

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of June 23, 2024, A.D.

The Cosmic Battle

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Matthew 4:1-4

1. Please explain how Jesus can be (and is) the "Son of God". Did Jesus have the power to change the stones into bread? If so, why did Jesus not do so?
2. Refer to verse 4. Does every human need spiritual food (i.e., every word that comes from the mouth of God) in order to sustain their spiritual life? How often (and to what extent) must a person read and digest the words of the Bible to become (a) spiritually alive? and (b) spiritually healthy? Please describe the lifestyle and behavior of a spiritually healthy person.
3. Do you personally know any professing Christians who (a) are suffering from spiritual malnutrition? or (b) are spiritually dead? If so, (a) why do they allow their condition to exist? and (b) have you attempted to help them?

Read Matthew 4:8-11

4. Do you believe that these verses describe an actual historical event which occurred in physical time and space? Why are these verses in the Bible?
5. The devil asked Jesus to worship him. Please analyze, critique, and discuss these statements: "Worship is declaring the greatness of someone or something. Worship is the act of giving up your own glory to make sure that everyone knows that the thing being worshiped is valuable to you. Worship is bowing down to lift up a person or thing."

6. Does God expect every human to worship Him? Does God want every human to worship Him? Does God have the authority to force every human to worship Him?
7. Does the devil expect every human to worship the devil? Does the devil want every human to worship the devil? Does the devil have the authority to force every human to worship him?
8. Does the devil currently have the authority to give "all the kingdoms of the world" to whomever the devil wants to give them? Please explain the reasons for (and the practical day-to-day implications of) your answer.

Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-4

9. Is the devil (i.e., Satan) the god of this age? If so, how did the devil become the god of this age? How (and why) does Satan blind the minds of all unbelievers?
10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Satan always operates in secret and shameful ways, uses deception, and distorts the word of God. Those people who follow Christ always set forth the truth plainly."

Read Colossians 1:13-14

11. Are all humans who are alive on planet Earth living in a dark and evil world system which is under the authority and control of Satan? Are all of the inhabitants of Earth equally dominated by (and subjected to) the authority and control of Satan?

Read 1 John 2:15-17

12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss the meaning and the implications of these verses as they relate and apply to the church in America today.

Consider: God expects every follower of Christ to expose the deceit of the culture and to live each day in obedience to Christ in a world that is in rebellion against Him. "You think about that." Amen.