Great Controversy over the Bible

Laurel Damsteeght
gctours@mac.com
Joy in Heaven
God is
Joy in Heaven
God is Love
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God is Love
Total selflessness.
Joy in Heaven

God is Love

Total selflessness.
— from the inside out (obedience from the heart)
Joy in Heaven

God is Love

Total selflessness. — from the inside out (obedience from the heart)
I do God’s way because I want to do it and JOY in it.
Joy in Heaven

Total selflessness.
— from the inside out (obedience from the heart)
I do God’s way because I want to do it and JOY in it.

I delight to do thy will, O my God:
Total selflessness.
— from the inside out (obedience from the heart)
I do God’s way because I want to do it and JOY in it.

I delight to do thy will, O my God:
yea, thy law is within my heart. Ps. 40:8
Joy in Heaven

God is Love

Total selflessness.
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I do God’s way because I want to do it and JOY in it.

I delight to do thy will, O my God:
yea, thy law is within my heart.

Ps. 40:8

True liberty
But...
But... Lucifer
But . . .

Lucifer

Honored angel
But . . .

Lucifer

Honored angel
MOST beautiful
Most intelligent
But... Lucifer

Honored angel
MOST beautiful
Most intelligent
But ... Lucifer

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth

Honored angel
MOST beautiful
Most intelligent
But...  

Lucifer

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth
Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.  

Honored angel  
MOST beautiful  
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Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth

Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

Eze 28:14,15

Honored angel
MOST beautiful
Most intelligent
Now...
Satan

Now . . .
Now . . .

Satan

revolutionized
Now . . .

Satan revolutionized Love
Satan revolutionized Love yourself
Now . . .

Satan

Love

revolutionized

Love yourself
Self-centered "love"
Now . . .

Satan

Love

revolutionized

Love yourself
Self-centered “love”
Do what you want not what someone else tells you.
Now ... Satan

For thou hast said in thine heart,
I will ascend into heaven,
I will exalt
my throne above the stars of God
Isa 14:13

Love yourself
Self-centered “love”
Do what you want not what someone else tells you.
Little by little, Lucifer came to indulge a desire for self-exaltation...Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of His creatures, it was Lucifer's endeavor to win their service and homage to himself. And coveting the honor which the infinite Father had bestowed upon His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power which it was the prerogative of Christ alone to wield. GC 494.1
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GC 494.1
Now . . .

Satan
Now . . . Satan discredits God’s Word & His law.
Now . . . Satan Redefinition of reality.

Discredits God’s Word & His law
Now . . .

Satan

Redefinition of reality.

Do as Thou Wilt.

Discredits God’s Word & His law
Satan

Now . . .

Redefinition of reality.
Do as Thou Wilt.
Liberty.

Discredits God’s Word & His law
Now . . .

Satan

Redefinition of reality.
Do as Thou Wilt.
Liberty.
Licentiousness.

Discredits God’s Word & His law
Satan

Redefinition of reality.
Do as Thou Wilt.
Liberty.
Licentiousness.
Violence.

Discredits God’s Word & His law
Now . . .

Satan

Redefinition of reality.
Do as Thou Wilt.
Liberty.
Licentiousness.
Violence.
Anarchy.

Discredits God’s Word & His law
Satan

Redefinition of reality.
Do as Thou Wilt.
Liberty.
Licentiousness.
Violence.
Anarchy.
Equality.

Now... Discredits God’s Word & His law
Satan

Redefinition of reality.
Do as Thou Wilt.
Liberty.
Licentiousness.
Violence.
Anarchy.
Equality.

“Love”

Discredits God’s Word & His law
The rebel leader boldly avowed his contempt for the Creator's law. He reiterated his claim that angels needed no control, but should be left to follow their own will, which would ever guide them right. He denounced the divine statutes as a restriction of their liberty and declared that it was his purpose to secure the abolition of law; that, freed from this restraint, the hosts of heaven might enter upon a more exalted, more glorious state of existence.
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War in Heaven

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Now . . . Satan
Now... Satan wants to be supreme being.
Satan now... wants to be supreme being. Who is God?
Now... Satan wants to be supreme being.
Now . . . Satan can be anyone or anything (but God). 

SUPREME BEING wants to be supreme being.
Now... Satan can be anyone or anything (but God). Create god in your own image wants to be supreme being.
Now . . .

Satan

SUPREME BEING can be anyone or anything (but God).

Create god in your own image “My God is not like that.”

wants to be supreme being
Now . . .

Satan
Now . . . Satan uses deception and complexity to make new reality.
Now . . .

Satan uses deception and complexity to make new reality confusing.
Satan had represented that he was wrongly judged, that his position was not respected, and that his liberty was to be abridged. From misrepresentation of the words of Christ he passed to prevarication and direct falsehood, accusing the Son of God of a design to humiliate him before the inhabitants of heaven. …
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It was his policy to perplex the angels with subtle arguments concerning the purposes of God. Everything that was simple he shrouded in mystery, and by artful perversion cast doubt upon the plainest statements of Jehovah. GC 496
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Now . . .

Satan
Satan

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. Rev 12:9
The Great Controversy
The Great Controversy
Two great issues through Scripture and History:

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<th>God’s Way</th>
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[Image of an open book with a sunset background]
# The Great Controversy

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|                            |        | Selfishness (evil)                              |
|                            | vs.    | Satan’s “do as you wilt”                        |
|                            | vs.    | Anarchy (Satan’s character)                     |
|                            | vs.    | Licentiousness                                  |
|                            | vs.    | Supreme Being — idolatry                       |
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**God’s Way vs. Satan’s Way:**

- God’s Love vs. Satan’s “Love”
- Selflessness (righteousness) vs. Selfishness (evil)
- Obedience from the heart vs. Satan’s “do as you wilt”
- God’s Law, Order (God’s character) vs. Anarchy (Satan’s character)
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"But light and darkness cannot harmonize. Between truth and error there is an irrepresible conflict. To uphold and defend the one is to attack and overthrow the other." GC 126
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God’s Word a Record of this Controversy:

When the Word of the Lord comes
When the Word of the Lord comes, how do people respond?
The Word of the Lord is POWERFUL
The Word of the Lord is **POWERFUL**

At Creation: “By the **word of the Lord** were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” Ps 33:6
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Present: “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Ps 119:11

The Word of the Lord is powerful.
The Word of the Lord is **POWERFUL**

At Creation: “By the **word of the Lord** were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.” Ps 33:6

Present: “Thy **word** have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” Ps 119:11

Same power that created the worlds is able to keep us!
The Word of the Lord is **POWERFUL**

“…There is life in God’s Word. Christ says, ‘The words that I speak unto you, the are Spirit, and they are **LIFE**’ Jn 6:63. …
In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the Word is receiving the very life and character of God.”
COL 38

The Word of the Lord is POWERFUL

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Great Controversy: Adam and Eve
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Gen 2: God’s Word: “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it.”
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Gen 3: Satan’s word: “Ye shall not surely die... In the day ye eat thereof your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods.”
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Gen 3: Satan’s word: "Ye shall not surely die... In the day ye eat thereof your eyes shall be opened and ye shall be as gods.”

God’s plain statement is contradicted, doubted, and disobeyed.

Great Controversy: Adam and Eve
“Cain came before God with murmuring and infidelity . . . He would come in his own merits. . . But would present his fruits, the products of his labor. He presented his offering as a favor done to God, through which he expected to secure the divine approval. Cain obeyed in building an altar, obeyed in bringing a sacrifice; but he rendered only a partial obedience.” PP 72
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Great Controversy: Cain and Abel

Principle-based: substituting own interpretation for God’s specific Word
“Abraham was tempted to believe that he might be under a delusion... But the command of God was sounding in his ears, ‘Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest.’ That command must be obeyed, and he dared not delay.” PP 148 ff.
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“Abraham obeyed God’s Word even when it doesn’t seem to make sense.
In Sodom there was mirth and revelry, feasting and drunkenness. The vilest and most brutal passions were unrestrained. The people openly defied God and His law and delighted in deeds of violence. - PP 157.1
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Great Controversy: SODOM

Defied law of God: rioting, violence, licentiousness
The Egyptians...scornfully denied the power of their God. They pointed to their situation as a nation of slaves, and tauntingly said, ‘If your God is just and merciful, and possesses power above that of the Egyptian gods, why does He not make you a free people?’...Pharaoh himself boasted that the God of the Hebrews could not deliver them from his hand.”

PP 259.3
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PP 259.3
“When Moses, on returning to the camp, confronted the rebels, his severe rebukes and the indignation he displayed in breaking the sacred tables of the law were contrasted by the people with his brother's pleasant speech and dignified demeanor, and their sympathies were with Aaron. To justify himself, Aaron endeavored to make the people responsible for his weakness in yielding to their demand; but notwithstanding this, they were filled with admiration of his gentleness and patience.” PP 323
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“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Matt 4:4
"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." Matt 4:4

Great Controversy: Jesus

"It is written" God doesn’t contradict plain "It is Written"
“Since it was the Spirit of God that inspired the Bible, it is impossible that the teaching of the Spirit should ever be contrary to that of the Word. The Spirit was not given —nor can it ever be bestowed— to supersede the Bible; for the Scriptures explicitly state that the Word of God is the standard by which all teaching and experience must be tested.” GC vii
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For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe. 1 Thess 2:13
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In History of the Great Controversy

Standing for Truth
Pagan Persecutions

Standing for Truth

In History of the Great Controversy
Great Controversy: Lugdunum, Gaul
In first century Disciples shared gospel in Roman settlements of Lugdunum (Lyon) and Vienne.
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In first century Disciples shared gospel in Roman settlements of Lugdunum (Lyon) and Vienne. Christians grew in number. Pagans didn’t like this growth. First forbidden to go into public.
Great Controversy: Pagan Persecution

Arch of Titus

177 AD
Great Controversy: Pagan Persecution

What was the issue in early persecutions?

Arch of Titus 177 AD
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At death “Apotheosis.” Went to heaven on eagle’s wings.
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Christians could not do this. *Word of God plainly says*, “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”
Christians were willing to die before disobeying God’s Word.
Great Controversy: Pagan Persecution

177 AD

Blandina and Ponticus in Antiquaille, Lyon
Eventually faithful Christians rounded up and persecuted to death by various tortures and imprisonment.
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Bishop Ponthius, old man, imprisoned in small cell the size of a short cupboard and there died.
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Others taken out to arenas and fed to animals or grilled on hot grill.

48 total died in this massacre
Great Controversy: Blandina

177 AD
Great Controversy: Blandina

Slave girl and 15 year old boy, Ponticus.
Great Controversy: Blandina

Slave girl and 15 year old boy, Ponticus.

“Stand firm! Don’t give up”
Slave girl and 15 year old boy, Ponticus.

“Stand firm! Don’t give up”

“After the scourging, after the wild beasts, after the roasting seat, she was finally enclosed in a net, and thrown before a bull. And having been tossed about by the animal, but feeling none of the things which were happening to her, on account of her hope and firm hold upon what had been entrusted to her, and her communion with Christ, she also was sacrificed.” Eusebius
The Scriptures in the Great Controversy

Paganism to Christianity

“Triumph of Christianity” by Raphael, in Constantine Room Vatican Museum
Great Controversy: Clovis

496 AD

Clovis in Versailles
Great Controversy: Clovis

Pagan Frankish King, Clovis

496 AD
Great Controversy: Clovis

Pagan Frankish King, Clovis
Wife Clotide, Catholic influence

496 AD
Great Controversy: Clovis

Pagan Frankish King, **Clovis**

Wife Clotide, Catholic influence

In Tolbiac, a critical battle against Alamanni he cried out to “God of Clotilde”
Pagan Frankish King, Clovis
Wife Clotide, Catholic influence
In Tolbiac, a critical battle against Alamanni he cried out to “God of Clotilde”
Immediately the battle turned and Clovis became Christian.
France Becomes Catholic

508 AD

Baptism of Clovis, Rheims Cathedral
France Becomes Catholic

508 AD

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Baptism of Clovis, Frankish king in AD 508 in Rheims, France
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France the ‘son of the papacy’

Wiped out Arianism
Baptism of Clovis, Frankish king in AD 508 in Rheims, France

France the ‘son of the papacy’

Wiped out Arianism

Instrumental in Catholicising peoples of France, Belgium, Germany and ultimately influencing Holy Roman Empire
Revelation 11:3
And I will give power unto my two witnesses
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And I will give power unto my two witnesses

Who are the two witnesses?
“Concerning the two witnesses the prophet declares further: ‘These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.’ ‘Thy word,’ said the psalmist, ‘is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.’

Revelation 11:4; Psalm 119:105. The two witnesses represent the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament.”

GC 267
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GC 267
Great Controversy: Two Witnesses
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Jesus considered God’s Word in both OT and NT as witnesses for they testify of Him.
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“Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.” John 5:39

Great Controversy: Two Witnesses
Jesus considered God’s Word in both OT and NT as **witnesses** for they testify of Him.

“Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.” John 5:39

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” Mt 24:14
The Scriptures in the Great Controversy
Revelation 11:3
And I will give power unto my two witnesses,
Revelation 11:3
And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.
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And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and thre-score days, clothed in sackcloth.
42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”
Great Controversy: 1260 Years = 42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”
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538

Justinian
Great Controversy: 1260 Years = 538

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538

Justinian

1798
Great Controversy: 1260 Years = 42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”

“Clothed in Sackcloth”

538
Justinian

1798
Great Controversy: 1260 Years = 538

"Clothed in Sackcloth"

Obscure Scriptures

Justinian

42 months or "a thousand two hundred and threescore days"

538

1798
Great Controversy: 1260 Years = 538

“Clothed in Sackcloth”

Obscure Scriptures
Confuse interpretation

Justinian

42 months or
“a thousand
two hundred
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1798
Great Controversy: 1260 Years:

“Clothed in Sackcloth”
Obscure Scriptures
Confuse interpretation
Forbid Vernacular

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Justinian

1798
42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”
Great Controversy: 1260 Years

“Clothed in Sackcloth”

- Obscure Scriptures
- Confuse interpretation
- Forbid Vernacular
- Burn Scriptures

538

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1798

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“Clothed in Sackcloth”

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Confuse interpretation
Forbid Vernacular
Burn Scriptures
Kill those who translate

Justinian

42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”

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1798
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538

Justinian

1798

Waldensians

42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”
Great Controversy: Waldenses
Paul says in Col 1:23 that the gospel was preached to every creature.
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Some disciples shared Word to people of Waldensian Valleys as they traveled across the Cottian Alps into Gaul (France) and other parts of Europe (www.waldensiantrailoffaith.org)
Great Controversy: Waldensians
Waldensian first known ancient Confession of Faith
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It is based on Scripture

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Confession of Faith
It is based on Scripture
This is long before Calvin, Luther, even Peter Waldo.
Great Controversy: Waldensians
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The School of the Barbes (uncles) is established to teach the Bible and train missionaries.
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Great Controversy: Waldensians
“From earliest childhood the youth were instructed in the Scriptures and taught to regard sacredly the claims of the law of God. Copies of the Bible were rare; therefore its precious words were committed to memory. Many were able to repeat large portions of both the Old and New Testament.” GC 67
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Great Controversy: Waldensians 1487-1689
Crusades to wipe out Waldenses. 33 wars
Great Controversy: Waldensians

Crusades to wipe out Waldenses. 33 wars
All manner of slaughters, impairsonments and persecutions as Waldensians stood for the Word of God
Chanforan. Farel and others met with Waldenses,
Chanforan. Farel and others met with Waldenses, Waldenses joined the Reformation.
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Olivetan to translate the Bible from original Hebrew and Greek into French.
Great Controversy: Waldensians

Ailefroide, France
Great Controversy: Waldensians
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Great Controversy: Waldensians
Great Controversy: Waldensians

Mount Castelluzzo
Great Controversy: 1260 Years

“Clothed in Sackcloth”

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Confuse interpretation
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Waldensians
Cathars

1798

42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”
Great Controversy: Albigensians
Albigenses (Cathars) originated in area of Albi & Toulouse.
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**Bible in common language**—heresy for it was non-Catholic Bible
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Gospel came from Eastern Europe, “reformers before reform”

**Bible in common language**—heresy for it was non-Catholic Bible

Fast spread and many cities entirely by Cathars
Great Controversy: Albigensians
Great Controversy: Albigensians

What did they believe? (from Inquisitors)
Great Controversy: Albigensians

What did they believe? (from Inquisitors)

Albigenses (Cathars); called themselves “Christians”
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Rejection of RCC Tradition in favor of Scriptures: no images, indulgences, priesthood, purgatory, saints, or sacraments; they were pro non-combatancy,
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**Read Bible for yourself**
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Viewed RCC as the “whore of Revelation”

Many were vegetarians

They were strict about keeping commandments
Great Controversy: Albigensians

1208–1244
Great Controversy: Albigensians

Catharism very popular so spread quickly

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Some castles gave up without a fight.

“Kill them all! God knows His own.”

Castles were wonderful refuge and siege-proof.

But water the key. **Total Extermination**
Great Controversy: Albigensians
Great Controversy: Albigensians

Cathar influence on other reform groups:
Great Controversy: Albigensians

Cathar influence on other reform groups:

Waldensians,
Great Controversy: Albigensians

Cathar influence on other reform groups:

Waldensians,
Lollards,
Cathar influence on other reform groups:

Waldensians,
Lollards,
Hussites,
Great Controversy: Albigensians

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- Hussites,
- Anabaptists,
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- Waldensians,
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- Hussites,
- Anabaptists,
- Huguenots, and
- Protestants.

(www.cathar.info/cathar_legacy)
Great Controversy: 1260 Years = 538 – 1798

“Clothed in Sackcloth”

Obscure Scriptures
Confuse interpretation
Forbid Vernacular
Burn Scriptures
Kill those who translate
Kill those with Scriptures

Justinian
Waldensians
Cathars

42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”
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1798

Justinian
Waldensians
Cathars
Huguenots
French Reformation
French Reformation

Jacques Lefèvre
William Farel
French Reformation

Jacques Lefèvre
William Farel
Jean Calvin
Louis de Berquin
French Reformation

Jacques Lefèvre
William Farel
Jean Calvin
Louis de Berquin
Henry IV
French Reformation

Jacques Lefèvre
William Farel
Jean Calvin
Louis de Berquin
Henry IV
Huguenots
French Reformation

Jacques Lefèvre
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Huguenots
Many French
hungry for the
Word
Great Controversy: St. Bartholomew’s Massacre
1572
But blackest in the black catalogue of crime, most horrible among the fiendish deeds of all the dreadful centuries, was the St. Bartholomew Massacre.
Great Controversy: St. Bartholomew’s Massacre 1572

But blackest in the black catalogue of crime, most horrible among the fiendish deeds of all the dreadful centuries, was the St. Bartholomew Massacre. . . .

A bell, tolling at dead of night, was a signal for the slaughter. Protestants by thousands, sleeping quietly in their homes, . . . were dragged forth without a warning and murdered in cold blood. ..
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Neither age nor sex was respected. Neither the innocent babe nor the man of gray hairs was spared. Noble and peasant, old and young, mother and child, were cut down together.
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Throughout France the butchery continued for two months. Seventy thousand of the very flower of the nation perished. GC 272
“When the news of the massacre reached Rome, the exultation among the clergy knew no bounds. A **medal** was struck to commemorate the massacre, and in the Vatican may still be seen three **frescoes of Vasari**, describing the attack upon the admiral, the king in council plotting the massacre, and the massacre itself...GC 272.1
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The Scriptures in the Great Controversy
Revelation 11:5
And if any man will hurt them (witnesses), fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.
Enemies of the Word
Devoured

The Scriptures in the Great Controversy

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And if any man will hurt them (witnesses), fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.
Revelation 11:6
These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.
The Scriptures in the Great Controversy

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The Word cannot be tampered with.
Such are the warnings which God has given to guard men against changing in any manner that which He has revealed or commanded. These solemn denunciations apply to all who by their influence lead men to regard lightly the law of God. They should cause those to fear and tremble who flippantly declare it a matter of little consequence whether we obey God's law or not. All who exalt their own opinions above divine revelation, all who would change the plain meaning of Scripture to suit their own convenience, or for the sake of conforming to the world, are taking upon themselves a fearful responsibility. GC 268
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Great Controversy: 1260 Years

“Clothed in Sackcloth”

Obscure Scriptures
Confuse interpretation
Forbid Vernacular
Burn Scriptures
Kill those who translate
Kill those with Scriptures

Justinian
Waldensians
Cathars
Huguenots

538

1798

42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”
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Cathars

Huguenots

42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”

1789
No RCC
In France
Catholic France: Altered Reality

France, strongly Catholic
Catholic France: Altered Reality

France, strongly Catholic
Famous gothic
Cathedrals took hundreds
of years to build (Notre Dame)
Catholic France: Altered Reality

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Much money went to Church while people
were starving
France, strongly Catholic
Famous gothic Cathedrals took hundreds of years to build (Notre Dame)
Much money went to Church while people were starving
Avignon, was the seat of the papacy during the 14th century
Roman Catholicism had raped the people in the name of God.
Roman Catholicism had raped the people in the name of God. Ruined Truth. In name of God: violence, selfishness, simony, guilt.
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Ruined Truth. In name of God: violence, selfishness, simony, guilt.

Nov 2, 1789, National Assembly confessated church property, and repurposed it.
Roman Catholicism had raped the people in the name of God.
Ruined Truth. In name of God: violence, selfishness, simony, guilt.
Nov 2, 1789, National Assembly confessated church property, and repurposed it
Next Feb. religious orders dissolved
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Ruined Truth. In name of God: violence, selfishness, simony, guilt.

Nov 2, 1789, National Assembly confessated church property, and repurposed it

Next Feb. religious orders dissolved

Sad. Populace hated all Christianity.
Great Controversy: In the Name of God
Great Controversy: In the Name of God

Where France, under the influence of Romanism, had set up the first stake at the opening of the Reformation, there the Revolution set up its first guillotine. . .When the restraints of God’s law were cast aside. . .the nation swept on to revolt and anarchy. . . the Reign of Terror. . . Violence and lust held undisputed sway.”  GC 282
Revelation 11:7
And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.
According to the words of the prophet, then, a little before the year 1798 some power of satanic origin and character would rise to make war upon the Bible. And in the land where the testimony of God's two witnesses should thus be silenced, there would be manifest the atheism of the Pharaoh and the licentiousness of Sodom. GC 269
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By spiritualism, multitudes are taught to believe that desire is the highest law, that license is liberty, and that man is accountable only to himself. AA 474.1
“The knife of the deadly machine rose and fell too slow for their work of slaughter. In the short space of ten years, multitudes of human beings perished. All this was as Satan would have it. His policy is deception from first to last and his steadfast purpose is to bring woe and wretchedness upon men.” GC 284
Revelation 11:8
And their [witnesses] dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.
Revelation 11:8
And their [witnesses] dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.
"The great city" in whose streets the witnesses are slain, and where their dead bodies lie, is “spiritually” Egypt. Of all nations presented in Bible history, **Egypt most boldly denied the existence of the living God** … Pharaoh proudly answered: “Who is Jehovah, that I should hearken unto His voice to let Israel go?” … Exodus 5:2, A.R.V. This is **atheism**. GC 269
“France stands apart in the world’s history as the single state which, by the decree of her Legislative Assembly, pronounced that there was no God”—Blackwood’s Magazine, November, 1870.” GC 269
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Great Controversy: Sodom & Egypt

“The French Revolution” by Eugène Delacroix
Great Controversy: Sodom & Egypt

French Revolution:
Great Controversy: Sodom & Egypt

French Revolution:
Replaced God of Heaven with Goddess of Reason or Supreme Being

“The French Revolution” by Eugène Delacroix
French Revolution:
Replaced God of Heaven with Goddess of Reason or Supreme Being
There is no law

Great Controversy: Sodom & Egypt

“The French Revolution” by Eugène Delacroix
French Revolution:
Replaced God of Heaven
with Goddess of Reason or
Supreme Being
There is no law
Violence

Great Controversy: Sodom & Egypt
Great Controversy: Sodom & Egypt

French Revolution:
Replaced God of Heaven with Goddess of Reason or Supreme Being
There is no law
Violence
Over the top licentiousness

“The French Revolution” by Eugène Delacroix
Great Controversy: Cult of Reason

1793
Great Controversy: Cult of Reason

Licentiousness, against the law of God
Great Controversy: Cult of Reason

“Mortals, cease to tremble before the powerless thunders of a God whom your fears have created. Henceforth acknowledge no divinity but Reason. I offer you its nobles and purest image; if you must have idols, sacrifice only to such as this...Fall before the august Senate of Freedom, oh! Veil of Reason!” GC 276
Great Controversy: Cult of Reason
Great Controversy: Cult of Reason
Great Controversy: Cult of Reason

Sodom
Great Controversy: Cult of Reason

To this person, as the fittest representative of that Reason whom they worshiped, the National Convention of France rendered public homage.”

GC 275
“France was shaken as if by an earthquake. Religion, law, social order, the family, the state, and the church—all were smitten down by the impious hand that had been lifted abasing the law of God.” GC 286
“Vive la Raison!” Carrying on the top of a pole the half-burned remains of several books, among others bravearies, missals, and the Old and New Testaments, which “expiated in a great fire...all the fooleries which they have made the human race commit.” GC 276
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Great Controversy: Cult of Supreme Being

"The French people recognize the Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul".
Great Controversy: Cult of Supreme Being

Maximilien Robespierre’s cult
Supreme Being in whatever likeness you wish.

“The French people recognize the Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul”. 
Great Controversy: Cult of Supreme Being

Maximilien Robespierre’s cult
Supreme Being in whatever likeness you wish.
The primary principles of the Cult of the Supreme Being were

"The French people recognize the Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul".
Maximilien Robespierre’s cult of the Supreme Being in whatever likeness you wish.
The primary principles of the Cult of the Supreme Being were a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being.

"The French people recognize the Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul".
Maximilien Robespierre’s cult Supreme Being in whatever likeness you wish.

The primary principles of the Cult of the Supreme Being were a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being and the immortality of the human soul.

"The French people recognize the Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul".
Great Controversy: Cult of Supreme Being

Maximilien Robespierre’s cult
Supreme Being in whatever likeness you wish.
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a belief in the existence of a Supreme Being
and the immortality of the human soul.

"The French people recognize the Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul".

Atheism and immortality = Spiritualism
Great Controversy: Cult of Supreme Being

The Festival of the Supreme Being, by Pierre-Antoine Demachy (1794)
Great Controversy: Cult of Supreme Being

Mandated rest day every 10th day according to the new Revolutionary Calendar

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Echoes of “I will be like the Most High.”
Great Controversy: Cult of Supreme Being

Mandated rest day every 10th day according to the new Revolutionary Calendar

Echoes of “I will be like the Most High.”

“Ye shall not surely die.”

The Festival of the Supreme Being, by Pierre-Antoine Demachy (1794)
The Scriptures in the Great Controversy
The Scriptures in the Great Controversy

Characteristics of Beast from Bottomless Pit
The Scriptures in the Great Controversy

Characteristics of Beast from Bottomless Pit
1. Does away with Word
Characteristics of Beast from Bottomless Pit
1. Does away with Word
2. Atheistic, no God but set up own worship and gods
The Scriptures in the Great Controversy

Characteristics of Beast from Bottomless Pit
1. Does away with Word
2. Atheistic, no God but set up own worship and gods
3. Immorality rampant
The Scriptures in the Great Controversy

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4. Immortality of soul
Characteristics of Beast from Bottomless Pit

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2. Atheistic, no God but set up own worship and gods
3. Immorality rampant
4. Immortality of soul
Great Controversy: 1260 Years

“Clothed in Sackcloth”

- Obscure Scriptures
- Confuse interpretation
- Forbid Vernacular
- Burn Scriptures
- Kill those who translate
- Kill those with Scriptures

Justinian

Waldensians

Cathars

Huguenots

1789 No RCC In France

1798

42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”
Great Controversy: 1260 Years

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538
Justinian

Waldensians
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No RCC
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42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”

1798

?
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

February 19, 1797

Treaty of Tolentino: Peace agreed between Bonaparte and Pius VI’s representatives
End of the papacy in France already took place. Now for Rome.

Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

February 19, 1797

Treaty of Tolentino: Peace agreed between Bonaparte and Pius VI’s representatives
End of the papacy in France already took place. Now for Rome.

Treaty of Tolentino between revolutionary France and Papacy.
End of the papacy in France already took place. Now for Rome.

Treaty of Tolentino between revolutionary France and Papacy.

Compromise: Papacy surrendered 15 million lire, lands, and treasures.
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

Artwork being shipped from Vatican to the National Museum of Paris
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

Treasures of the Vatican taken to Paris

Artwork being shipped from Vatican to the National Museum of Paris
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

Treasures of the Vatican taken to Paris
BUT papacy still in power in Rome.
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

December 28, 1797

Palace of Corsini, French Embassy in Rome,
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

December 28, 1797

General Duphot

Palace of Corsini, French Embassy in Rome,
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound
December 28, 1797
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

Feb 1798

Bertheir

Pra del Torno
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

Feb 1798

Bertheir

Exile of Pope Pius VI
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

- **Feb 1798**: Bertheir
- **August 1799**: Exile of Pope Pius VI
- **Aug 1799**: Pius VI Death in Valance, France
Great Controversy: 1798 Mortal Wound

Feb 1798
Bertheir

Prophecy triumphs against all odds

August 1799
Exile of Pope Pius VI

Pius VI Death in Valance, France
Great Controversy: 1260 Years

"Clothed in Sackcloth"

Obscure Scriptures
Confuse interpretation
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Justinian

1798

1789
No RCC in France

42 months or "a thousand two hundred and threescore days"

Waldensians
Cathars
Huguenots
Great Controversy: 1260 Years =

“Clothed in Sackcloth”

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Justinian

Waldensians

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Huguenots

1798

42 months or “a thousand two hundred and threescore days”

1789
No RCC In France

“Mortal Wound”

1789
Waldensians

Cathars

Huguenots

“Mortal Wound”
Revelation 11:11

“After three days and a half, the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them.”
Great Controversy: Scripture
“Three years and a half later a resolution rescinding these decrees granting toleration to Scriptures.” GC 287
Great Controversy: Scripture

“Three years and a half later a resolution rescinding these decrees granting toleration to Scriptures.” GC 287

Improvements in printing aided circulation.
Great Controversy: Scripture

“Three years and a half later a resolution rescinding these decrees granting toleration to Scriptures.” GC 287

Improvements in printing aided circulation. Now the Bible Societies translated and distributed millions of Scriptures everywhere.
“Three years and a half later a resolution rescinding these decrees granting toleration to Scriptures.” GC 287

Improvements in printing aided circulation. Now the Bible Societies translated and distributed millions of Scriptures everywhere.

Foreign missions to spread the Word.
“Three years and a half later a resolution rescinding these decrees granting toleration to Scriptures.” GC 287

Improvements in printing aided circulation.

Now the Bible Societies translated and distributed millions of Scriptures everywhere.

Foreign missions to spread Word

“The word of our God shall stand forever.”

 Isa 40:8
Great Controversy: To be repeated
Great Controversy: To be repeated

Anarchy of French Revolution we will see again—and new attacks on Bible
Great Controversy: To be repeated
Great Controversy: To be repeated

At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human.
At the same time *anarchy* is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human.

The centralizing of *wealth* and *power*;
At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human. The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many;
At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human.

The centralizing of wealth and power;

the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many;

the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims;
Great Controversy: To be repeated

At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human.

The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed;
At the same time anarchy is seeking to sweep away all law, not only divine, but human.

The centralizing of wealth and power; the vast combinations for the enriching of the few at the expense of the many; the combinations of the poorer classes for the defense of their interests and claims; the spirit of unrest, of riot and bloodshed; the world-wide dissemination of the same teachings that led to the French Revolution—all are tending to involve the whole world in a struggle similar to that which convulsed France. Ed 228.2
Great Controversy: in Culture

What has happened to Truth?
Great Controversy: in Culture

What has happened to Truth?
Great Controversy: in Culture

What has happened to Truth?

Hippie Generation
Great Controversy: in Culture

What has happened to Truth?

Hippie Generation has grown up
Great Controversy: in Culture

Cf. GC chapter: “Can Our Dead Speak to Us?”
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Philosophical SPIRITUALISM (Beast from abyss.)
Great Controversy: in Culture

Cf. GC chapter: “Can Our Dead Speak to Us?”

Philosophical SPIRITUALISM (Beast from abyss.)

Existentialism, “You’re OK, I’m OK”
Cf. GC chapter: “Can Our Dead Speak to Us?”

Philosophical SPIRITUALISM (Beast from abyss.)

Existentialism, “You’re OK, I’m OK”

No right or wrong. Everything in context. No such thing as “truth”
Cf. GC chapter: “Can Our Dead Speak to Us?”

Philosophical SPIRITUALISM (Beast from abyss.)

Existentialism, “You’re OK, I’m OK”

No right or wrong. Everything in context. No such thing as “truth”

All love. No restrictions morally.
Great Controversy: in Culture

Cf. GC chapter: “Can Our Dead Speak to Us?”

Philosophical SPIRITUALISM (Beast from abyss.)

Existentialism, “You’re OK, I’m OK”

No right or wrong. Everything in context. No such thing as “truth”

All love. No restrictions morally.

Free sex,
Great Controversy: in Culture

Cf. GC chapter: “Can Our Dead Speak to Us?”

Philosophical SPIRITUALISM (Beast from abyss.)

Existentialism, “You’re OK, I’m OK”

No right or wrong. Everything in context. No such thing as “truth”

All love. No restrictions morally.

Free sex,

Opiate addictions out of control
Great Controversy: in Culture

Cf. GC chapter: “Can Our Dead Speak to Us?”

Philosophical SPIRITUALISM (Beast from abyss.)

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No right or wrong. Everything in context. No such thing as “truth”

All love. No restrictions morally.

Free sex,

Opiate addictions out of control

(For more see my YouTube video on Spiritualism)
Satan has infected whole world:
Great Controversy: in Culture

Satan has infected whole world:

Supreme Being instead of God
Satan has infected whole world:

**Supreme Being** instead of God

No such thing as “truth” (fake news)
Great Controversy: in Culture

Satan has infected whole world:

**Supreme Being** instead of God

No such thing as “truth” (fake news)

No law; Liberty means license
Satan has infected whole world:

**Supreme Being** instead of God

No such thing as “truth” (fake news)

No law; Liberty means license

Anarchy, riots,
Great Controversy: in Culture

Satan has infected whole world:

**Supreme Being** instead of God

No such thing as “truth” (fake news)

No law; Liberty means license

Anarchy, riots, violence common
Satan has infected whole world:

**Supreme Being** instead of God

No such thing as “truth” (fake news)

No law; Liberty means license

Anarchy, riots,
violence common

Love whoever you want
Great Controversy: in Culture

Satan has infected whole world:

**Supreme Being** instead of God

No such thing as “truth” (fake news)

No law; Liberty means license

Anarchy, riots,

violence common

Love whoever you want

Law needs revision
Great Controversy: in Culture
Great Controversy: in Culture

New reality determined by:
Internet and computers
Great Controversy: in Culture

New reality determined by:
Internet and computers
Smart phones
Great Controversy: in Culture

New reality determined by:
Internet and computers
Smart phones
Fake news
Great Controversy: in Culture

New reality determined by:
- Internet and computers
- Smart phones
- Fake news
- Social Media
Great Controversy: in Culture

New reality determined by:
- Internet and computers
- Smart phones
- Fake news
- Social Media
- Bible is so common on devices but do we really study anymore??
Great Controversy: Reality Unhinged

“Today, each of us is freer than ever to custom-make reality, to believe whatever and pretend to be whoever we wish. Which makes all the lines between actual and fictional blur and disappear more easily. Truth in general becomes flexible, personal, subjective. And we like this new ultra freedom, insist on it...” “How America Lost Its Mind”, Kurt Anderson, *The Atlantic*, Sept. 2017
Great Controversy: Test Everything!

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”
Isaiah 8:20.
“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.”
Isaiah 8:20.
And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. 2 Thess 2:11
The Scriptures in the Great Controversy

Historical Critical Methodology
Historical Critical Methodology

Atheistic Bible Interpretation destroys Scripture in our times.
Higher Criticism: No Certainty
Higher Criticism: No Certainty
“hermeneutics of suspicion.”
Takes away the certainty of Scripture.
Higher Criticism: No Certainty
“hermeneutics of suspicion.”
Takes away the certainty of Scripture.
May be this, may be that.
Scholars on all sides.
Higher Criticism: No Certainty
“hermeneutics of suspicion.”
Takes away the certainty of Scripture.
May be this, may be that.
Scholars on all sides.
There is no "Thus saith the Lord" that I can pin my confidence to.
Everything tentative.
Higher Criticism: Spin scenarios!
Scriptures were all written for another time and another people and with the biases of authors.
Scriptures were all written for another time and another people and with the biases of authors. Scholars spin whole tales of fiction about societies we know little about. Cunningly devised fables.
Scriptures were all written for another time and another people and with the biases of authors.

Scholars spin whole tales of fiction about societies we know little about. Cunningly devised fables.

But “WE HAVE A MORE SURE WORD OF PROPHECY.” 2 Pet 1:19

Higher Criticism: Spin scenarios!
“Here only [in the Bible] can we find a history of our race, unsullied by human prejudice or human pride.”

Education, 173.
“Here only [in the Bible] can we find a history of our race, unsullied by human prejudice or human pride.”

Education, 173.
Historical Criticism: Promises gone
Historical Criticism: **Promises gone**

Bible promises eroded, they are ripped away from us.
Historical Criticism: Promises gone

Bible promises eroded, they are ripped away from us.

Scholars are not necessarily even believers, many atheists.
Bible promises eroded, they are ripped away from us.

Scholars are not necessarily even believers, many atheists.

The comfort of Psalm 23, the all-knowing assurance of Jer 29:11 cannot be used for me today in this era because God spoke them for another time and to another people.
Higher Criticism: Doubt
Higher Criticism: Doubt

Depending on how far you imbibe of the gases of the bottomless pit, all of Scripture becomes literature to study but not to believe.
Depending on how far you imbibe of the gases of the bottomless pit, all of Scripture becomes literature to study but not to believe. Those who take God at his word are called “Fundamentalists” and sneered at.
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DOUBT TAKES THE PLACE OF FAITH.
Higher Criticism: “Proof Texting”
Seventh-day Adventists have formulated doctrine by comparing Scripture with Scripture.
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Higher Criticism: “Proof Texting”
Seventh-day Adventists have formulated doctrine by comparing Scripture with Scripture. We collect verses on the same topic from all Scripture and ask what does it mean? Those using historical critical methods call this “proof-texting” and feel you must only use verses within their context.
Seventh-day Adventists have formulated doctrine by comparing Scripture with Scripture. We collect verses on the same topic from all Scripture and ask what does it mean? Those using historical critical methods call this “proof-texting” and feel you must only use verses within their context. They say you cannot compare Genesis with 1 Timothy; Ecclesiastes with Psalms or John to formulate doctrine: wo, or Sabbath.
Higher Criticism: Foundations
If reading and comparing Scripture is ripped away, our foundation gone.
If reading and comparing Scripture is ripped away, our foundation gone.

Have we believed in fables? Doubt breeds doubt; pretty soon whole house crumbles. Then Bible only good for devotion not reliable history.
Higher Criticism: Foundations

If reading and comparing Scripture is ripped away, our foundation gone.

Have we believed in fables? Doubt breeds doubt; pretty soon whole house crumbles. Then Bible only good for devotion not reliable history.

Also SOP. It cannot be used for explaining Scripture, it is not good for history, not reliable for nutrition or health. Only devotional. EGW was a good woman.
If reading and comparing Scripture is ripped away, our foundation gone.

Have we believed in fables? Doubt breeds doubt; pretty soon whole house crumbles. Then Bible only good for devotion not reliable history.

Also SOP. It cannot be used for explaining Scripture, it is not good for history, not reliable for nutrition or health. Only devotional. EGW was a good woman.

What is left if all inspiration evaporates?
If reading and comparing Scripture is ripped away, our foundation gone.

Have we believed in fables? Doubt breeds doubt; pretty soon whole house crumbles. Then Bible only good for devotion not reliable history.

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What is left if all inspiration evaporates?
Great Controversy: Test Everything!
“Scholarship” makes Truth irrelevant, it makes plain Bible words, exactly what God says, seem uncertain and tenuous and difficult.
“Scholarship” makes Truth irrelevant, it makes plain Bible words, exactly what God says, seem uncertain and tenuous and difficult. Reformation taken from us because we don’t know original language or ancient cultures.
“Scholarship” makes Truth irrelevant, it makes plain Bible words, exactly what God says, seem uncertain and tenuous and difficult.

Reformation taken from us because we don’t know original language or ancient cultures.

Satan (the beast from the bottomless pit) has made the Word of none effect
“In the great final conflict, Satan will employ the same policy, manifest the same spirit, and work for the same end as in all the preceding ages. That which has been, will be, except that the coming struggle will be marked with a terrible intensity such as the world has never witnessed. Satan’s deceptions will be more subtle, his assaults more determined. If it were possible, he would lead astray the elect. Mark 13:22.” GC xi.
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The Scriptures in the Great Controversy
There is TRUTH.
We can have confidence.
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God’s Word = TRUTH
The Scriptures in the Great Controversy

Scriptures a Safeguard

God’s Word = TRUTH

There is TRUTH.

We can have confidence.
Great Controversy: To Stand Alone
None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict. GC 593

Great Controversy: To Stand Alone
“Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain ‘Thus saith the Lord’ in its support.”

Great Controversy, p. 595
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Great Controversy, p. 595

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Eph 6:13
War in Heaven
Devices and Computer Are Not All Bad!
Instead of the devil’s usage of devices for distraction and evil we can use these devices in our devotional life and to study the Word of God!
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Recommend iPad Pro Using iOS 11
Split Screen where you can take notes on one side and have Bible on other.
there stood other two, the one on this side of the bank of the river, and the other on that side of the bank of the river. 6 And one said to the man clothed upon the waters of the river, it be to the end of the earth. 7 And when he had heard the man clothed upon the waters of the river, he took up his right hand and swore by heaven, and sware by that it shall be for a time, and when he shall scatter the power of these things shall be heard, but I understand not, my Lord, what shall become of these things? 9 And he said, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. 10 Many shall be purified, purified, and made white, and be sorted out, but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.
Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:24
Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

2 But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

4 But when the fulness of the time,
In the sixteenth century, the people, had sought admission to all a messenger of Heaven; and the light was excluded. In one country darkness. For centuries, and the truth of Heaven world, and men loved darkness, and the evil triumphed, as light is come into the world was left to reap the fruit of the scenes of the Revolution, culminated in the final result of Rome's suppression of the Scriptures, the world has ever witnessed results to which for more than a century Church had been tending. GC 265.2

The suppression of the prophets; and the Revelation was foretold by the people, had sought admission to all a messenger of Heaven; and the light was excluded. In one country darkness. For centuries, and the truth of Heaven world, and men loved darkness, and the evil triumphed, as light is come into the world was left to reap the fruit of the scenes of the Revolution, culminated in the final result of Rome's suppression of the Scriptures, the world has ever witnessed results to which for more than a century Church had been tending. GC 265.2
In the sixteenth century the Reformation, presenting an open Bible to the people, had sought admission to all the countries of Europe. Some nations welcomed it with gladness, as a messenger of Heaven. In other lands the papacy succeeded to a great extent in preventing its entrance; and the light of Bible knowledge, with its elevating influences, was almost wholly excluded. In one country, though the light found entrance, it was not comprehended by the darkness. For centuries, truth and error struggled for the mastery. At last the evil triumphed, and the truth of Heaven was thrust out. “This is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light.” John 3:19. The nation was left to reap the results of the course which she had chosen. The restraint of God’s Spirit was removed from a people that had despised the gift of His grace. Evil was permitted to come to maturity. And all the world saw the fruit of willful rejection of the light. GC 265.1

The war against the Bible, carried forward for so many centuries in France, culminated in the scenes of the Revolution. That terrible outbreaking was but the legitimate result of Rome’s suppression of the Scriptures. (See Appendix.) It presented the most striking illustration which the world has ever witnessed of the working out of the papal policy—an illustration of the results to which for more than a thousand years the teaching of the Roman Church had been tending. GC 265.2

The suppression of the Scriptures during the period of papal supremacy was foretold by the prophets; and the Revelator points also to the terrible results that were to accrue especially to
“And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.” Revelation 11:5. Men cannot with impunity trample upon the word of God. The meaning of this fearful denunciation is set forth in the closing chapter of the Revelation: “I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book. If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” Revelation 22:18, 19.

Such are the warnings which God has given to guard men against changing in any manner that which He has revealed or commanded. These solemn denunciations apply to all who by their influence lead men to regard lightly the law of God. They should cause those to fear and tremble who flippantly declare it a matter of little consequence whether we obey God’s law or not. All who exalt their own opinions above divine revelation, all who would change the plain meaning of Scripture to suit their own convenience, or for the sake of conforming to the world, are taking upon themselves a fearful responsibility. The written word, the law of God, will measure the character of every man and condemn all whom this unerring test shall declare wanting.
Persecutor of Christians

Saul of Tarsus first appears in Acts in his involvement in the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:58) and then in connection with the more wide-scale persecution that broke out in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1–5). Peter, Stephen, Philip, and Paul play a significant role in the book of Acts because they were involved in events that led to the spread of the Christian faith beyond the Jewish world. Stephen is of particular significance because his preaching and martyrdom appear to have had a profound influence on Saul of Tarsus.

Stephen was a Greek-speaking Jew, and one of the original seven deacons (Acts 6:3–6). According to Acts, a group of foreign Jews who had come to live in Jerusalem (Acts 6:9) entered into a dispute with Stephen over the content of his preaching about Jesus. It is possible, moreover, likely that Saul of Tarsus was involved in the mutual hatred...
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