: None of us were at the beginning of things, as a matter of fact the world we know has been going on for a very long time and we are more or less caught up in things naturally, born into all that we know and see. Where do we turn to when we need advice? Who do we turn to when we need help? To sum up man's history, have always been only three sources of influence upon man and three sources of "hope" for man to turn to.

I. LUCIFER, "SON OF THE MORNING"

1. Lucifer was created by God as the most powerful, most beautiful, with the most rank, the most wisest, the one with the most authority angelic ruler for God.
 - He has been called:
 - Lucifer, Satan, Devil, Abaddon, Apollyon, Angel of the Bottomless Pit, Prince of Darkness, Roaring Lion, Adversary, Beelzebub, Accuser, Dragon, Serpent, God of this World.
2. Lucifer rebelled against God in five statements:
 - I am a god
 - I will ascend
 - I will exalt
 - I will sit
 - I will be like
 - He plotted against God and influenced countless other angels to follow him, thus he sinned.
3. God could have destroyed Lucifer.
 - But God changed Lucifer's name to Satan (Resistor, Adversary).
 - God barred Lucifer from His presence.
 - God did not, however, take away any of Lucifer's abilities/gifts.
 - God will ultimately cast Lucifer into Hell which has been prepared for him and his followers.

II. MAN AND THE WORLD

1. God created the world but Satan showed no interest.
2. God created man and Satan became greatly interested.
 - Man was not made in some angelic image/model.
 - Man was given no heavenly powers.
 - Man had not the abilities of angels, no speed, no freedom of movement in space, etc.
3. God created man below the angelic order.
 - Man was tied to the earth.
 - Man was limited in space, time, intellect and power.
 - Man was given a soul and freedom of choice.
4. In many ways man was/is God's supreme creation in spite of man's limitations.

III. THE GREAT DRAMA BEGINS

1. Since Lucifer/Satan rebelled against God, there has been an invisible battle going on.
2. Upon the creation of man, Satan has been seeking to draw man away from God.
 - He tries to get man to doubt God's Word.
 - He tries to get man to listen to him as he twists God's Words into what man wants to hear.
 - He tries to get man to doubt God's goodness.
3. Satan didn't count on God's great interest in man and what Jesus, God's Son, has done for the salvation of man.
 - Therefore the invisible battle between God and Satan for man.
4. God is battling Satan for the souls of people/man.
 - Through Jesus, God's Son, God made a way to erase man's sins, to save man, to restore man.

CONCLUSION:

1. We (people) have three possible sources of hope and help:
 - Satan, who wants only to draw us away from God.
 - Our own selves, just take a look at mankind's history.
 - God, who wants man (us) to have only good things and who has gone to the greatest length to save us (man) from our sins and hell.
2. Each person must choose to whom he/she will turn to.
3. Who is your choice? (Actually it's automatically Satan and Man, YOU must deliberately choose God.