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WHERE DID SIN COME FROM?

“Mom,” said Michael, “I’m kind of confused. Why did God ever let sin happen? I mean, so many people have suffered because of it.”

“Yes,” said Mother, “they have. The Bible tells us how Lucifer became Satan. Look in Isaiah, chapter 14, verses 13 and 14.”

Michael found Isaiah in his Bible and then found chapter 14. He read: “You told yourself, ‘I will go up to heaven. I will put my throne above God’s stars. I will sit on the mountain of the gods. I will sit on the slopes of the sacred mountain. I will go up above the tops of the clouds. I will be like God Most High.’” “But Mom, that doesn’t really tell what happened to Lucifer.”

“Yes, it does,” Mother countered. “You see, before Lucifer decided he wanted to be like God, he was the highest angel in heaven. He was perfect and beautiful, just the way God created him to be. But Lucifer became impressed with himself. He was filled with pride and thought he was more important than he really was. He was jealous of Jesus, who was God the Son.”

“So Jesus was in heaven even before He came to earth as a baby?”

“Oh yes,” said Mother. “The first few verses of the book of John tell us that Jesus has always existed with God the Father, long before He came to earth.”

“OK,” said Michael, “go ahead. Why was Lucifer jealous of Jesus?”

MICHAEL ASKS WHY

“Lucifer thought he should be included in the plans for the new world God and Jesus were creating. He felt that They were leaving him out on purpose to humiliate him in front of the other angels. Satan became so jealous of Jesus he began talking to the other angels and raising questions—‘Why is Jesus involved in the plans for a new world? Why wasn’t I included? Why is Jesus honored above me?’

“Lucifer convinced as many angels as he could that God was unfair. Because of his rebellious attitude, he and one-third of the angels were banished from heaven. Now Satan was furious.”

“Are Satan and Lucifer the same person?” asked Michael.

“Yes,” said Mother. “After he left heaven, he wasn’t called Lucifer anymore, because he was no longer a good angel. The name *Lucifer* means ‘lightbearer,’ and *Satan* means ‘the enemy.’”

“OK,” said Michael, “so what did Satan do then?”

“He told the other angels it was all God’s fault. He claimed it was God’s unreasonable rules that had caused him to be jealous and to be banished from heaven. Then he tricked Adam and Eve into sinning. He blamed that on God, too, saying God’s rules were not fair to Adam and Eve either. He was shocked when God offered His own Son in exchange for the lives of the humans who had sinned. In everything he did, Satan kept trying to put himself above God.”

“Like in the temptation in the wilderness when he asked Jesus to bow down to him or to obey him by doing a miracle and turning the rocks into bread?”

“Yes, that’s another example of how he tried to be above God,” said Mother. “And when he wasn’t able to get Jesus to sin or to acknowledge him as the ruler, he hated Him even more. Finally, he made sure that Jesus was tortured to death.”

“That’s awful!” said Michael.

“Yes,” said Mother, “but it proved to the whole universe, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that God was fair and that He loved

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humans and was willing to do anything to save them even though Satan had deceived them and made them suffer.”

Michael thought about that awhile. Then he said, “If people really understood what happened, there’s no way they could blame God for all of the suffering on the earth.”

“But so many people don’t know,” said Mother.

“Someone ought to tell them,” said Michael. He sat quietly for several moments. “That’s really what this is all about, isn’t it,” he said, “proving that God is fair?”

“That’s what the conflict was about from the beginning,” agreed Mother. “The first accusation Satan made was that God was not fair. This great controversy is not about you or me or even about Satan. It’s about God and proving that He is fair. And when this war between Christ and Satan is over, everyone will know for sure that God is fair. Everyone will have had an opportunity to choose which side to be on.”

“God must love us a lot,” said Michael, “to be willing to give us a chance like that!”

“Yes,” said Mother. “He’s a very loving Father.”

“I can’t wait until this is all over and everybody understands and loves God,” said Michael.

“It will be a great relief to the whole universe when the war ends,” said Mother. “But it will also be very sad because some people will never choose to understand. And those people will be lost even though God loves them so much. It will hurt Him terribly to see them die.”

“Yes,” said Michael, “I guess it will.”

“Still,” said Mom, “when it is over, then there will be no more sin because everyone will understand.”

“So it will be a happy time but a sad time too,” Michael said. “We’ll be happy because there is no more sin, but it will be sad that some people choose not to love God and live with Him.”