

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 NIV Songs 6, Tracks 3,4

Unit 6 Bible Verse and Song: Romans 5:12

"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned."

PFI NIV 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 VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 1 John 3:8

"He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

CASE STORY

Matthew 2,4,16,27; Luke 2:1-20; 4:22; 22:1-5;27-24; Revelation 20:10,14

Our story is: The Case of the Man Who Refused to Give In.

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

1. Who was the man who refused to give in?
2. What did he refuse to give in to? Why was this so important?

This story takes place in Israel, in New Testament times, when Jesus lived on earth.

Ever since he had tempted Adam and Eve to sin, thousands of years earlier, Satan had enjoyed watching the terrible spread of sin and death throughout God's perfect creation. He proudly called himself the Prince of This World, as if the world were his to do with as he pleased. Yet deep inside, Satan knew that it was not so. The world was God's; and what happened in it, only happened according to God's good, unailing plan. Even from the day that Adam and Eve had rebelled, thousands of years ago, God had promised a day would come when a Son of Eve would come to crush Satan's power over sin and death. The first Adam had brought sin and death to all by his sin; but this Son of Eve would come like a second Adam to defeat Satan and bring the promise of eternal life to all who would trust in Him. Satan kept alert for the coming of this Son of Eve, this Second Adam. God had promised.

Satan knew when his enemy, the promised Son of Eve, the Second Adam, had come. It was the unforgettable night we call Christmas. That night, the brilliant glory of the LORD suddenly shone down upon shepherds in a field outside of Bethlehem. A great host of angels broke into praise, making the glad announcement that the Savior has been born, who was Jesus Christ, the Lord. And how could Satan have missed the shimmering, new star that appeared in the sky, leading Magi from their home faraway in the East to worship the young child, Jesus. These signs were simply too great! This Jesus was the promised One who came to crush him and his rule over this world, just as God had promised.

Satan knew he must destroy Jesus before Jesus could crush him. Surely Satan was hopeful when jealous King Herod, upon hearing about Jesus from the Magi, sent soldiers into Bethlehem to kill him. Perhaps Jesus would be taken care of this way...but no! Nothing would stop God's good, unailing plans! In a dream, God had warned

CASE STORY**P.2**

Mary God's good, unfailing plans! In a dream, God had warned Joseph of Herod's evil plan. He escaped to Egypt with Mary and little Jesus before the soldiers stormed into Bethlehem. Jesus lived. Satan would have made another plan if he were to defeat this Son of Eve, this Second Adam.

Many years passed and Jesus grew into a man. At last the time had come for Him to tell the good news of salvation to all who would hear. He was baptized by John in the River Jordan, then the Spirit led Him out into the wilderness to prepare for this great task.

For forty days--or six weeks-- Jesus prayed and fasted. Can you imagine praying and not eating food for six weeks out in the hot, dry wilderness? As you can guess, Jesus was very weak and tired by the end of that time... and Satan noticed. What better time to tempt Jesus-- the Second Adam-- to sin than when He was tired and hungry. "If you're the Son of God, turn these rocks into bread," Satan said. Jesus was so hungry! How tempting it was to use God's power to fill His empty stomach.

Then Satan took Jesus to the top of the Temple and told Him, "Throw Yourself off the side of the Temple; let the angels catch You. What better way could you prove to everyone that you are the Son of God?" Satan whispered. Jesus was tempted by Satan's idea. He knew that He would face the unbelief of many when He told them He was the Son of God. That would be so hard!

Then Satan showed Jesus all the nations of the world and promised Him, "If You will bow down and worship me, I will give You all of the world."

How tempting! To win the worship of the world without suffering and dying on the cross for the sins of God's people! Jesus knew He would suffer terribly if He fulfilled His Father's plan of salvation.

Satan had chosen his temptations well. Which would Jesus choose? To be dissatisfied with God's will for Him, like Adam had been, and rebel against God's way? Satan hoped so. This Son of Eve, this Second Adam must sin, if Satan was to prevent Him from crushing his head and saving God's people.

But, no! Jesus would not give in to temptation. He chose to be satisfied in God and His good ways. Hunger pangs, the insults of unbelieving people and even the terrible suffering He would face doing God's will were better than any easy way out Satan was offering Him. Satan had tempted the First Adam into rebelling against God, but not this Second Adam. Jesus resisted Satan.

"Be gone, Satan! Man does not live on bread alone, but on the Word of God: I will make no bread from rocks!" Jesus told him. And then He said: "God's Word tells us we should not put Him to the test...I will not jump off the Temple to prove who I am!" Then he finished off Satan by saying: "God is alone to be worshiped: I will not bow to you! Leave Me alone!"

Defeated, Satan slunk away and God sent angels to give Jesus food and comfort. The tricks that had fooled the first Adam, did not work on Jesus, the second Adam. Satan had lost yet again.

But Satan did not give up. He continued to get at Jesus, however he could...even through Jesus' closest friends. One day, when Jesus told His disciples that He would suffer and die on the cross, then be raised from the dead to save God's people, Satan stirred up Peter to try to stop Him: "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" (Matthew 16:22)

Peter might have meant only to protect His beloved Master from pain, but Jesus saw in his words another of Satan's attempts to make Him dissatisfied with God's good plans. Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." (Matthew 16:23) Jesus refused to rebel against what His Father had planned. He chose to be satisfied in God and His good ways. He would rather suffer God's way than avoid the cross.

Later, Satan stirred up Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus and have Him handed over to the Jewish leaders for money, even though Judas knew Jesus had done no wrong. Even as Jesus hung dying on the cross, Satan stirred up the crowd against Jesus to sin against His Father's plan:

"Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!' In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.' In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him." (Matthew 27:39-44)

Jesus knew that there was truth in these mocking words.

CASE STORY

He was the Son of God. He could get down from the cross, if He wanted to. Satan hoped these mean words would be more than Jesus could bear; but they were not. Jesus chose to suffer God's way rather than prove who He was to these people. No! He would not give in to temptation! He would not rebel against God! No matter what!

No. There was nothing that Satan could do to tempt this Son of Eve, this second Adam to rebel against God as Adam had in the beginning. He would choose to be satisfied in God and His good ways. He had come to bring salvation to God's people; and He would do it, just as God had promised He would. So Jesus hung there on the cross and offered up His perfect life to God, His Father, as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him.

Then, three days later, He burst out of His grave, risen from the dead. He had broken Satan's power over sin and death. Jesus, the Son of Eve, the Second Adam, had brought salvation where the first Adam had brought sin!

But the best is still yet to come! Jesus broke the power of sin and death on the cross that day, but there will come another, even better day, when Satan, sin and death will be put to an end forever. At the end of time on the Great Judgment Day, Jesus will judge Satan and his demons. He will give them their final punishment: they will be thrown into the Lake of Fire and be punished day and night, forever and ever. Satan will be crushed once and for all. Never to trouble the world or God's people again! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Our Bible Truth is:**Angels and People Rebelled Against God in the Beginning****Our Bible Verse is: 1 John 3:8**

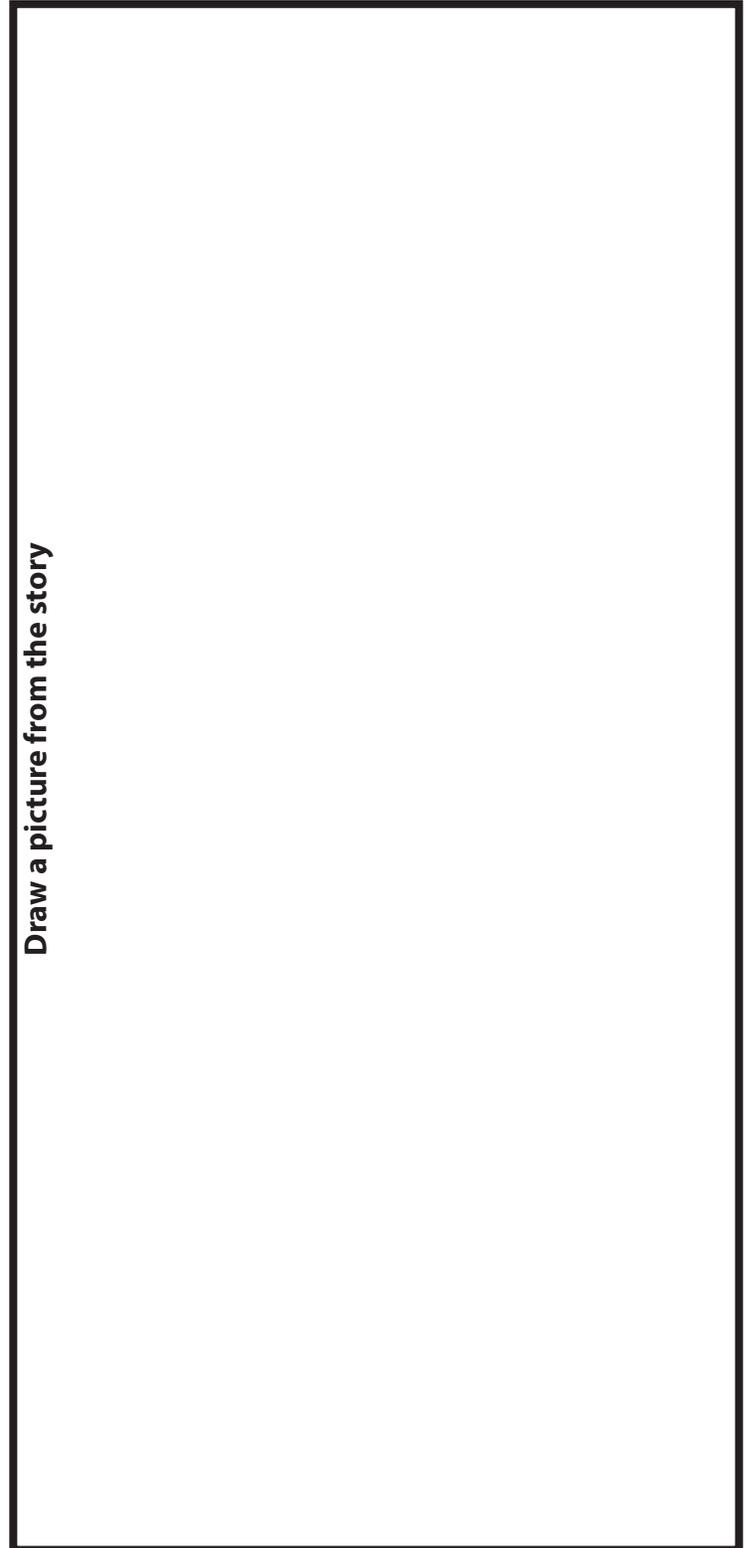
"He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

What about you and me? Like the first Adam, we have listened to the tempting lies of Satan to be dissatisfied with God and His good ways, and live life our own way instead. Is there any hope for us? Yes, there is. God has sent the Second Adam to pay for the sins of all who confess their sins and turn and trust in Him.

Let's praise God for sending Jesus, who came like a second Adam to face Satan's tempting lies but be satisfied with God and His good ways, time after time after time,

so He could offer up His perfect life as the perfectly complete sacrifice for all who trust in Him. Let's praise Him for promising to do away Satan, sin and death completely at the Great Judgment Day at the end of time. Let's confess our sins to Him. Let's be those who turn from our sins and trust in Him as our Savior. Let's ask Him by His Holy Spirit to fill our heart and make us strong to stand up against Satan's lies and choose to be satisfied in God's good ways.

Draw a picture from the story



SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU

1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:
 God hates sin, but we are stuck with it forever.
 Answer: False! God hates sin and one day will do away with it completely. Jesus broke the power of sin and death of God's people on the cross. One day He will return to end it forever.

2. Crack the Case Questions
a. Who was the man who refused to give in?
 Jesus.
b. What did he refuse to give in to? Why was this so important?
 Jesus refused to give in to temptation and sin. Because He was without sin, He could be the perfect payment for the sins of God's people and save them all.

3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:
1 John 3:8
 "He who does what is sinful is of the ____, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the ____ appeared was to destroy the devil's ____."
 Answers: devil; Son of God; work.

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN

This Is My Father's World
PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 7
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.

Words: Malthie Babcock Music: Franklin L. Sheppard

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.

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY

A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication

A God, we praise You for being our Savior! Jesus, You are the strong, second Adam, who always said 'no' to Satan and won salvation for God's people.

C God, we confess that many times we give into temptation. We choose to disobey God. We deserve God's punishment! We need a Savior!

T Jesus, thank You for always choosing to obey God, Your Father, even when it meant terrible suffering. Thank You for being our Savior.

S God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to say 'no' to the temptations of Satan, and say 'yes' to obeying God, even when it is very hard.

BIBLE VERSE SONG

He Who Does What Is Sinful
PFI NIV Songs 6, Track 8
 He who does what is sinful is of the devil,
 because the devil has been sinning from the beginning.
But wait! There's good news!
 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: 1 John 3:8 Music: Constance Dever ©2011

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.