

THREE ANGELS AND YOU

Justice at Last







Justice at Last

At the time John Nolley was sentenced to prison, one of his sons was just three months old. The other one was three years old. When a jury convicted John of killing a woman in Texas (USA), he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

After serving 19 years of his sentence, an organization called Innocence Project and some others were convinced that John was innocent. They'd looked at all the evidence and found several problems, such as the story another prisoner had told. John O'Brien, who had a long criminal record, said Nolley confessed to him one day when they were both in the jail library. That story was proved to be false. Another problem was the fact that John Nolley was working at the time the crime was committed!

After a judge looked over the new findings, John was released from prison. What a wonderful reunion John had with family members, including his now grown-up sons. A tweet he sent included the simple statement, "I feel overjoyed!"



John @JohnNolley • 1h



I feel overjoyed!





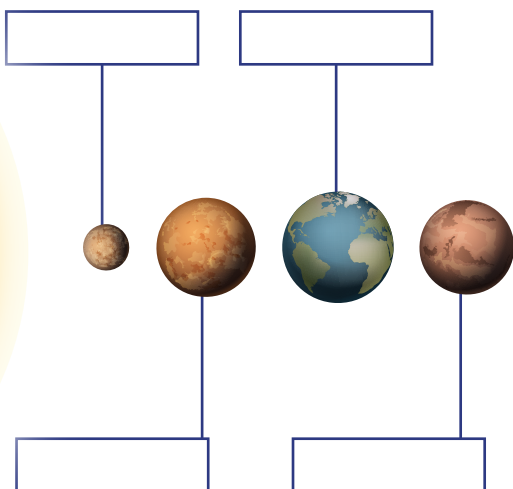
What Happened Up There?

What a difference it can make to have the truth revealed! That's also true for people who claim to be God's followers. But Satan wants to hide the truth that God is fair and loving. That's why long ago he stirred up trouble in heaven. The Bible says,

"You [Satan] said in your heart, 'I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God. . . . I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High'" (Isaiah 14:13, 14).

On the blank line, write one or two words that describe Satan's attitude.

Read what happened next in Revelation 12:7-9. Can you name the planets and circle the one where Satan and his angels were sent and now do battle?

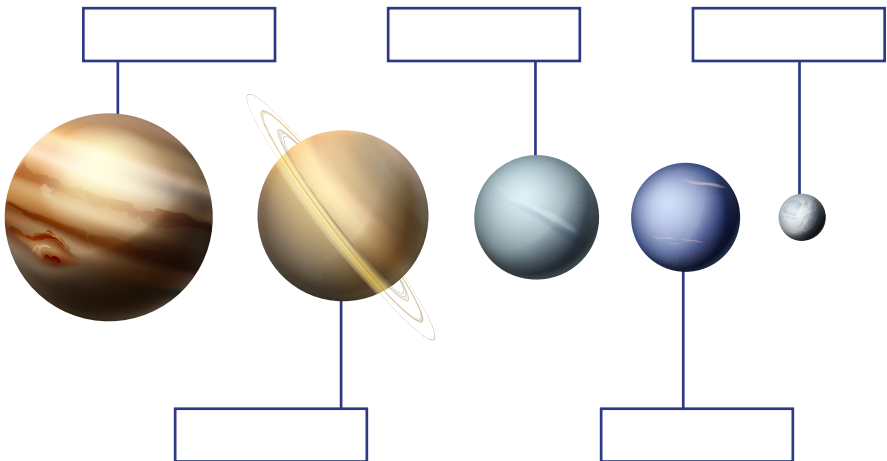


Now that Satan was on this planet, he began seeking revenge on God. In the Garden of Eden, God had told Adam and Eve not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they did, it would bring death. But Satan had other ideas. What did he tell Eve? Complete the Bible passage below by filling in the blank spaces.

“‘You will not certainly die,’ the serpent [Satan] said to the woman. ‘For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and _____, _____, knowing good and evil’”(Genesis 3:4, 5).

Does that sound familiar? As we discovered earlier, long ago Satan said, “I will make myself like the Most High” (Isaiah 14:13, 14). In other words, he wanted to be like God! Now Satan was going to spread the prideful lie that God was holding back things that others deserved, including to be like God Himself! Of course, Satan knew there is only one Creator God. Deceiving Eve was simply a way to “get back” at Him. Trying to make God look bad is something Satan and his evil angels have been doing for a very long time.

Make no mistake about it: planet Earth is a war zone. But this war isn’t fought with guns. It’s a war of ideas. Satan’s goal is to make people think God is unfair. This includes the idea that honoring the Ten Commandments is expecting too much. God, on the other hand, simply wants the truth to be known about His ways, including how He’s handled the problem of sin. This battle is sometimes called the great controversy.





“The whole universe must see the deceiver unmasked.”

(*The Great Controversy*, p. 498).

So who's telling the truth? How that question gets answered is an important part of the first angel's message. The message has been hidden in the note to Michael's parents below. Hint: Read beneath the lines.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalez,

The school awards committee recently met for over an hour. As a result of the meeting, the committee agreed that your son, Michael, deserves a special honor. His grades and attitude have been superb. As a result, in our judgment, Michael has earned the privilege of receiving our Student of the Month award. We hope you will be able to come and see it given to him next Thursday.

Sincerely,

Juanita Corrales, Principal

P.S.—Sorry for the handwritten note—our office printer isn't working.

UNCODED MESSAGE: _____



This part of the first angel's message announces an event where all the evidence about God and His ways would be reviewed. This Cosmic Time of Justice, sometimes called the Investigative Judgment, is happening right now! To help make everything clear, let's travel back in time . . .

Reporter's Notebook

Here's how a news reporter's notes might look if writing about the judgment mentioned in Revelation 14:6.

WHO: God, Satan, human and cosmic audience¹

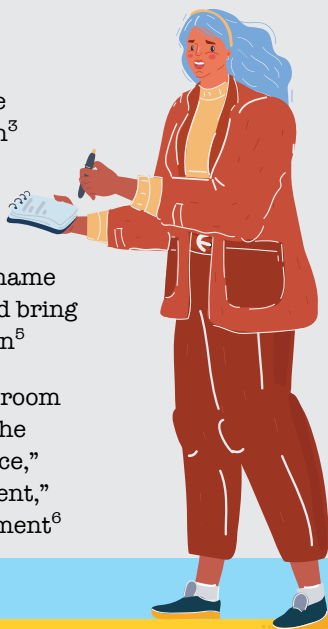
WHAT: Explore charges by Satan against God and His way of governing²

WHEN: Began in AD 1844. Ends just before Jesus returns to earth³

WHERE: Heavenly sanctuary⁴

WHY: To clear God's name of any wrongdoing and bring His followers to heaven⁵

HOW: Heavenly courtroom procedure known as the "Cosmic Time of Justice," "Investigative Judgment," or "Pre-advent" Judgment⁶



Grace in the Desert

Before Jesus came to Earth, God chose a group of people to show others the truth about His love. These were the Israelites, and part of their worship services involved sacrificing a pure lamb for their sins. The lamb represented Jesus and His future sacrifice for everyone's sins. This took place in what was called a sanctuary and later in a more permanent building called a temple. The High Priest oversaw the sacrifices and other activities.

Today, that sanctuary is gone, but did you know that it was a copy of another sanctuary? Using the grid, unscramble the result to discover this other sanctuary's location. (Check your answer with Hebrews 8:3-5!)

	1	2	3	4
A	L	E	A	N
B	E	X	I	T
C	S	A	V	E
D	W	A	S	H

D2

A2

A4

B1

C3

D4

LETTERS

UNSCRAMBLED

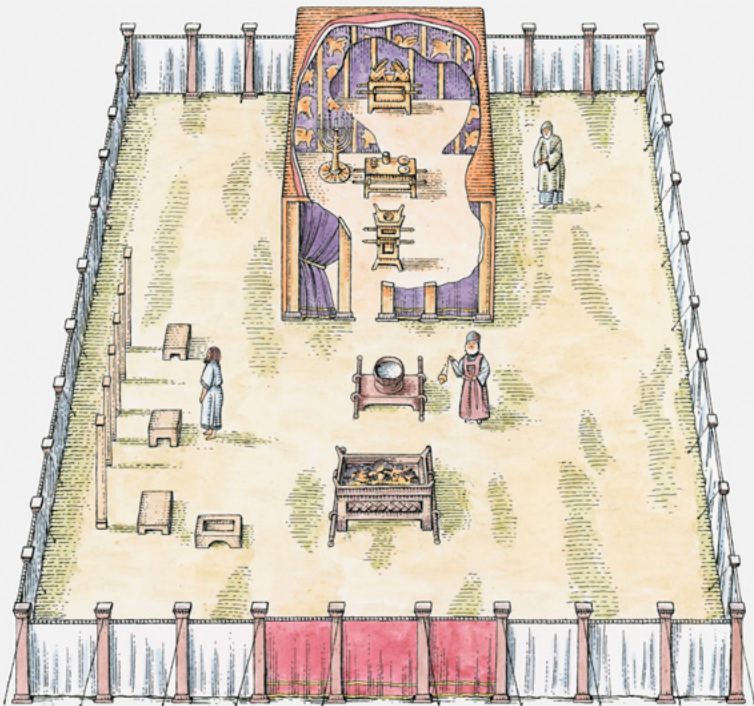
Rest Assured

It's one thing for an innocent person such as John Tolley to be freed, but what about people who are actually guilty of sin? That's everybody! Good news! "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned" (John 3:17, 18).

Now read Hebrews 8:1-2, and 6. According to this verse, Who is our “High Priest”?

Amazing! The Lamb of God (Revelation 5:6) that was sacrificed on a cross is also now our High Priest! His work, or ministry, in the heavenly sanctuary provides a life-saving connection between heaven and earth until the Second Coming. At first, Jesus’ work took place where the earthly high priest offered the daily sacrifices. But at just the right moment in history, He stepped into the Most Holy Place and began a very special work there, a work that we’re calling the Cosmic Time of Justice.

The Israelite sanctuary services involved a lot of symbolism, or “object lessons.” For example, once each year the peoples’ sins were “cleaned out” of the Most Holy Place. That’s because throughout the year, the high priest sprinkled some of the sacrificed lambs’ blood at the foot of God’s throne on earth, the Mercy Seat. (This was also in the Most Holy Place.) The sins were “stored” there until the special once-a-year event, called the Day of Atonement (see Leviticus 23:26-32). That’s when the high priest “cleansed” the earthly sanctuary. He did this by using another object lesson. The high priest put his hands on the head of a live goat and placed all the past year’s “stored-up” sins on it. The goat was then sent away into the wilderness, which meant those sins were gone for good.



Breaking News!

Today, something like what happened in the earthly sanctuary is taking place in the heavenly sanctuary. Right now, Our High Priest, Jesus, is in the Most Holy Place “cleansing the sanctuary.” As the Lamb of God, He was sacrificed for our sins on Calvary. Now He’s getting rid of all that “stored-up” sin for good. But this time, the “clean-up” includes proving to the universe that God has been fair to everyone—including Satan. The evidence? Well, it’s all in heaven’s records, including the Book of Life. This dramatic event—the Cosmic Time of Justice—is happening right now and will continue until just before Jesus returns to earth.

Here’s something to help you compare what happened in the earthly sanctuary with what’s going on in heaven’s sanctuary:

Earthly Sanctuary



Sacrifice: LAMB

Sanctuary cleansed: ONE TIME
EACH YEAR ON THE DAY
OF ATONEMENT

Heavenly Sanctuary



Sacrifice: JESUS
(the Lamb of God)

Sanctuary cleansed:
DURING THE COSMIC TIME
OF JUSTICE,
ALSO KNOWN AS THE
INVESTIGATIVE JUDGMENT



What Jesus did for us on Calvary and what He’s doing for us right now in the heavenly sanctuary is amazing! So when this heavenly judgment time, the Cosmic Time of Justice, comes to an end and all the evidence has been looked at, do we know what the verdict will be? Indeed we do!

VERDICT ABOUT YOU

“The Ancient of Days came and pronounced judgment in favor of the saints of the Most High” (Revelation Daniel 7:22). If you’re a follower of Jesus, you’re a saint!

VERDICT ABOUT GOD

“Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for true and just are his judgments” (Revelation 19:1, 2). God wins!

When the verdicts are delivered, the Cosmic Time of Justice may be over, but something else is about to begin:

“Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” (Revelation 19:9).



?!?

Sanctuary Q&A



Q: Will I ever be good enough to make it through the Cosmic Time of Justice?

A: No. That's where Jesus as your High Priest makes everything right:

“Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens” (Hebrews 7:26).

Jesus lived the life that you cannot. Your main job is to follow Him in thankfulness and obedience all the way to heaven.

Q: Is the Cosmic Time of Justice happening in heaven right now only about God?

A: No, it's also about you—but not in the way you may think. Remember, Satan is arguing that God's way of leading the universe is one-sided and wrong. That includes Jesus dying on Calvary for everyone's sins. Satan wants everyone to believe that Jesus' sacrifice didn't really work! This end-time judgment investigates all the evidence to see if what Satan says is true, including whether you are really saved. In that sense, your case is being decided too. Spoiler alert: If you've asked for Jesus' sacrifice to cover your sins, according to the Bible, you can be assured that He has you covered:

“My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand” (John 10:29).

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NOTES

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¹ Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:12-19; 1 Corinthians 4:9; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:7-9

² Job 1:6-12; Daniel 7:9, 10

³ Daniel 8:14, 26, 9:25; Ezra 7

⁴ Hebrews 9:24; Revelation 11:19, 15:5

⁵ Daniel 7:22; Revelation 19:9

⁶ Daniel 7:9-14, 22, Revelation 14:6

Answers: What Happened Up There?: Planets: sun, Earth, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, (Earth circled); Genesis 3: YOU WILL BE LIKE GOD; Coded Message: THE HOUR OF HIS JUDGMENT HAS COME; Grace in the Desert: earth, Jesus.



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