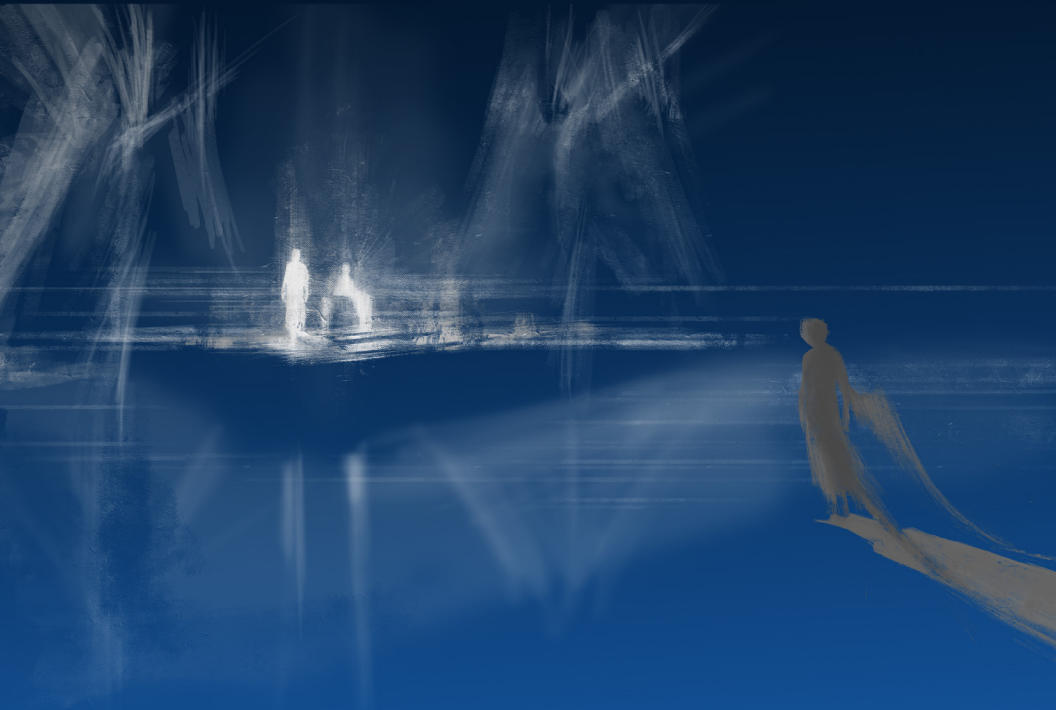


THE GREAT CONTROVERSY OVER CHRIST'S SONSHIP



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Sin is the transgression of the Law. In Heaven, Satan sinned. His sin was the original sin. This leads us to the core question: *what Law did Lucifer transgress?* Are we also under that law? Is Satan still warring against that law?

The following study lays down the chronological order of events of the rebellion of Satan in Heaven before the creation of Earth. This fascinating study reveals in detail which law Satan broke, and the sin he committed in Heaven. It was the law ordained by the Father, but not specifically the Ten Commandments. It was the law which God "*had ordained to govern heavenly beings*".

REBELLION AGAINST THE FATHER'S LAW

“They [loyal angels] told Adam and Eve that the most exalted angel, next in order to Christ, refused obedience to the law of God which he had ordained to govern heavenly beings; that this rebellion had caused war in Heaven which resulted in the rebellious being expelled therefrom, and every angel was driven out of Heaven who united with him in questioning the authority of the great Jehovah; and that this fallen foe was now an enemy to all that concerned the interest of God and his dear Son.”
[{EGW; 1SP 33.2; 1870}](#)

We will examine what was the requirement and nature of the law God had ordained to govern heavenly beings. What was the foundation of this law, and why could it not be altered or changed?

“Satan acquired the supremacy as a legislator in guilt to compel by decree the transgression of God’s law, and the professed Christian world come under his banner fully choosing his service and shall do after the works of the fallen foe. The rebellious chieftain signalized himself as having authority to establish laws entirely contrary to the laws of Jehovah, the living and only true God, the supreme Ruler in heaven and in earth.”
[{EGW; 8LtMs, Lt 60, 1893, par. 8}](#)

This law was regarding *the order of Heaven*. This order Satan wanted to change. But the law is unchangeable and the main question is why?

First, let us consider: Who was the supreme ruler of heaven?

THE POSITION OF THE FATHER

*“God would have the rulers of the nations know that **He is the supreme Ruler**. Those who preside over the affairs of nations should realize that there is a King of kings. The man who does not know **God as his Father and Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of the infinite God** cannot rule wisely.”* [{EGW; 18LtMs, Lt 187, 1903, par. 13}](#)

*“Christ volunteered to come to our world and give to men the true light. **God gave His only begotten Son to the world to reveal the Father as supreme in heaven and in earth.**”* [{EGW; 25LtMs, Lt 132, 1910}](#)

Clearly, God is the supreme Ruler of the universe. He is also our loving heavenly Father.

*“Christ made every effort so to sweep away the misrepresentations of Satan, that the confidence of man in the love of God might be restored. He taught man to address **the Supreme Ruler of the universe** by the new name—“**Our Father**.” This name signifies his true relation to us, and when spoken in sincerity by human lips, it is music in the ears of God. Christ leads us to the throne of God by a new and living way, to present him to us in his paternal love.”* [{EGW; RH, September 11, 1894. SpTEd 195.3}](#)

Our Heavenly Father, the Supreme Ruler of the universe, the Sovereign of the universe, had an associate, a co-worker.

*“**The Sovereign of the universe** was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had **an associate—a co-worker** who could ap-*

preciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.' John 1:1, 2. **Christ, the Word, *the only begotten of God*, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.**” {EGW; PP 34.1; 1890}

Christ was the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of the Father. Why was that the case? What was the position of Christ?

THE POSITION OF THE SON OF GOD

“God is the Father of Christ; Christ is the Son of God. To Christ has been given an exalted position. He has been made equal with the Father. All the counsels of God are opened to His Son.” {EGW; 8T 268.3; 1904}

Christ had been given an exalted position. He had been **made equal to the Father**. Being equal with the Father is what qualified Him to be **the only being in all the universe** that could enter into His Father’s counsels. He was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose.

“Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator’s will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial. Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.” {EGW; GC 493.1; 1911}

The Father made the Son equal with Himself.

“He who was made equal with God bore the sin of the transgressor, and thereby made a channel whereby the love of God

could be communicated to a fallen world, and his grace and power imparted to those who came to Christ in penitence for their sin." {EGW; ST February 5, 1894, par. 10}

The reason the Son was the only being in the universe who could enter into all the counsels and purposes of His Father is because, as one equal with God, as the Only Begotten of God, the Son possessed divine nature, the very life of God.

"The Son was the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person. He possessed divine excellence and greatness. He was equal with God. It pleased the Father that in him all fullness should dwell." {EGW; RH December 31, 1872, par. 16; 1872}

The Son has the same creative power and authority as the Father because He is the Son of God. He inherited all the qualities, attributes and power that the Father possessed. The Son has the nature of the Father; He is divine in the highest sense. He was an exact representation of the Father. As the only Begotten Son of the Father, He was the express image of the Father's person. He was **made in His express image**.

*"Christ was the Lord of heaven and earth, yet for our sake He became poor; that we through His poverty might be made rich. **He was made in the likeness of God**, yet He humbled Himself and took upon Him the form of a servant, that He might save us."* {EGW, Lt133-1905.6; 1905}

As one equal with the Father, sharing His glory and His throne, the Son of God was the active agency through whom all of creation came to be. He was a co-laborer with the Creator God, His Father.

"By Christ the Father wrought in the creation of all heavenly beings. 'By Him were all things created, that are in heaven, ... whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers' (Colossians 1:16); and to Christ, equally with the Father, all heaven gave allegiance." {EGW; GC 493.1; 1911}

The Father wrought, or carried out, the work of creation by His Son. Thus, the Father created all the angels, including Lucifer, by Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. Lucifer was a created being, while the Son of God was the only begotten of the Father.

“Christ, the only begotten of the Father, was the express image of his Father’s person, the brightness of his glory....” {EGW; [SSW November 1, 1895, par. 1](#)}

“In the councils of heaven the Lord planned to reshape the broken, perverted characters of man, and to restore to them the moral image of God. This work is termed the mystery of godliness. Christ, the only-begotten of the Father, assumed human nature, came in the likeness of sinful flesh to condemn sin in the flesh. He came to testify to the unchangeable character of the law of God that had been impeached by Satan.” {EGW; [ST July 2, 1896, par. 3](#)}

The law of the order of heaven declared that the Father was the Supreme ruler, and Christ, the only begotten of the Father, was next in authority to the Father.

“The Son of God was next in authority to the great Lawgiver.” {EGW; [2SP 9.1; 1877](#)}

Clearly, it is stated that the Son of God was exalted to be equal with God, the Father.

“Our great Exemplar was exalted to be equal with God. He was high commander in heaven. All the holy angels delighted to bow before Him.” {EGW; [2T 426.2; 1868](#)}

It is also stated that Christ was assimilated to the image of God, to do the will of God.

“Christ was one with God, assimilated to the image of God to do the will of God.” {EGW; [25LtMs, Ms 90, 1910, par. 4](#)}

The unity between the Father and the Son was unsurpassed. This complete unity made them nearly identical.

“Between God and His only begotten Son the strongest bond of union existed—a complete oneness. Thus, through Christ, Satan’s misrepresentation of God could be unfolded and shown in its real character.” [{EGW; 13LtMs, Ms 57, 1898, par. 14}](#)

“From eternity there was a complete unity between the Father and the Son. They were two, yet little short of being identical; two in individuality, yet one in spirit, and heart, and character.” [{EGW; YI December 16, 1897, par. 5; 1897}](#)

The Son of God received all things from the Father, the Source of all. The Father’s life flows out to all through the Son.

“All things Christ received from God, but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: through the beloved Son, the Father’s life flows out to all; through the Son it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to the great Source of all. And thus through Christ the circuit of beneficence is complete, representing the character of the great Giver, the law of life.” [{EGW; DA 21.2; 1898}](#)

The law of life is the law of God. The Son ministers to all created beings with the Father’s life that flows through Him; this life returns through the Son, to the great Source of all—the Father. This law represents the character of the great Giver. The Son always exalted the Father’s glory, and not His own glory.

“The Son of God had wrought the Father’s will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God’s plan, but would exalt the Father’s glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love.” [{EGW; PP 36.2; 1890}](#)

As the creator, the Son was above all angels. He was the commander of the heavenly Host. He conveyed the high commands of His Father.

“[...] Christ was above all. He was the commander of all Heaven. He imparted to the angelic family the high commands of his Father.” [{EGW; 3SG 36.1; 1864}](#)

He was the Father’s appointed heir of all things.

*“Christ was **the Father’s ‘appointed heir** of all things, by whom also He made the worlds.’ He was the ‘brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person.’ And He upheld ‘all things by the word of his power.’ He possessed divine excellence and greatness; and **it pleased the Father that in Him all fulness should dwell.**”* [{EGW; BEcho July 15, 1893, par. 9}](#)

It is vital that we believe the truth that Christ is the divine Son of God. Only through this belief can we have assurance of eternal life.

*“**The divinity of Christ** is the believer’s assurance of eternal life.”* [{EGW; DA 530; 1898}](#)

*“The doctrine of **the divinity of Christ** is to be definitely believed and proclaimed.”* [{EGW; 21LtMs, Ms 34, 1906, par. 22}](#)

*“**The divine Son of God** was the only sacrifice of sufficient value to fully satisfy the claims of God’s perfect law.”* [{EGW; 2SP 10.1; 1877}](#)

Both the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy are very clear that Christ was **the only begotten Son of God** before the incarnation, when He was the glorious Commander of all the heavenly hosts.

*“The humiliation of the man Christ Jesus is incomprehensible to the human mind; but **his divinity and his existence before the world was formed** can never be doubted by those who believe the word of God. The apostle Paul speaks of our **Mediator, the only begotten Son of God, who in a state of glory was in the form of God, the Commander of all the heavenly hosts, and who, when he clothed his divinity with humanity, took upon him the form of a servant.**”* [{EGW; YI October 13, 1898, par. 4}](#)

*“There are many who deny the preexistence of Christ, and therefore deny his divinity; they do not accept him as a personal Saviour. This is a total denial of Christ. **He was the only-begotten Son of God, who was one with the Father from the beginning. By him the worlds were made.**”* [{ST May 28, 1894, par. 1}](#)

So far we have established that the Father is the Supreme Ruler of the universe, the great Source of all, and Christ is His only begotten Son, next in authority to the Father. So, who is third in the heavenly order which the Father ordained.

LUCIFER'S POSITION IN HEAVEN

*“Lucifer was the most beautiful angel in the heavenly courts **next to Jesus Christ...**”* [{EGW; 25LtMs, Ms 90, 1910, par. 4}](#)

Lucifer was next to the Son of God, who was next in authority to the Father.

*“The Lord has shown me that Satan was once an honored angel in heaven, **next to Jesus Christ.**”* [{EGW; 1SG 17.1; 1858}](#)

Christ was next to God and equal in honor to the Father; Lucifer was next to Jesus Christ, next in honor to God's dear Son.

*“Satan in Heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, **next in honor to God's dear Son.**”* [{EGW; 1SP 17.1; 1870}](#)

Lucifer was next in honor to Christ, and he was also next to Christ in exaltation and character.

*“Satan, the chief of the fallen angels, once had an exalted position in Heaven. He was **next in honor to Christ.**”* [{EGW; RH February 24, 1874, par. 33; 1874}](#)

*“Speaking of Satan, our Lord says that ‘he abode not in the truth.’ **He was once the covering cherub, glorious in beauty and holiness. He was next to Christ in exaltation and character.**”* [{EGW; RH October 22, 1895, par. 1; 1895}](#)

Not only that, but he was also next to Christ in power and majesty!

*“Was not Satan the light-bearer, the sharer of God’s glory in heaven, and **next to Jesus in power and majesty?**”* [{EGW; RH, 17. Novembar, 1891 par. 3}](#)

Next to Christ, Lucifer stood highest in the favor of God, highest in power and glory.

*“Sin originated with him, who, **next to Christ, stood highest in the favor of God, and highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of Heaven. Before his fall, Lucifer was the covering cherub, holy and undefiled.**”* [{EGW; 4SP 316.3; 1884}](#)

Satan was once in co-partnership with God, Jesus Christ, and the holy angels.

*“**Once Satan was in co-partnership with God, Jesus Christ, and the holy angels. He was highly exalted in heaven, and was radiant in light and glory that came to him from the Father and the Son; but he became disloyal, and lost his high and holy position as covering cherub.**”* [{EGW; RH April 14, 1896, par. 4}](#)

The Father, by His Son, created Lucifer as near as possible like Himself. That’s an amazing thought! The Father gave Lucifer all the glory and honor He could possibly give to him as a created being.

*“Evil originated with Lucifer, who rebelled against the government of God. Before his fall he was a covering cherub, distinguished by his excellence. God made him good and beautiful, **as near as possible like himself.**”* [{EGW; RH September 24, 1901, par. 4}](#)

The order of Heaven was as follows: The Father God was First, the divine Only Begotten Son of God was next to His Father, exalted to be equal with Him, then Lucifer, the highest created being was next to Christ.

With this in mind, let’s have a look at the chronological order of events in the Great Controversy.

SIN'S FIRST BEGINNINGS

How did sin originate in Lucifer? Remember, sin is transgression of the law (1 John 3:4). Which law in particular did Lucifer transgress in Heaven? How did this transgression happen?

“Christ had been taken into the special counsel of God in regard to his plans, while Satan was unacquainted with them. He did not understand, neither was he permitted to know, the purposes of God. But Christ was acknowledged sovereign of Heaven, his power and authority to be the same as that of God himself.”

[{EGW; 1 SP 18.1; 1870}](#)

Even though the Father gave Lucifer everything He could possibly give him, Satan wanted more. He became jealous of the close unity of the Father and the Son, and of the exaltation of the Son above him.

“Before the fall of Satan, the Father consulted his Son in regard to the formation of man. They purposed to make this world, and create beasts and living things upon it, and to make man in the image of God, to reign as a ruling monarch over every living thing which God should create. When Satan learned the purpose of God, he was envious at Christ, and jealous because the Father had not consulted him in regard to the creation of man. Satan was of the highest order of angels; but Christ was above all. He was the commander of all Heaven. He imparted to the angelic family the high commands of his Father. The envy and jealousy of Satan increased. Until his rebellion all Heaven was in harmony, and perfect subjection to the government of God.”

[{EGW; 3SG 36.1; 1864}](#)

Before the fall of Satan, there was a consultation between the Father and His Son in regards to creation of man. The only being who could enter into all the councils and purposes of God was God's dear Son. Satan was not consulted in regard to the creation of man. When he learned of the purpose of God, he was envious of Christ. Satan coveted

the position of Christ. This was not in accordance with the government of God, which has an established order in Heaven.

*“The creation of our world was brought into the councils of heaven. There the covering cherub prepared his request that he should be made prince to govern the world then in prospect. This was not accorded him. Jesus Christ was to rule the earthly kingdom; **under God** He engaged to take the world with all its probabilities.”* [{EGW; Ms 43b, 1891, par. 3}](#)

Under God, the Son would rule this world. This is the order of heaven over which Lucifer was unhappy about. Satan was **second to Christ**, but he wanted to have **the first place**, which **was next to God**. He wanted the Son's position of being directly under the Father. He wanted to be next to God in authority.

*“**Satan was once an honored angel in heaven, next to Christ.** His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing great intelligence. His form was perfect; his bearing noble and majestic. But when **God** said to **His Son**, ‘**Let us make man in our image**,’ **Satan was jealous of Jesus.** He wished to be **consulted** concerning the formation of man, and because he was not, he was filled with **envy, jealousy, and hatred.** He desired to receive **the highest honors in heaven next to God.**”* [{EGW; EW 145.1; 1882}](#)

*“Satan, knowing that **Christ had the first place next to God**, began to **insinuate** to the angels that he should be next to God. His great beauty and exalted position made him feel that he was not receiving due honor in being **second to Christ.**”* [{EGW; Ms90-1910.4}](#)

*“**Satan was envious of Christ**, and gradually assumed command which devolved on **Christ alone.**”* [{EGW; 1SP 17.1; 1870}](#)

SATAN'S DESIRE FOR EXALTATION

Satan was jealous of the Son of God, because he was not privileged to know the Father's plans and purposes as Christ was. Because Lucifer coveted the position of Christ, he wanted to be exalted to Christ's position. That led him to rebel against the established order of Heaven in his heart. Thus, Satan started to insinuate questions to the angels in regards to the order of Heaven.

*“Satan commenced to **insinuate** his dissatisfied feelings to other angels, and a number agreed to aid him in his rebellion. Satan was dissatisfied with **his position**. Although very exalted, **he aspires to be equal with God**; and unless the Lord gratifies **his ambition**, determines to rebel, and refuse submission. **He desires, yet dare not at once venture to make known his envious, hateful feelings**. But he contents himself with gaining all he can to sympathize with him, as though deeply wronged. He relates to them his thoughts of warring against Jehovah.”* [{EGW; 3SG 36.1; 1864}](#)

Even though he was highly honored of God, he was dissatisfied with his position as a created being.

*“**Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy**. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God and called forth no gratitude to the Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and **aspired to be equal with God**. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. **Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged Sovereign of heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the councils of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. ‘Why,’ questioned this mighty angel, ‘should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He thus honored above Lucifer?’**”* [{EGW; GC 495.1; 1911}](#)

Satan questioned God's wisdom, and His law regarding the order of heaven.

“Sin originated with him who, next to Christ, had been most honored of God and who stood highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of heaven. Before his fall, Lucifer was first of the covering cherubs, holy and undefiled. ‘Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering....Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.’ Ezekiel 28:12-15.” [{EGW; GC 493.3; 1911}](#)

His pride and his envy grew as he coveted the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His only begotten Son.

“Little by little, Lucifer came to indulge the desire of self-exaltation. The Scripture says: ‘Thine heart was lifted up because of thine beauty; thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness.’ ‘Thou hast said in thine heart, ... I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; ... I will be like the Most High.’ 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.** Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. **And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.**” [{EGW; PP 35.2; 18090}](#)

The divine Son of God was next to the Father, and yet He had been made equal with the Father, and He was above Lucifer, while Lucifer was next to Christ. This was the order of Heaven. Lucifer was not con-

tent with this order that clearly defined his position. Lucifer wanted to change this order and reorganize the government of God.

“The trouble in heaven came because Lucifer, the angel of brightness, was not given the supremacy over Christ.” {EGW; [16LtMs, Lt 146, 1901, par. 5](#)}

SATAN SPREAD DOUBTS AMONG THE ANGELS

What was the difference between Christ and Satan, and does this difference have anything to do with the order of Heaven?

*“Lucifer was the most beautiful angel in the heavenly courts next to Jesus Christ, but Christ was one with God, assimilated to the image of God to do the will of God. Satan, knowing that Christ had the first place next to God, began to insinuate to the angels that he should be next to God. His great beauty and exalted position made him feel that he was not receiving due honor **in being second to Christ**. Therefore he would suggest this to the angels, and this suggestion [began] to be communicated to the heavenly angels, and finally [it was] **brought before God that Lucifer was the one who should be next to God**. Thus the seed was sown and the result was that angels sympathized with Lucifer; next, there was war in heaven. Lucifer’s beautiful appearance was constantly exalted **and the Lord God of heaven [saw] that Lucifer and his party were very strong against Christ**.”* {EGW; [Ms 90, 1910, par.4](#)}

The difference between Christ and Satan was that Christ was one with God, assimilated to the image of God. He was not a created being, as Lucifer was, but he was God’s Son, begotten in the express image of the Father’s person. That set Him apart from all the created beings. With the Father, He possessed divine creative power and authority.

“A complete offering has been made; for ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,’—not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner;

but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” {EGW; ST May 30, 1895, par. 3}

Satan rebelled against God's law of order of heavenly beings, and went around spreading criticism against God's government.

“The rebellion against God's law was begun by Satan in heaven. By this rebellion sin was brought into existence. There is only one definition of sin. ‘Sin is the transgression of the law.’” {EGW; 17LtMs, Ms 1, 1902, par. 1}

In order to pursue his quest of ascending to the position of the Most High, as equal with the Father, Lucifer sowed seeds of doubt in the government of God. The government of God was governed by God's law. This law was the law that described the order of Heaven. Christ was next to God, exalted to be equal with Him, and Lucifer was next to Christ. Lucifer rebelled against this particular law.

[Satan was] “the exalted angel who was given a position next to Jesus Christ in the heavenly courts. Lucifer was enshrouded with glory as the covering cherub. Yet this angel whom God had created, and entrusted with power, became desirous of being as God. He gained the sympathy of some of his associates by suggesting thoughts of criticism regarding the government of God. This evil seed was scattered in a most seducing manner; and after it sprung up and taken root in the minds of many, he gathered the ideas that he himself had first implanted in the minds of others and brought them before the highest order of angels as the thoughts of other minds against the government of God. Thus, by ingenious methods of his own devising, Lucifer introduced rebellion in heaven.” {EGW; 21LtMs, Lt 162, 1906, par. 5}

Satan was criticizing God's government in which the Father made Jesus one with Himself. He wanted to change the law of God's order.

“Jesus was made one with God. [See Patriarchs and Prophets, 37, 38.] His exaltation created envy and jealousy in Satan’s heart. Satan insisted that God had not dealt with him justly. He criticized God’s plan of government. He declared the divine law to be arbitrary, detrimental to the interests of the heavenly universe, and in need of change.” {EGW; 17LtMs, Ms 1, 1902, par. 2}

Satan was endeavoring to undermine the angels’ confidence in God’s law.

“Vital interests were at stake in the worlds that God had created. Would these supposed defects be made so apparent that the inhabitants of the heavenly universe would be justified in claiming that the law could be improved? Would Satan succeed in undermining their confidence in the law?” {EGW; 17LtMs, Ms 1, 1902, par. 3}

Satan insinuated that the law which governs the order of Heaven was arbitrary and should be changed. Why wasn’t this possible?

“Not the smallest jot or tittle of the law has ever been given over to Satan, to be manipulated according to his fancy. If this could have been done, it would have been when the matter was first agitated in the heavenly courts. But there the first intimation of a change in God’s law was met by a decided No. This led to a battle in heaven, and Satan, next to Christ the most exalted being in the heavenly courts, was overcome, and with his sympathizers cast out of heaven.” {EGW; RH August 9, 1898, par. 7; 1898}

The main question is, “*is the law governing the order of Heaven, arbitrary, meaning it can be changed, and if not, why?*” Any intimation to change this law was met by a decided NO. Why?

“The service and exaltation of self, contrary to the Creator’s plan, awakened forebodings of evil in minds to whom God’s glory was supreme. The heavenly councils pleaded with Lucifer. The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of his law. God himself had established the order of Heaven; and in

*departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker, and bring ruin upon himself. But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance. **Lucifer allowed jealousy of Christ to prevail, and he became the more determined.***”
[{EGW; GC 494.2; 1911}](#)

This law which Lucifer rebelled against is a law of unchanging nature. It cannot be changed. It is not an arbitrary law. The Father has established this law. The Father has established the order of Heaven.

“God is a moral governor as well as a Father. He is the Law-giver.” [{EGW; 12MR 208.2; 1876}](#)

*“Until this time all heaven had been in order, harmony, and perfect subjection to the government of God. **It was the highest sin to rebel against His order and will.** All heaven seemed in commotion. The angels were marshaled in companies, each division with a higher commanding angel at its head. Satan, ambitious to exalt himself, and unwilling to submit to the authority of Jesus, was insinuating against the government of God. Some of the angels sympathized with Satan in his rebellion, and others strongly contended for the honor and wisdom of God **in giving authority to His Son.**”* [{EGW; EW 145.2; 1882}](#)

Satan was very deceptive and secretive in his work. The Father allowed the rebellion to develop.

“He, [Satan] the originator of sin, worked with all his deceptive powers and satanic subtlety to become equal with God in heaven, as the Son of God was. Then, he thought, he could sway the heavenly angels as he desired. This specious, deceptive work was carried on secretly. The archdeceiver himself concealed his identity, so far as was possible, and the Lord permitted this rebellion to develop before anything was done to save the angelic host from apostasy.” [{EGW; 18LtMs, Lt 271a, 1903, par. 7}](#)

THE FATHER CONFERS HONOR ON HIS SON

In order to solve newly aroused questions in regards to God's law, the order of Heaven, and the true position of His Son, the Father assembled entire heavenly hosts to clear these questions up. He had set forth the true position of His Son.

“The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that he might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon his Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. The Father then made known that it was ordained by Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself; so that wherever was the presence of his Son, it was as his own presence. The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father. His Son he had invested with authority to command the heavenly host. Especially was his Son to work in union with himself in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon the earth. His Son would carry out his will and his purposes, but would do nothing of himself alone. The Father’s will would be fulfilled in him.” {EGW; 1SP 17.2; 1870}

“The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father’s throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng—‘ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands’ (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. The Son of God had wrought the Father’s will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and alle-

giance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God's plan, but would exalt the Father's glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love." {EGW; PP 36.2: 1890}

The Father had set forth the true position of Christ. "None but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes". "It was ordained by the [Father] Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Him".

"The angels joyfully acknowledged the supremacy of Christ, and prostrating themselves before Him, poured out their love and adoration. Lucifer bowed with them, but in his heart there was a strange, fierce conflict. Truth, justice, and loyalty were struggling against envy and jealousy. The influence of the holy angels seemed for a time to carry him with them. As songs of praise ascended in melodious strains, swelled by thousands of glad voices, the spirit of evil seemed vanquished; unutterable love thrilled his entire being; his soul went out, in harmony with the sinless worshippers, in love to the Father and the Son. But again he was filled with pride in his own glory. His desire for supremacy returned, and envy of Christ was once more indulged. The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as God's special gift, and therefore, called forth no gratitude to his Creator. He gloried in his brightness and exaltation and aspired to be equal with God. He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host, angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was exalted above him, as one in power and authority with the Father. He shared the Father's counsels, while Lucifer did not thus enter into the purposes of God. 'Why,' questioned this mighty angel, 'should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He honored above Lucifer?'" {EGW; PP 36.3: 1890}

Why should Christ have supremacy? Even after the great council of God, and after the Father set forth to clear this question, Lucifer still

asked this question. Why should Christ have supremacy? What is the basis of Christ's supremacy over Lucifer? Again, is this order something arbitrarily defined, or is there something more to it? Lucifer wanted to change the order by coveting Christ's position, and in order to gain his means, he started to insinuate that the order of Heaven is arbitrarily defined. The Son of God was exalted above him. Why was Christ exalted to His position? Is Christ's position arbitrary or is there a reason why this law is of unchangeable nature?

SATAN'S REBELLION AGAINST THE ORDER OF HEAVEN

Lucifer continued to strive for supremacy over Christ. After the Father had publicly stated the true position of His Son, Lucifer started to work more openly. What were his arguments in face of a clear revelation of the Father?

“Leaving his place in the immediate presence of the Father, Lucifer went forth to diffuse the spirit of discontent among the angels. He worked with mysterious secrecy, and for a time concealed his real purpose under an appearance of reverence for God. He began to insinuate doubts concerning the laws that governed heavenly beings, intimating that though laws might be necessary for the inhabitants of the worlds, angels, being more exalted, needed no such restraint, for their own wisdom was a sufficient guide. They were not beings that could bring dishonor to God; all their thoughts were holy; it was no more possible for them than for God Himself to err. The exaltation of the Son of God as equal with the Father was represented as an injustice to Lucifer, who, it was claimed, was also entitled to reverence and honor. If this prince of angels could but attain to his true, exalted position, great good would accrue to the entire host of heaven; for it was his object to secure freedom for all. But now even the liberty which they had hitherto enjoyed was at an end; for an absolute Ruler had been appointed them, and to His authori-

ty all must pay homage. Such were the subtle deceptions that through the wiles of Lucifer were fast obtaining in the heavenly courts.” [{EGW; PP 37.1; 1890}](#)

Lucifer wanted to reform the government of God. He wanted to change “the laws that governed heavenly beings”. This law is not arbitrary but he presented it as such.

*“Satan wished to change the government of God, to fix his own seal to the rules of God’s kingdom. Christ would not be brought into this desire, and here **the warfare against Christ** commenced and waxed strong. Working in secrecy but known to God, Lucifer became a deceiving character. He told falsehood for truth.”* [{EGW; 6LtMs, Ms 57, 1890, par. 2}](#)

In the great assembly before the Father, the Father had set forth the true position of His Son. The Father exalted His Son to be equal with Him. Now Satan insinuated that this exaltation had just happened, that now there is an absolute ruler set over them, and this exaltation Lucifer presented as injustice to himself. But was the exaltation before all the assembly of the host a change of Christ’s position?

*“The true position of the Son of God had been the same from the beginning. Many of the angels were, however, blinded by Lucifer’s deceptions. He so artfully instilled into their minds his own distrust and discontent that his agency was not discerned. **Lucifer had presented the purposes of God in a false light to excite dissent and dissatisfaction. While claiming for himself perfect loyalty to God, he urged that changes were necessary for the stability of the divine government. While secretly fomenting discord and rebellion, he caused it to appear as his sole purpose to promote loyalty, and to preserve harmony and peace.”*** [{EGW; EP 12.1; 1983}](#)

*“He sought to create sympathy for himself by representing that God had dealt unjustly with him **in bestowing supreme honor upon Christ**. He claimed that in aspiring to greater power and honor he was not aiming at self-exaltation, but was seeking to*

secure liberty for all the inhabitants of heaven, that by this means they might attain to a higher state of existence.” {EGW; GC 495.2; 1911}

The government of God cannot be changed unless the law of God that governs the heavenly beings would be changed. This law defines the order of Heaven, which Lucifer wanted to change, and put himself to be in Christ's place, equal with God. The following quotation explains Satan's rebellion against God. Satan's crime was that he refused to recognize the dignity of the Son of God. Satan is described as:

“one who had been expelled from Heaven for leading a rebellion against the supreme Ruler of the universe, and whose very crime had been a refusal to recognize the dignity of the Son of God.” {EGW; 2SP 93.1; 1877}

This rebellion, and this crime of Satan was a violation of God's unchangeable law. But Lucifer insinuated that God's law was arbitrary and unjust, and the proof to back it up, was the exaltation of Christ at this great meeting before the Creator. *“He sought to create sympathy for himself by representing that God had dealt unjustly with him in bestowing supreme honor upon Christ”*. But the supreme honor of Christ was unchanged, the position of Christ was the same from the beginning. This was the artful insinuation of Lucifer to present God's Holy Law as arbitrary. But why is the law that governs the heavenly beings not an arbitrary law?

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR LUCIFER TO BE ABOVE CHRIST

Why can't Lucifer ascend to the position of Christ? Why does Christ have supremacy over Satan? The Father explained the truth to him:

[Lucifer's] *“beauty was so highly exalted that he thought he should be as God, and Christ must be second to him; but the Lord in-*

formed Satan this could not be possible. Christ was His only begotten Son.” {EGW; 25LtMs, Lt 157, 1910, par. 7}

It was not possible because Christ was His only begotten Son! But Lucifer would not submit to the divine decree, and he continued his rebellion.

“While there was no open outbreak, division of feeling imperceptibly grew up among the angels. Some looked with favor upon Lucifer’s insinuations. They were discontented and unhappy, dissatisfied with God’s purpose in exalting Christ. But angels who were loyal maintained the wisdom and justice of the divine decree. Christ was the Son of God, one with Him before the angels were called into existence. He had ever stood at the right hand of the Father. Wherefore should there now be discord?” {EGW; EP 12.2; 1983}

The reason why Christ has supremacy over Lucifer was not because of some arbitrary and questionable decree of the Father. It was because Christ is **the Son of God!** Accepting the Sonship of Christ as the basis to His authority was the differentiating factor between the loyal and rebellious angels. The true Sonship of Christ was the argument that the Father had stated in the great assembly, and that argument should have quenched the rebellion.

“Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and Lucifer, that glorious angel, got up a warfare over the matter, until he had to be thrust down to the earth.” {EGW; 25LtMs, Ms 86, 1910, par. 29}

The rebellion of Lucifer was completely illogical and evil. He started a warfare, called the great controversy between Christ and Satan because he refused to accept the divine decree that Christ was the only begotten Son of God!

*“The prince of fallen angels conducted the warfare **against the only begotten Son of God.**”* {EGW; RH May 23, 1899, par. 9}

The unsubdued pride and envy in Satan’s heart caused him to have a major temper tantrum because he could not get his way! He wanted to

evict the only begotten Son of God from His rightful place, so he could have it. His extreme selfishness caused him to revolt against God's law of order.

*“Pride will never be admitted into heaven. Can we cherish envy in our hearts and yet be found in the kingdom of God?—No; envy cannot be transplanted into the kingdom of God. Satan originated this terrible evil, and its result was that **Satan desired and sought to take the place of the only-begotten Son of God. It was because he could not have the place of Christ that Satan revolted in heaven.**”* [{EGW; ST February 5, 1894, par. 3}](#)

*“When God would not concede to Satan's claim to a place above **His only begotten Son**, Satan rebelled. There was war in heaven, and he was cast out. He pressed his claim to be placed above Christ, but the warfare resulted in his losing his position in the heavenly courts.”* [{EGW; 25LtMs, Lt 132, 1910, par. 4}](#)

This process of Satanic rebellion was lengthy, stretching over a long period of time.

*“This condition of things had existed **a long period of time** before Satan was unmasked and the evil ones expelled. Only think—a war in heaven!”* [{EGW; 21LtMs, Lt 162, 1906, par. 7}](#)

*“**God in His great mercy bore long with Lucifer.** He was not immediately degraded from his exalted station when he first indulged the spirit of discontent, nor even when he began to present his false claims before the loyal angels. Long was he retained in heaven. **Again and again he was offered pardon on condition of repentance and submission. Such efforts as only infinite love and wisdom could devise were made to convince him of his error.** The spirit of discontent had never before been known in heaven. Lucifer himself did not at first see whither he was drifting; he did not understand the real nature of his feelings. **But as his dissatisfaction was proved to be without cause, Lucifer was convinced that he was in the wrong, that the divine claims were just, and that he ought to acknowledge them as such before***

*all heaven. Had he done this, he might have saved himself and many angels. He had not at this time fully cast off his allegiance to God. Though he had forsaken his position as covering cherub, yet if he had been willing to return to God, **acknowledging the Creator's wisdom**, and satisfied to fill the place appointed him in **God's great plan**, he would have been reinstated in his office. **But pride forbade him to submit.**" {[EGW; GC 495.3; 1911](#)}*

The loyal angels became very concerned about what was taking place. They hastened to their great commander, God's only begotten Son, to make a report, and they find that the Father and Son are well aware of the situation.

*"The loyal angels hasten speedily to the Son of God, and acquaint him with what is taking place among the angels. **They find the Father in conference with his beloved Son**, to determine the means by which, for the best good of the loyal angels, the assumed authority of Satan could be forever put down." {[EGW; 1SP 21.1; 1870](#)}*

*"True, faithful angels, listening, hear the awful threats of Satan, and immediately report to their great commander. Christ tells them that he and the Father are acquainted with the purposes of Satan, and that they are forbearing only to see how many will unite with him to rebel **against the government of God**. He tells them that every purpose of Satan is understood." {[EGW; 3SG 37.1; 1864](#)}*

"It was the highest crime to rebel against the government of God. All Heaven seemed in commotion. The angels were marshaled in companies, each division with a higher commanding angel at their head. Satan was warring against the law of God, because ambitious to exalt himself, and unwilling to submit to the authority of Gods' Son, Heaven's great commander." {[EGW; 1SP 22.1; 1864](#)}

God's law, declaring that the only begotten Son was above Lucifer, could not be changed. How did God counteract Satan's rebellion? The

means of God to suppress Satan's rebellion was His word and His testimony to the Sonship of Christ. Why didn't He use force?

*“God in His wisdom did not use measures of force to suppress Satan's rebellion. **Such measures would have aroused sympathy for Satan, strengthening his rebellion rather than changing his principles.** If God had summarily punished him, many would have looked upon him as one who had dealt with unjustly, and he would have carried a much larger number with him in his apostasy.”* [{EGW; Ms1-1902.4; 1902}](#)

*“It was necessary to give Satan time to develop his principles. **He has had every opportunity to present his side of the question. He has been artful. As often as his position has been seen in its true light, he has changed to some other position. By making false charges, and by misstating the purposes and declared will of God, he has secured sympathizers.**”* [{EGW; 17LtMs, Ms 1, 1902, par. 5}](#)

*“**He persistently defended his own course, maintained that he had no need of repentance, and fully committed himself, in the great controversy, against his Maker.**”* [{EGW; GC 495.3; 1911}](#)

The Maker did not use force to suppress Satan's rebellion. He bore long with Lucifer. The only means by which God dealt with Satan was by divine mercy, love, longsuffering and by His word and His testimony. How did Satan manage to deceive one third of the angels?

*“All the powers of his master mind were now bent to the work of deception, to secure the sympathy of the angels that had been under his command. Even the fact that Christ had warned and counseled him was perverted to serve his traitorous designs. To those whose loving trust bound them most closely to him, Satan had represented that he was wrongly judged, that his position was not respected, and that his liberty was to be abridged. **From misrepresentation of the words of Christ he passed to prevarication and direct falsehood, accusing the Son of God of a design to humiliate him before the inhabitants of heaven. He sought***

also to make a false issue between himself and the loyal angels. All whom he could not subvert and bring fully to his side he accused of indifference to the interests of heavenly beings. The very work which he himself was doing he charged upon those who remained true to God. And to sustain his charge of God's injustice toward him, he resorted to misrepresentation of the words and acts of the Creator. It was his policy to perplex the angels with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery, and by artful perversion cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah. His high position, in such close connection with the divine administration, gave greater force to his representations, and many were induced to unite with him in rebellion against Heaven's authority." {EGW; GC 496.1; 1911}

SATAN REBELLED AGAINST THE SON'S AUTHORITY

The Father stated plainly "*that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will*", and "*it was ordained by Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself*". By artful perversion, the great deceiver cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery.

"There was contention among the angels. Satan and his sympathizers were striving to reform the government of God. They were discontented and unhappy because they could not look into his unsearchable wisdom and ascertain his purposes in exalting his Son Jesus, and endowing him with such unlimited power and command. They rebelled against the authority of the Son." {EGW; ST January 9, 1879, par. 3}

"All the angels were astir. Satan was warring against the government of God, because [he was] ambitious to exalt himself

and unwilling to submit to the authority of God's Son, Heaven's great commander." {EGW; 3SG 37.1; 1864}

But Satan was not fully successful with his rebellion against the authority of the Son. There were angels who were loyal, and they argued with Lucifer against his artful perversion against the Son of God.

*"While some of the angels joined Satan in his rebellion, others reasoned with him to dissuade him from his purposes, **contending for the honor and wisdom of God in giving authority to his Son. Satan urged, for what reason was Christ endowed with unlimited power and such high command above himself! He stood up proudly, and urged that he should be equal with God. He makes his boasts to his sympathizers that he will not submit to the authority of Christ.**" {EGW; 3SG 37.2; 1864}*

For what reason was Christ endowed with unlimited power? Why is Christ exalted to be equal with God? Satan insinuated that the Father's exaltation of the Son before all angels was the proof that this law which governs the order of Heaven is arbitrary, and that he should occupy his desired position. Lucifer hid the fact that Christ retained the same position after the great assembly before the Father as from the beginning. In this way, he presented the law to be arbitrary. But the position of Christ was not arbitrary. There is a reason why Christ occupied His position and why Lucifer could not have this position. The loyal angels set forth the counterargument:

"Angels that were loyal and true sought to reconcile this mighty, rebellious angel to the will of his Creator. They justified the act of God in conferring honor upon Jesus Christ, and with forcible reasoning sought to convince Satan that no less honor was his now than before the Father had proclaimed the honor which he had conferred upon his Son. They clearly set forth that Jesus was the Son of God, existing with him before the angels were created; and that he had ever stood at the right hand of God, and his mild, loving authority had not heretofore been questioned; and that he had given no commands but what it was joy for the heavenly host to execute. They urged that Christ's

*receiving special honor from the Father; in the presence of the angels, **did not detract from the honor that he had heretofore received.** The angels wept. They anxiously sought to move Satan to renounce his wicked design and yield submission to their Creator; for all had heretofore been peace and harmony, and what could occasion this dissenting, rebellious voice?"* {EGW; [1SP 19.1, 1870](#)}

The argument by which the loyal angels defended the order of Heaven was that Christ was the Son of God: "*They clearly set forth that Jesus was the Son of God, existing with him before the angels were created; and that he had ever stood at the right hand of God*". There was no change in the position of Christ. The reason Lucifer could not occupy the position of Christ was because Christ was the Only Begotten Son of God. Lucifer was also a son of God, but not in the same sense as Christ was. How was Christ, the Son of God, different to Lucifer, the fallen angel?

"Christ was the Son of God; He had been one with Him before the angels were called into existence." {EGW; [PP 38.3; 1890](#)}

The Sonship of Christ was under question. Christ is not the Son of God in an **arbitrary sense**, but He is, **in fact**, God's Son, *begotten* in the express image of the Father's person. For this reason, the law of God that governs the order of Heaven could not have been changed.

"This fact the angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ." {EGW; [25LtMs, Lt 42, 1910, par. 3](#)}

"[Satan] He occupied a special, exalted position in the heavenly courts. He must have no one higher than himself. He must be next to God in efficiency. But Christ was above him, and he claimed he must be above Christ. Christ was the only begotten Son of God, united with God." {EGW; [25LtMs, Lt 157, 1910, par. 1](#)}

Satan's insinuations that the Father's statement of the position of His Son is injustice towards him, is based only on Lucifer's misrepresenta-

tions of Jehovah's plain words. Christ's position couldn't have changed on that event since Christ's position was based not on arbitrary decision, but rather on the fact that Christ was the Only Begotten Son of God, made in the express image of the Father's person.

“There had been no change in the position or authority of Christ. Lucifer’s envy and misrepresentation and his claims to equality with Christ had made necessary a statement of the true position of the Son of God; but this had been the same from the beginning. Many of the angels were, however, blinded by Lucifer’s deceptions.” {EGW; PP 38.1; 1890}

Was the fact that Christ was the begotten Son of God unknown to Satan and other angels?

“Satan was well acquainted with the position of honor Christ had held in Heaven as the Son of God, the beloved of the Father.” {EGW; RH March 3, 1874, par. 21}

The fact that Christ was the only begotten Son of God was the fact which alone, if accepted, would suppress the entire rebellion of Satan. But the fallen angels, together with Lucifer himself, would obscure this crucial fact.

“To dispute the supremacy of the Son of God, thus impeaching the wisdom and love of the Creator, had become the purpose of this prince of angels. To this object he was about to bend the energies of that master mind, which, next to Christ’s, was first among the host of God.” {EGW; PP 36.1; 1890}

WHAT LAW DID SATAN TRANSGRESS?

What was the sin of Satan? Sin is the transgression of God's law. The law that Satan transgressed was the law which governs the order of Heaven. This law was unchangeable in nature; it was not arbitrary. It was unchangeable because Christ's position was rooted in the fact that

He was the only begotten Son of God, equal in power, majesty and excellence.

“It was in seeking to exalt himself above the Son of God that Satan had sinned in heaven.” {EGW; DA 129.3; 1898}

“It is stated, Thou wast exalted because of thy beauty, et cetera. But he wanted to have the place of Christ, and Christ was one with the Infinite God; and because this was not accorded him, he became jealous, and he was the originator of sin”. {EGW; 6LtMs, Ms 57, 1890, par. 1}

“But Lucifer, the most glorious angel next to Christ, thought himself equal with God and made the effort, because of his beauty and glory, that he should be next to God, and then he could work out God’s plans. Thus Lucifer claimed the position next to the Creator. But Christ was the only begotten Son of God. Lucifer made war in heaven and would not take the position God assigned him, therefore he fell from his high estate...” {EGW; 24LtMs, Lt 189, 1909, par. 29}

“[Satan] He commenced war in heaven for the preeminence, worked with the angels until they were deceived, and concluded they would war against God. But the [loyal angels] would not yield the point that Christ should have the preeminence next to God. And there was war in heaven.” {EGW; 25LtMs, Ms 90, 1910, par. 1}

Lucifer knew that his wish to change the order of Heaven was not possible. The only reason why Satan successfully persists in his cause was because he misrepresented God’s testimony about His Son.

“God desired that a change take place and that the work of Satan be brought out in its genuine aspect. But the exalted angel, standing next to Christ, was opposed to the Son of God. The underworking was so subtle that it could not be made to appear before the heavenly host as the thing that it really was; and so there was war in heaven, and Satan was expelled with all who would not stand on the side of loyalty to God’s government. The

Lord God stood forth as Supreme Ruler.” {EGW; 2LtMs, Lt 162, 1906, par. 6}

LOYAL ANGELS WARNED LUCIFER

“They [loyal angels] urged [Satan] that Christ’s receiving special honor from the Father, in the presence of the angels, did not detract from the honor that he had heretofore received. The angels wept. They anxiously sought to move Satan to renounce his wicked design and yield submission to their Creator; for all had heretofore been peace and harmony, and what could occasion this dissenting, rebellious voice?” {EGW; 1SP 19.1; 1870}

*“Rejecting with disdain the entreaties of the loyal angels, he denounced them as deluded slaves. **He would never again acknowledge the supremacy of Christ.** He had determined to claim the honor which should have been given him. **And he promised those who would enter his ranks a new and better government under which all would enjoy freedom.** Great numbers of the angels signified their purpose to accept him as their leader. **He hoped to win all the angels to his side, to become equal with God Himself, and to be obeyed by the entire host of heaven.**”* {EGW; EP 13.2; 1983}

*“Satan refused to listen. And then he turned from the loyal and true angels, denouncing them as slaves. These angels, true to God, stood in amazement as they saw that Satan was successful in his effort to excite rebellion. He promised them a new and better government than they then had; in which all would be freedom. **Great numbers signified their purpose to accept Satan as their leader and chief commander.** As he saw his advances were met with success, he flattered himself that he should yet have all the angels on his side, **and that he would be equal with God himself, and his voice of authority would be heard in commanding the entire host of Heaven.** Again the loyal angels warned Satan, and assured him what must be the consequence if he persisted; that He who could create the angels, could by his power overturn all*

*their authority, and in some signal manner punish their audacity and terrible rebellion. To think that an angel should resist **the law of God which was as sacred as himself!** They warned the rebellious to close their ears to Satan's deceptive reasonings, and advised Satan, and all who had been affected by him, to go to God and confess their wrong for even admitting a thought of questioning his authority." {EGW; 1SP 20.1; 1870}*

*"Many of Satan's sympathizers were inclined to heed the counsel of the loyal angels, and repent of their dissatisfaction, **and be again received to the confidence of the Father and his dear Son.** The mighty revolter then declared that he was acquainted with God's law, and if he should submit to servile obedience, his honor would be taken from him. No more would he be intrusted with his exalted mission. He told them that himself and they also had now gone too far to go back, and he would brave the consequences; **for to bow in servile worship to the Son of God he never would;** that God would not forgive, and now they must assert their liberty and gain by force the position and authority which was not willingly accorded to them." {EGW; 1SP 20.2; 1870}*

*"Satan had sympathizers in heaven, and took large numbers of the angels with him. **God and Christ and heavenly angels were on one side, and Satan on the other.** Notwithstanding the infinite power and majesty of God and Christ, angels became disaffected. The insinuations of Satan took effect, and they really came to **believe that the Father and the Son were their enemies and that Satan was their benefactor.**" {EGW; 3T 328.1; 1885}*

THE FATHER SUMMONED ALL ANGELS - EACH CASE DECIDED

Heaven had become polarized. The time had come for each case to be decided. Judgment day had arrived for the heavenly host. Satan boldly

challenged the Father with his despicable idea that he should have supremacy over the Son of God.

“All the heavenly host were summoned to appear before the Father, to have each case determined. Satan unblushingly made known his dissatisfaction that Christ should be preferred before him. He stood up proudly and urged that he should be equal with God, and should be taken into conference with the Father and understand his purposes. God informed Satan that to his Son alone he would reveal his secret purposes, and he required all the family in Heaven, even Satan, to yield him implicit, unquestioned obedience; but that he (Satan) had proved himself unworthy a place in Heaven.” [{EGW; 1SP 22.2; 1870}](#)

The Father, in His supreme authority, put Satan in his place. He required of him implicit, unquestioning obedience. The Father declared that Son was the only one who could know His secret purposes. The Father didn't budge one bit.

*“At length all the angels are summoned to appear before the Father, to have each case decided. Satan unblushingly makes known to all the heavenly family, his discontent, that Christ should be preferred before him, to be in such close conference with God, and he be uninformed as to the result of their frequent consultations. **God informs Satan that this he can never know.** That to his Son will he reveal his secret purposes, and that all the family of Heaven, Satan not excepted, were required to yield implicit obedience. Satan boldly speaks out his rebellion, and points to a large company who think God is unjust in not exalting him to be equal with God, and in not giving him command above Christ. He declares he cannot submit to be under Christ's command, that God's commands alone will he obey. Good angels weep to hear the words of Satan, and to see how he despises to follow the direction of Christ, their exalted and loving commander.”* [{EGW; 3SG 37.3; 1864}](#)

“All the heavenly host were summoned to appear before the Father to have each case decided. It was there determined that

*Satan should be expelled from heaven, with all the angels who had joined him in the rebellion. Then there was war in heaven. Angels were engaged in the battle; **Satan wished to conquer the Son of God and those who were submissive to His will.** But the good and true angels prevailed, and Satan, with his followers, was driven from heaven.” [{EGW; EW 145.2; 1882}](#)*

WAR IN HEAVEN

*“Then Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising nearly one half of all the angels, and exclaimed, These are with me! Will you expel these also, and make such a void in Heaven? **He then declared that he was prepared to resist the authority of Christ, and to defend his place in Heaven by force of might, strength against strength.**” [{EGW; 1SP 22.2; 1870}](#)*

*“The Father decides the case of Satan, and declares that he must be turned out of Heaven for his daring rebellion, and that all those who united with him in his rebellion, should be turned out with him. Then there was war in Heaven. **Christ and his angels fought against Satan and his angels, for they were determined to remain in Heaven with all their rebellion.** But they prevailed not. Christ and loyal angels triumphed, and drove Satan and his rebel sympathizers from Heaven.” [{EGW; 3SG 38.1; 1864}](#)*

*“The great God could at once have hurled this arch deceiver from heaven; but this was not His purpose. He would give the rebellious an equal chance to measure strength and might with His own Son and His loyal angels. In this battle every angel would choose his own side, and his character and purposes would be manifested to all. It would not have been safe to suffer any who united with Satan in his rebellion to continue to occupy heaven. They had learned the lesson of genuine rebellion against **the unchangeable law of God; and this is incurable.**” [{EGW; ST January 9, 1879, par. 7}](#)*

“Christ, as Commander of heaven, was appointed to put down the rebellion.” {EGW; RH, May 30, 1899. par. 4; 1899}

“Then there was war in Heaven. The Son of God, the Prince of Heaven, and his loyal angels, engaged in conflict with the arch rebel and those who united with him.” {EGW; 1SP 22.3; 1870}

“Satan was warring against the government of God, because ambitious to exalt himself and unwilling to submit to the authority of God’s Son, Heaven’s great commander.” {EGW; 3SG 37.1; 1864}

“Two great powers are now on the field of battle. Satan, who at one time stood next to Christ in the courts of heaven, has become the adversary of man. Before the fall of Lucifer, he aspired for the supremacy that had been given to Christ, who was one with the Father in the government of heaven. There was war in heaven, and Satan and all the rebellious angels he had deceived were overcome. Those who had opposed the will of God in appointing Christ as the chief ruler were cast out of the heavenly courts, and since that time they have been warring against the Most High.” {EGW; 25LtMs, Lt 24, 1910, par. 4}

“Satan’s dissatisfaction first commenced in heaven because He could not be first and highest in command — equal with God, exalted above Christ. He rebelled and lost his estate; and he, and those who sympathized with him, were turned out of heaven.” {EGW; 1T 293.3; 1885}

“...when the angels came to claim the highest place in heaven, above the only begotten Son of God, it was not given to them. And because they did not receive it, there was war in heaven, and those that wanted a higher place, to crowd out Christ Jesus, were cast out of heaven because they would not repent and accept the rule of God; and they may be listening to me today”. {EGW; 25LtMs, Ms 84, 1910, par. 36}

“... Satan, next to Christ the most exalted being, in the heavenly court, was overcome, and with his sympathizers cast out of heav-

*en. Thus it was shown that Satan was not right, **and that God has not abolished His law**, as the prince of darkness claimed that He should.”* [{EGW; 13LtMs, Ms 4a, 1898, par. 10}](#)

*“When Satan rebelled against the government of God, and there was **war in heaven**, he with those who had been deceived by him, and who had **disputed the authority of God**, were expelled from the heavenly courts. Satan **desired to be first in power and authority**; he wanted to be **equal with God** and to have **the rulership** in heaven; and he won a large number of the angels to his allegiance. What the results were we need not repeat here. All the sad history has been dwelt upon and is to be found in our printed books, which all our people can read if they choose.”* [{EGW; 24LtMs, Ms 1, 1909, par. 3}](#)

*“The **heavenly universe** witnessed the **weapons** that were chosen by the **Prince of Life**—the words of Scripture ‘It is written’—and the weapons used by the **prince of the world**—**falsehood and deception**. They saw the **Prince of Life** deal in straight-forward lines of **truth, honesty, and integrity**, while the prince of the world exercised his powers of **cunning, artful secrecy, intrigue, enmity, and revenge**. They saw the **One** who bore the banner of **truth sacrifice everything, even His own life, to maintain truth**, while the one who bore the banner of **rebellion** continued his **accusations against the God of truth**. Then the **heavenly worlds and heaven itself** were amazed at the **forbearance that God** had so long shown Satan. **God’s government was secure**. His law was proved **faultless**. **The Father, the Son, and Lucifer were revealed in their real relation to each other.**”* [{EGW; 17LtMs, Ms 1, 1902, par. 18}](#)

Satan, together with his sympathizers, were cast out from the courts of God. He wasn’t cast down to earth, for earth was not yet created, but he was cast out of the place where God dwells.

“Satan stood in amazement at his new condition. His happiness was gone. He looked upon the angels who, with him, were once

*so happy, but who had been expelled from heaven.... Now all seemed changed. Countenances which had reflected the image of their Maker were **gloomy and despairing**. **Strife, discord, and bitter recrimination**, were among them.... Satan now beholds **the terrible results** of his rebellion. He **shuddered, and feared** to face the future, and to **contemplate** the end of these things.” [\[EGW; 1SP 28.1; 1870\]](#)*

LUCIFER REMEMBERS PRAISING GOD

*“The hour for joyful, happy songs of praise to God and his dear Son had come. Satan had led the heavenly choir. He had raised the first note, then all the angelic host united with him, and glorious strains of music had resounded through Heaven in honor of God and his dear Son. But now, instead of strains of sweetest music, discord and angry words fall upon the ear of the great rebel leader. Where was he? Was it not all a horrible dream? Was he shut out of Heaven? Were the gates of Heaven never more to open and admit him? The hour of worship draws nigh, when bright and holy angels bow before the Father. No more will he unite in heavenly song. No more will he bow in reverence and holy awe before the presence of the eternal God. Could he be again as he was when he was pure, true and loyal, gladly would he yield up the claims of his authority. But he was **lost! beyond redemption**, for his presumptuous **rebellion!** And this was not all; he had led others to rebellion and to the same lost condition with himself—angels, who had never thought to question the will of Heaven, or refuse obedience to the law of God till he had put it into their minds, presenting before them that they might enjoy a greater good, a higher and more glorious liberty. This had been **the sophistry** whereby he had **deceived** them. A responsibility now rests upon him from which he would fain be released.” [\[EGW; 1SP 28.2; 1870\]](#)*

*“**Satan trembled** as he viewed his work. He was alone in meditation upon the past, the present, and his future plans. **His mighty***

*frame shook as with a tempest. An angel from heaven was passing. He called him, and entreated an interview with Christ. This was granted him. He then related to **the Son of God** that he repented of his rebellion, and wished again the favor of God. He was willing to take the place God had previously assigned him, and be under his wise command. **Christ wept at Satan's woe**, but told him, **as the mind of God**, that he could **never be received into heaven....** The seeds of rebellion were still within him....”* [{EGW; 1SP 29.2; 1870}](#)

*“When Satan became fully convinced that there was no possibility of his being reinstated in the favor of God, **he manifested his malice with increased hatred and fiery vehemence....**”* [{EGW; TA 47.1; 1996}](#)

*“As he could not gain admission **within the gates of heaven**, he would wait just at the entrance, to taunt the angels and seek contention with them as they went in and out.— The Spirit of Prophecy 1:28-30.”* [{EGW; 1SP 30.3; 1870}](#)

THE WAR CONTINUES

*“Satan's rebellion shut him out from the courts of heaven; and all who engaged with him in **warfare against Christ** were cast out with him. The exercise of Satan's seductive arts **against the government of heaven** did not cease with his expulsion from the presence of God. Year by year they have grown **more deceptive, more subtle, more determined**. Every additional evidence rejected increases his power **to resist the government of God and of Christ**. And every ray of hope resisted helps to create for him and for his followers a hopeless future.”* [{EGW; 23LtMs, Ms 73, 1908, par. 9}](#)

Satan's rebellion has not ceased. This rebellion is against Christ and against His rightful position. The pivotal argument which could have quenched the entire rebellion was that **Christ was the Son of God**, not

in an arbitrary sense, but in *a factual sense*. This was the unchanging nature of God's law.

“This fact the angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ.” [{EGW; 25LtMs, Lt 42, 1910, par. 3}](#)

*“War came and the result was that Lucifer, with his party, was thrown out of heaven; and thus **there has been in our world a rebellious party ever since**. Let no man suppose that these angels became saints. Through satanic agencies, the great exaltation of certain ones became united to have **a change in the divine order**.”* [{EGW; 25LtMs, Ms 90, 1910, par. 5}](#)

If only the testimony of the Father was accepted based on His word, there would not have been suffering nor rebellion. Satan did not cease to dispute the Sonship of Christ even when Christ was on the earth.

“Satan came with this temptation: ‘If Thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.’ He tempted Jesus to condescend to give him proof of His being the Messiah, by exercising His divine power. Jesus mildly answered him, ‘It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’” [{EGW; EW 155.3; 1882}](#)

*“Satan was seeking **a dispute with Jesus concerning His being the Son of God**. He referred to His weak, suffering condition and boastfully affirmed that he was stronger than Jesus. But the word spoken from heaven, ‘**Thou art My beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased**,’ was sufficient to sustain Jesus through all His sufferings. I saw that Christ had nothing to do in convincing Satan of His power or of His being the Saviour of the world. **Satan had sufficient evidence of the exalted station and authority of the Son of God. His unwillingness to yield to Christ’s authority had shut him out of heaven.**”* [{EGW; EW 155.4; 1882}](#)

We should not doubt the plainest statements of Jehovah. The plain statement of Christ being the Son of God was sufficient to sustain Jesus through all His suffering. If only angels had accepted the plain state-

ment of God the Father, there would be no sin and suffering. Christ eternally existed as the only begotten Son of God before all creation.

*“But while God’s Word speaks of the humanity of Christ when upon this earth, it also speaks decidedly regarding his **pre-existence**. The Word existed as a **divine being**, even as **the eternal Son of God**, in **union and oneness** with his **Father**. From **everlasting** he was **the Mediator of the covenant**, the one in whom all nations of the earth, both Jews and Gentiles, if they accepted him, were to be blessed. ‘The Word was with God, and the Word was God.’ **Before men or angels were created, the Word was with God, and was God.**”* {EGW; RH April 5, 1906, par. 5}

*“The world was **made by him**, ‘and without him was not anything made that was made.’ **If Christ made all things, he existed before all things**. The words spoken in regard to this are so **decisive** that no one need be left in doubt. **Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore.**”* {EGW; RH April 5, 1906, par. 6}

*“The Lord Jesus Christ, **the divine Son of God**, existed from **eternity**, a distinct person, yet **one** with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly intelligences, and the adoring homage of the angels was received by him as his right. This was no robbery of God. ‘The Lord **possessed me in the beginning of his way**,’ he declares, ‘before his works of old. **I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning**, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was **brought forth**; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills **was I brought forth**; while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth.’”* {EGW; RH April 5, 1906, par. 7}

*“There are light and glory in the truth **that Christ was one with the Father before the foundation of the world was laid**. This is the light shining in a dark place, making it resplendent with*

divine, original glory. This truth, infinitely mysterious in itself, explains, other mysterious and otherwise unexplainable truths, while it is enshrined in light, unapproachable and incomprehensible.” {EGW; RH April 5, 1906, par. 8}

The light and glory in the truth regarding the Father and His only begotten Son is for us to receive without doubt and question, in submission to the law of heaven's order.

*“Satan seeks to keep himself and his work in **disguise**. He does not wish to be known as the one who in heaven sought to be equal with God and brought on a war amongst the angels.”* {EGW; 18LtMs, Ms 102, 1903, par. 14}

Satan is still trying to obscure the truth of Christ's Sonship, causing people to deny that Jesus is truly the Son of God.

*“Thus he [Christ] placed the human family upon vantage-ground, identifying his interest with that of fallen man. The prince of fallen angels conducted **the warfare against the only begotten Son of God**. Evil angels leagued with evil men, and earth and hell arrayed their powers against him, in order to overcome him. Unrighteousness leagued against righteousness and truth, error and iniquity assailed the standard of righteousness. **Satan imbued his instrumentalities with his own spirit**, and men became agents in the deceptive work, playing the game for the life and character of every son and daughter of Adam. He carried out **the same plan** upon which he had **entered in heaven**. There he had succeeded in carrying with him **a large number of angels**, who sought with him to make of no effect the standard of righteousness. Since his expulsion from heaven, **he has worked with unabated earnestness, with sleepless vigilance.**”* {EGW; RH May 23, 1899, par. 9}

It is only in understanding the tremendous love of the Father in giving His Son to die for us that we can become united with Him. The Fatherhood of God, in which He suffered with His Son, reveals His great love.

*“O that everyone would realize the great love, the self-sacrifice, the benevolence, and the kindness of **our heavenly Father, in giv-***

*ing his Son to die for us that we might, if we believe and do his commandments, have a sweet peace, **the Father's joy, the Father's love**, and unite with him, heart, soul, mind, and strength, to maintain righteousness and to draw in even lines with Christ. **It is not the sacrifice of Christ only; it is the Father's sacrifice also.**" {EGW; 2LtMs, Lt 50a, 1897, par. 52}*

*"**The Father, in union and loving sympathy, with his Son, subjected himself to suffer with his Son. He spared not his only begotten Son but freely delivered him up for us all. This gift of Christ is the crowning truth of God's love, and this Fatherhood, through all time and through eternity. Here is the love of God in his Fatherhood. Let us drink in this love, that we may know by experience what a real, tender, joyful, experience there is in a realization of the Fatherhood of God.**" {EGW; 2LtMs, Lt 50a, 1897, par. 53}*

Our loving heavenly Father, the Eternal Father, who cannot change His law, through much grief and pain, consented to give His own Son, His express image, to save us.

*"**The Eternal Father, the unchangeable one, gave his only begotten Son, tore from his bosom Him who was made in the express image of his person, and sent him down to earth to reveal how greatly he loved mankind.**" {EGW; RH July 9, 1895, par. 13}*

*"**In the banishment of Satan from Heaven, God declared his justice, and maintained the honor of his throne. But when man had sinned through yielding to the deceptions of this apostate spirit, God gave an evidence of his love by yielding up his only begotten Son to die for the fallen race. In the atonement the character of God is revealed. The mighty argument of the cross demonstrates to the whole universe that the course of sin which Lucifer had chosen was in nowise chargeable upon the government of God.**" {EGW; GC88 500.5; 1888}*

In summary, we have learned that Satan's sin was in rebelling against the Father's law regarding the divine order of heaven. He wanted to

change that law. Satan would not accept the fact that Christ was the only begotten Son of God.

*“He who was with the Father from the beginning, **the only begotten Son of God**, has paid the redemption price for the ransom of a sinful world.”* [{EGW; 22LtMs, Lt 38, 1907, par. 14}](#)

Satan is doing everything he can to cause God's people to deny the fact that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God.

*“Let us cultivate the meekness of Christ. He was **the Majesty of heaven, the only-begotten Son of God**.”* [{EGW; 9T 208.3; 1909}](#)

Satan hates the fact that Jesus is the only-begotten Son of God, but we must constantly keep this fact before us.

*“**The fact that the only-begotten Son of God** gave His life because of man's transgression, to satisfy justice and to vindicate the honor of God's law, should be **constantly kept before the minds** of children and youth.”* [{EGW; 10LtMs, Lt 60, 1895, par. 7; 1895}](#)

Not one part of God's law could be altered, neither the law of heaven's order nor the ten commandment law. The Sonship of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice is proof of that fact.

*“**The fact that God had to give his only begotten Son** to die for a race condemned by the law, is sufficient to prove that **the law could not be altered one jot or tittle**.”* [{EGW; RH July 24, 1888, par. 7}](#)

Satan demanded to be exalted above Christ. He started the war in heaven over this very issue: **the fact that Christ was the only begotten Son of God**. That fact blocked him from achieving supremacy over Christ. Satan hated the law of the heavenly order which God had ordained. He wanted to usurp Christ's position, and stand at the head of the heavenly order.

“It is only by a clear discernment of spiritual things that the original apostasy can be understood. The controversy in heaven

*began with **selfish strife for position**, a desire on the part of Lucifer to be **equal with God**. The disaffection of Satan in entertaining the thought that he should **stand as head of the heavenly order** at first seemed a small thing, but by dwelling upon this thought, it was strengthened. Step by step he miscalculated the position that had been **assigned him by God**, to be maintained only in God, until he finally came to look with **enmity upon everything coming from Jesus Christ**. Satan rebelled against the **laws governing the heavenly intelligences**; and by representing these in a deceptive light, by his unbelief and complaints, he drew others with him into rebellion.” [{EGW; RH May 30, 1899, par. 3}](#)*

Let us individually pray for clear spiritual discernment to grasp the reason for the great controversy between Christ and Satan. Undoubtedly, the issue was Satan’s refusal to accept God’s declaration that Jesus Christ is in fact His only begotten Son. Rebellion against the Sonship of Christ, the fact that Christ is the only-begotten Son of God, was the core issue of this horrible war. Let us not partner with the enemy of God in accepting the devil’s lie. Although the devil still wants to obscure the truth about Christ’s Sonship, let us **believe the truth that Jesus Christ is indeed the only begotten Son of God!**

