

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

DECEPTION IN THE END TIMES

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PART 8: SATAN'S CHALLENGE

CHURCH HISTORY

In this series I have traced the Christian church from the time of the apostles to the first pope in 402 A.D. As I prayed about this message, the Holy Spirit told me to trace the development of the Christian church up to our present time so that believers facing the Antichrist system will know what happened to Christianity during its 2,000 years of history.

The church of Jesus Christ is built upon Jesus. **1 Corinthians 3:10-11**

People are added to the church by confessing their sins and faith in Jesus Christ. **Romans 10:8-13**

The Holy Spirit is in charge of ministering to the believers in Christ. **John 16:7-15**

WHY IS THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH SO FRAGILE?

Jesus told the apostles that the gates of hell would not prevail against His church, but when I examine the historical facts, this doesn't seem to be true. **Matthew 16:17-19**

Jesus was not a liar; man must understand that there will be times when it looks like all is lost, but the church has been supernaturally resurrected time and time again through the power of the Word of God. **Isaiah 55:8-11; Matthew 5:14-18; Hebrews 4:12**

The Christian church is weak because it is made up of redeemed sinners, who can still be tempted by the Devil! 1 Peter 5:8-11

GOD WAS CHALLENGED BY THE DEVIL

During my early years as a Christian, I cannot ever recall hearing a sermon about the Devil challenging God or the war that ensued afterwards. Instead, preachers have implied that mankind was created because God was lonely and wanted someone with whom He could love and experience fellowship.

Why has God allowed the Devil to run loose on the earth with the power to afflict people? This doesn't make sense until you take into account what happened before Adam and Eve were created and the spiritual conflict that is continually raging around us. Here is what the Bible teaches on this subject:

1. Sin did not originate with Adam and Eve but with the Devil. **John 8:44; 1 John 3:8**
2. God created the angels before he began to create the universe with its stars and planets. **Job 38:1-7**



3. Lucifer was created to be a beautiful angel, a worship leader of praise before the throne of God and he was also the ruler of the planet earth. Over time he became unhappy with his position and wanted to be like God and set up his throne above the throne of God. He traveled throughout the universe to entice the various angels to join him in his rebellion against God.

One third of the angels were deceived and joined the rebellion and they built an armed force to attack the capitol of God and dethrone Him.

God knew what was going on and gave the order for the archangel Michael to prepare his military forces and defeat Lucifer and his forces. **Isaiah 14:12-20; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Revelation 12:3-4; 7-12**

4. There was a trial at a courthouse in the second heaven (universe) where Lucifer and his fallen angels were sentenced to the Lake of Fire for eternal punishment. There is no record in the Bible about this trial, but we can assume there was indeed a trial since Jesus stated that the Lake of Fire was prepared for Lucifer and his fallen angels. **Matthew 25:41**
5. After the sentencing, Lucifer (Satan) accused God of being unrighteous and unjust. There is no verse for this in the Bible but we do have a verse where God proclaims his righteousness. **Romans 3:20-26**
6. Adam and Eve were created to prove to the angelic world that if someone rebels against God, they cannot blame Him. Satan and his fallen angels have demanded the right to challenge every human being, beginning with Adam and Eve. **Genesis 3:1-7**
7. Every servant of the Lord will be challenged by Satan. **Zechariah 3:1-4**
8. Job was severely attacked by the Devil. **Job 1:1-22; 2:1-13**
9. Even Jesus had to face Satan. **Luke 4:1-13**
10. The Devil is not just focusing on individual believers he is also attacking the church at large. **Revelation 12:13-17**

In order for the Devil to be able to attack the Christian church, God could not assign angels to preach the Gospel, but it was given to mortal men who were attacked in every century by the Devil as he tried to steal it from Jesus. **John 10:10**

If you comprehend these biblical principles, you will also understand the destruction of the church in the last 2,000 years. It's going to get a lot worse before it gets better; nevertheless, we need to rejoice because when we see these things, it means our redemption is near. **Revelation 13:4-9; Luke 22:28**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?