

PFI PRONTO

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 6: God, the Just and Merciful

Unit 6 Big Question and Answer and Song:

"How Did Bad Things Come to God's Good World?"
Bad Things Came Through Sin!"

PFI ESV Songs 6, Tracks 3,4

Unit 6 Bible Verse and Song: Romans 5:12

"Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned."

PFI ESV Songs 6, Track 5

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 1:

Angels and People Rebelled Against God in the Beginning

God made the world perfectly good, but it did not stay that way. In heaven, a mighty angel named Satan led a rebellion of angels against God. Nothing sinful can ever remain in God's holy presence. These rebellious angels, called demons, were cast out of heaven and thrown into hell.

Satan continued his rebellion against God by tempting Adam and Eve to rebel against God, too. Their disobedience brought sin and death into the perfect world God created.

There are many things we cannot understand about Satan, evil and sin, or why God allowed them. However, we do know that God is perfectly good, powerful and wise. His ways are perfect and are so much more than our small minds can understand.

God hates sin and will do away with it. He sent Jesus to break the power of sin and death for all who trust in Him as their Savior. And one day Jesus will return again to rid the world of sin and death, Satan and his demons forever. What a wonderful day that will be!

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 1 John 3:8

"Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

CASE STORY

Genesis 3:1-9; Jude 6:2; 2 Peter 2:4

Our story is called:

The Case of the Great Rebellion.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. Who was first to rebel in the Great Rebellion? What happened to him and what will happen to him?
2. Who did that first rebel tempt to rebel also? What happened to them and who promised to rescue them?

Our story today takes place thousands of years ago at the beginning of time.

"It is very good," the LORD proclaimed at the end of Day Six of Creation. God delighted in all He had made. Everything was just as He planned it to be. In heaven, thousands upon thousands of mighty angels worshiped Him in His splendor and stood ready to do His bidding. On earth, there were countless creatures enjoying life in the new world: from wriggling, little worms to jumping monkeys and lumbering giraffes. Best of all, were the humans God had created. They were the crown of His creation. To them alone, He had given a spirit to know and love Him. He placed them in their special home--the Garden of Eden where they enjoyed wonderful fellowship with Him and each other.

In the garden, God provided for their every need. He had even placed there two very special trees: the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and the Tree of Life. The first tree was a tree whose fruit God told them never to eat. By obeying this command, they glorified God by showing their complete satisfaction in Him and trust in His good plans for them. The second tree was a tree of eternal life. To eat it would mean to continue to be fully satisfied in wonderful fellowship with God and His abundant blessings, forever and ever. Yes, the LORD's creation was very good. Everything in heaven and earth lived in perfect happiness and peace.

But the perfect happiness and peace of creation were not to last. Sometime, somehow, after that first wonderful week, something changed. Now, there are many good changes that God made a part of His creation. Day changed to night; plants sprouted up and bloomed; animals grew and had babies. But this one change was a change that was not good. Matter of fact, it was the worst change of all, for it was not a change that came from God, but from a mighty angel, who would come to be known as Satan.

Something in Satan's spirit darkened. He became dissatisfied. No longer was he content with the position

God has assigned him. No longer did he want to worship God and serve Him. He wanted to be worshiped and served himself!

Satan wasn't alone. Other angels joined him and together they rebelled against God's reign in Heaven. Satan defied God and fought His holy angels; but of course, this was nothing but foolishness. How could any mere creature ever think he could match the LORD? Heaven and earth are always, completely controlled by His infinite power and goodness. Satan and his hordes had not even the least hope of a victory. They were defeated and cast out of God's holy presence. They were stripped of the name "angel" and called "demons." They were thrown into the gloomy pits of Hell—a place where there is no goodness, no love, no hope, no light, because, of course, it is a place completely without God. With eternal chains they were forced to dwell there until the Great Day of Judgment at the end of time, when they will receive their final, everlasting punishment.

Restrained, but not powerless, Satan planned how he could dishonor the LORD's name and destroy His creation. Why didn't God send Satan and these fallen angels to their final punishment right then? God hasn't told us. He has left that as one of the great mysteries of His plan for creation that we must trust to His perfect wisdom and goodness. So, for reasons that only our great, good God only understands, God choose to let Satan plan and act, but only as something He would weave into His perfect plan for creation.

Filled with hate, armed with cleverness and lies, Satan set out for earth. Just as he had led the rebellion among the angelic spirits in heaven, now he planned how he might tempt the only earth creatures God had given a spirit to know and love Him—humans-- to rebel against God, too.

Satan schemed how to best tempt Adam and Eve to become dissatisfied with God, too. They might be suspicious, if he spoke directly to them, he must have decided. After all, he would be a stranger to the Garden. No, he would use someone familiar, one of God's own creatures, so they would not suspect anything. Satan decided upon the serpent. He was the shrewdest of all the wild animals God created. The serpent's cleverness would serve his sneaky plan well. Satan planned to speak through the serpent that he might lure Adam and Eve into sin.

Taking the serpent into his service, Satan approached innocent and unsuspecting Adam and Eve as they enjoyed the perfect happiness of the Paradise God had given them.

this garden?" the serpent asked Eve.

"No! No!" Eve explained the serpent. "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die!'"

Ah, this was just what he wanted her to say. "Now for the lie," Satan thought. He said to Eve: "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil!"

Eve listened what the serpent said, then she eyed the fruit of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil with curiosity and wonder. How luscious it looked. She knew it would taste juicy and delicious. And just to think! If they ate it, they would become something greater than what God had made them!

Eve began to think of the differences between God and themselves, no longer with honor and worship, but with discontent and envy. Suddenly all that God had given them wasn't good enough. His laws seemed unfair. He was withholding something good from them by forbidding them to eat this fruit. Eve was dissatisfied with God and His ways. Why shouldn't they be wise like God, too?

Eve reached out and plucked a piece of ripe fruit from the tree. She brought it to her mouth and ate it. She gave some to Adam and he ate it, too.

The taste of the fruit had hardly left their mouth, when the change came; but, it was not the change they hoped for. They had not become wise like God. They had not become better. No! They had become worse. Their perfect happiness and peace were gone. Guilt and unhappiness flooded into their hearts.

They looked at each other and saw something they did not want each other or the LORD to see. They covered themselves in fig leaves—the biggest leaves they could find—and hide themselves among the plants in the Garden of Eden, hoping the LORD would not find them. He had been perfectly good and wise to command them not to eat the fruit. Oh, if only they had been satisfied in Him and His ways! Now, their wonderful lives were ruined!

Satan watched as Adam and Eve felt pain and sin for the first time in their lives--and he was thrilled. His temptations had worked! God's precious creation was spoiled! The humans God had made to enjoy close fellowship with Him had been torn away from Him by their sin. Satan delighted to think that God's own holiness required that God, Himself must punish His beloved people for their sins with

something very, very dreadful: death--eternal separation of people from God and everything good! Perhaps he was not able to overthrow God's reign in heaven, Satan thought, but at least he had ruined God's good creation on earth.

Satan rejoiced in his victory that day when Adam and Eve rebelled against God; but we know that his triumph would be short-lived. God's plans for His creation were good and unfailing. He had even woven a way for the sins of His people to be punished, yet not leave His people to die in their sins. How? He, Himself, would come save them! He, Himself, would bear their punishment. Yes! He would send His very own Son, Jesus, to come as a man to live a perfect life and offer it up on the cross as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who would ever turn from their sins and trust in Him as Savior. Jesus would bring great glory to God and He would bring God's people back into close fellowship with God forever. Once more, they would get to know the wonderful satisfaction of knowing God and obeying His good ways. How amazing is our God!

Our Bible Truth is:

Angels and People Rebelled Against God in the Beginning

Our Bible Verse is: 1 John 3:8

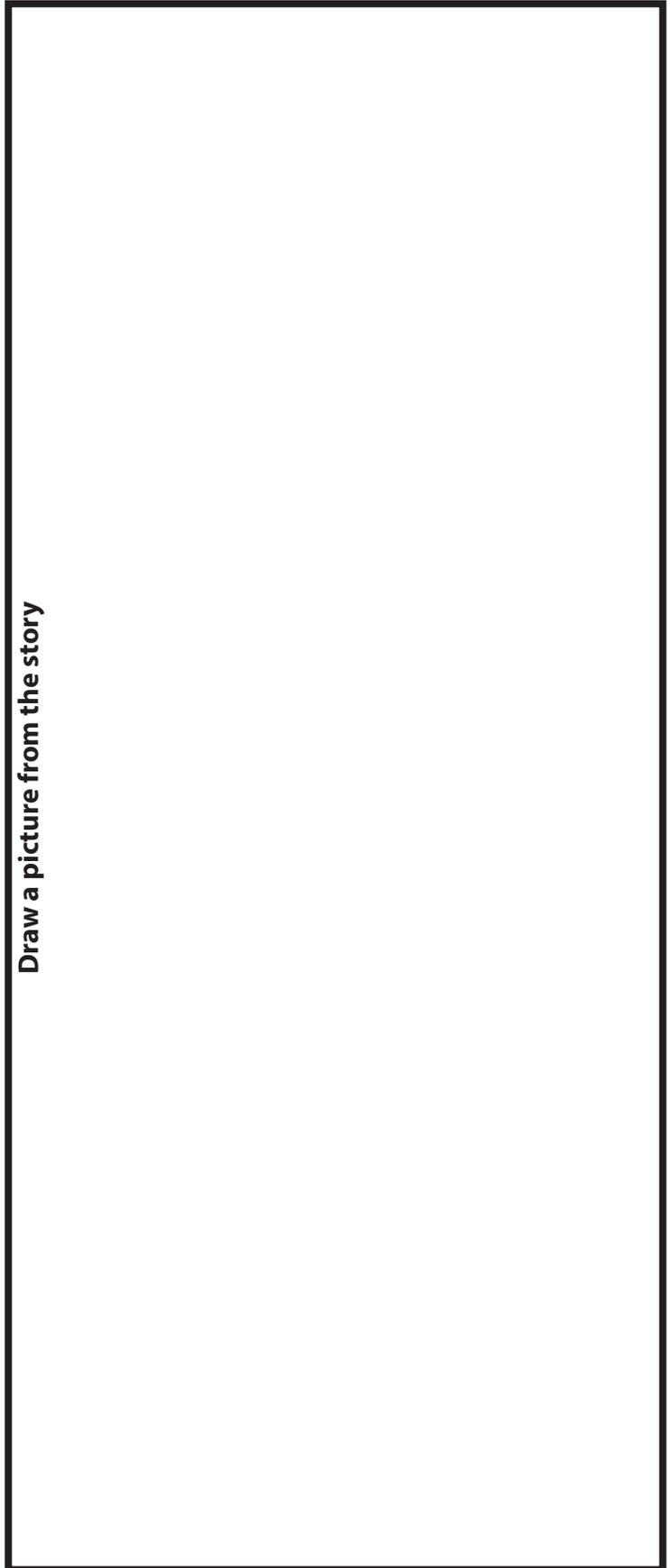
"Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

What about you and me? Have you ever thought about what you would have done, if you had been Adam or Eve? Perhaps you think that you wouldn't have been tempted by Satan's tricks. Look into your heart and see what you find. Are you ever discontent with the life God has given you? Do you ever envy others for what they have or get to do? Do you ever choose to forget one of God's good laws when there is something you can get if you would break one?

The truth is, all of us find Satan's temptations so delightful. We are all more like Adam and Eve than we would like to think. Adam and Eve's hearts became sinful when they chose to disobey God. Sadly, as their children, we are all born with sinful hearts. We all deserve God's punishment. But God gave Adam and Eve hope. And He gives us hope, too. God sent His Son Jesus to live a perfect life and offer it up on the cross as the perfect payment for the sins of all those who would ever turn from their sins

and trust in Jesus as their own Savior. If we do this, God will forgive our sins and save us! How merciful is the LORD towards sinners, like us!

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU	BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God made the world perfectly good, but it did not stay that way. Answer: True!</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions a. Who was first to rebel in the Great Rebellion? What happened to him and what will happen to him? The mighty angel, Satan (and other angels with him.) He was cast out of heaven and allowed limited power. God will completely destroy Satan's works and will put him away to be punished forever when Jesus comes back.</p> <p>b. Who did that first rebel tempt to rebel also? What happened to them and who promised to rescue them? Adam and Eve, the first people. When lost their perfect fellowship with God and brought sin and death into the world. God gave the first of many promises to send a Savior to defeat Satan and to save all who would turn away from their sins and trust in Him to save them.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: 1 John 3:8 "Whoever makes a practice of ___ is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the ____. The reason the Son of God ___ was to destroy the works of the devil." Answers: sinning; beginning; appeared.</p>	<p>This Is My Father's World <i>PFI ESV Songs 6, Track 8</i> Verse 3 This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget, That though the wrong Seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet. This is my Father's world. The battle is not done. Jesus who died shall be satisfied, And earth and heaven be one.</p> <p>Words: Malthie Babcock Music: Franklin L. Sheppard</p> <p>The wrong in this world that often seems so strong is sin. It came into the world when Adam and Eve believed Satan's tempting lies and rebelled against God. Oh, what terrible suffering and death into God's perfect creation that day! Yet, God is still the ruler of the world, not Satan. He will fight and win over Satan, sin and death! God sent Jesus, just as He promised, to break the power of sin and death, when He died on the cross. And at the end of time, Jesus will come back and bring an end to Satan, his demons and all that is evil, once and for all. God is the Ruler yet. God's people take joy in this. They know that God, their heavenly Father, will do all that He has promised to do.</p>
AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY	BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for hating sin, yet being so merciful to sinners, promising them a Savior.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we sin when we are tempted, just like Adam and Eve. We, too, deserve Your punishment! We, too, need a Savior!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for sending Jesus to save Your people, at just the right time, just as You promised.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to say 'no' to temptation and choose to obey You. Make our hearts satisfied with what You know is best and choose to give us.</p>	<p>He Who Does What Is Sinful <i>PFI ESV Songs 6, Track 9</i> Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. <i>But wait! There's good news!</i> But the reason the Son of God appeared, Was to destroy, destroy the devil's work, But the reason the Son of God appeared, Was to destroy, destroy the devil's work. (And He did it!) First John Three, verse eight. Words: 2 Corinthians 3:18 Music: Constance Dever ©2011</p> <p>Satan was the first to sin. He was sinning from the beginning of creation. Adam and Eve became "of the devil" when they chose to rebel against God. They no longer wanted to keep on loving and pleasing God. But oh, how wonderful that God sent His Son Jesus! Jesus was the Savior who came to rescue sinners from God's punishment that they deserved. Jesus destroyed the devil's work, when He suffered and died on the cross, then rose on the third day in victory! Now all who repent of their sins and trust in Him will be saved.</p>