



Ellen White,
Visionary
First Quarter 2012 **for Kids**

**What's in
My Future?**

Understanding the
"great controversy"
between Jesus and
Satan will calm your
end-time fears.

In this issue:
Satan on the Loose
Give a Bible Study
The War Is Won!

 Pull out and save



Satan on the Loose

BY SHAWN BOONSTRA



Visionary



Who's to blame for all the awful tragedies that happen in the world?

Dad, can I talk to you for a minute?"

Kayla's dad slowly looked up from his desk, where he was poring over his usual stack of paperwork. He pulled his glasses down his nose a bit so that he could look over them at his daughter, who was standing in the doorway with a laptop tucked under her arm.

"What is it, honey?"

That was Kayla's signal to enter her father's study. If he muttered or didn't look up, it meant he was too busy with his work to chat. If he pulled his glasses down, he was curious. She walked over next to his chair and opened the computer on his desk.

"It's this stuff on YouTube, Dad. I've been watching videos of the tsunami in Japan, and it's really starting to bother me. Why would God let something so horrible happen to all those people?"

This was a serious subject. Kayla's dad spun around in his chair to face her.

"It is pretty bad, isn't it?" he said.

"Dad, it's *horrible*. There was water rushing through the streets . . . it was washing away cars like they were toys . . . and it ripped apart buildings . . . and *so many* people died . . . and now the nuclear plant is leaking, and it looks as though dangerous radiation is going all over the planet—so *why* would God do something like this?"

Kayla, who had a habit of gushing her words until she ran out of breath, stopped to get some air. Her dad's forehead wrinkled as he looked at the tears beginning to spill out of her eyes.

"You know, Kayla, you've asked a very important question. In fact, some of the smartest people in history have asked the very same question and never really found an answer. Fortunately, I happen to know where we can find a good answer—but it's going to take a little bit of study. Would you like to see?"

"Yes, of course!"

He turned his chair back to his desk, opened the desk drawer, and pulled out a tattered little blue Bible that had obviously been well used.

"The smartest people in the world don't have an answer for your question," he said with a smile, "but God does. Have a look at this!"

Dad opened his Bible to a page in the Old Testament, where Kayla could see all sorts of sticky notes on the pages, with her dad's scribbly handwriting all over them.

"There's a story in the Bible in which some really bad stuff happens to a really



good man named Job,” he explained. “In fact, he loses almost his whole family, and then he gets very sick—and, of course, people were tempted to think that he must have done something pretty horrible to deserve it. But God lets us take a peek behind the scenes of the universe so that we can see what’s really going on.”

“You mean the *whole universe* is involved?”

Kayla hadn’t thought about that possibility, and it made her curious.

“Absolutely! The story tells us that God is holding a meeting somewhere in the universe when suddenly the devil shows up, claiming that Planet Earth belongs to him.”

“How could he say that?” Kayla asked, amazed. “He didn’t create it! God did!”

“I know. But don’t forget—more than anything else, the devil wants to be worshipped like God. That’s why he started a rebellion in heaven, and when that didn’t work, he started a rebellion here on earth. When Adam and Eve listened to his lies and sinned, the devil claimed they no longer wanted a relationship with God, and he believes that the planet now belongs to him.”

Kayla thought about it for a minute. That was pretty heavy stuff!

“So what happened to Job?” she asked.

“Here, let me show you.” Her dad started reading. “Remember, the devil claims to own the world, and here’s what God says to him: ‘Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?’ [Job 1:8]”*

Kayla suddenly got excited. “Dad, it’s as if God is telling the devil he doesn’t own *everything*, isn’t it? Job was proof that not everybody was following Satan!”

“That’s right!” Her dad was obviously impressed. “So Satan hatches a plan to change that. He tells God that Job worships Him only because God has allowed Job to become rich and successful. Here, listen to what he tells God: ‘But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!’ [verse 11].”

“Dad, what exactly does that mean?”

“Honey, the devil is daring God to hurt Job—to take away his blessings. He’s basically saying, ‘Listen, God: People follow You only because of the stuff You give them—but if You take it away, they’ll follow me like everybody else.’”

“Dad, tell me that God didn’t do it!” The thought that God might take a dare from the devil really bothered Kayla.

“No, not at all—that’s the best part of this story. Listen to God’s answer—and listen very carefully: ‘And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in

your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord’ [verse 12].”

“Wait a minute!” Kayla said excitedly. “God didn’t do it—Satan did! It’s like God was saying, ‘Satan, I know that Job is good, and I know you’re lying, but you do whatever you’re going to do and see what happens!’”

“That’s right, honey. It’s not God who causes misery on this planet; it’s the devil! Also, it’s really important to notice the limits God places on what He allows the devil to do.”

Kayla was happy with the answer. What a relief! It wasn’t God bringing disasters on the planet; it was all because of Satan’s rebellion. Kayla was just about to pick up the computer and leave again, but then she thought of something else.

“Dad, why would God let the devil do that stuff? And what’s the devil’s point, anyway? Doesn’t it just make him look really bad?”

“You’d think so, wouldn’t you?” Her dad’s forehead wrinkled up again. “But let me ask you this: When you saw those videos on YouTube, and all that suffering, who did you think was responsible at first?”

That was a good question, and Kayla was a little embarrassed to admit it: “I kind of blamed God, didn’t I?”

“That’s right. Most people do. Now think about it: if you were the devil . . .”

Kayla interrupted. “Dad, I don’t think I’d *want* to be!”

“I know, but just think about it for a moment. If you were the devil, and you were trying to get people to turn against God, what would you do?”

Kayla paused, then said, “I’d do bad things to people and make them think that God was doing it!”

“Exactly. That’s the devil’s plan to turn us all against God. Satan wants us to think poorly of our heavenly Father. But if you read the Bible and get to know God personally, it doesn’t take long to figure out that He’s not like that. Not at all! I mean, why would God do bad things to people and then give His own Son’s life to save them? It doesn’t make sense, does it?”

“No, it doesn’t, Dad. And the Bible says that God is love, too—so it’s obvious that the bad stuff isn’t coming from Him. But why does He let the devil do this stuff?”

Her dad leaned back in his chair and looked up at the ceiling. After a moment he looked back down at Kayla and asked a question.

“Well, what do *you* think about the mess the devil is making?”

“If that’s what the devil is like, Dad, I think he can’t be trusted.”



Continued on p. V11



Ask
Cindy

I'm afraid when I hear about bad things happening everywhere—earthquakes, tsunamis, people fighting. Will I even have a future?

I can't tell you what your future will be, but I can tell you two important things:

1. Jesus says, "I am with you *always*, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20, NKJV).¹

2. We have no guarantee that we will be alive tomorrow. But we have every guarantee through Christ that we will be alive through eternity.

This means that whatever the future holds, Jesus will not abandon us. When you feel afraid, imagine Jesus right beside you, just as He promises to be. What happens to us on this earth is not nearly as important as where we spend eternity. After all, eternity is *forever*, and forever is a long, long time!

Sometimes I'm tempted to be afraid too. When those unwelcome ideas try to intrude into my mind, I like to repeat Bible promises that help chase away scary thoughts. Here are a couple of my favorites:

"I lay down and slept, yet I woke up in safety, for the Lord was watching over me" (Psalm 3:5, NLT).²

"You alone, O Lord, will keep me safe" (Psalm 4:8, NLT).

"I hold you by your right hand—I, the Lord your God. And I say to you, 'Don't be afraid. I am here to help you'" (Isaiah 41:13, NLT).

I even memorized all of Psalm 91 and say it to myself often. Read it through and see how good that psalm is for sending fearful thoughts packing!

Ellen White writes: "Neither life nor death, height nor depth, can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus; not because we hold Him so firmly, but because He holds us so fast" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 553). Isn't

that a comforting picture of God—holding us tight and delivering us from danger in the way that He knows to be best?

Of course, the very best news is that soon Jesus will come and end all suffering, all calamities, all death. In heaven there will be no worries, because there's nothing in heaven to fear. Even the lions will be tame! (See Isaiah 35.) Let's commit our hearts and lives to Jesus every day, so on the day of His coming we will be able to shout, "Hurrah! This is our God! We have waited for Him, and today He will rescue us."

¹Texts credited to NKJV are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

²Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

Cindy



What Do You Want to Know?

Ask youth pastor Cindy Tutsch any question about Ellen White, the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or the Bible—especially questions on next quarter's *Visionary* topic: "Jesus." Just send your e-mail to cindytutsch@hotmail.com. All of your questions will be answered—and we might even put some of them in a future issue of *Visionary*!

Give a Bible Study

The Great Controversy

Share the truth about God's ultimate plan for our world!

Sometimes, when bad things happen in our world, people blame God. Who is actually responsible for pain, suffering, and death?

Job 2:7: “So _____ went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.”*

Luke 13:11-16: “And behold, there was a woman who had a _____ of _____ eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. . . . So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom _____ has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”

The devil was cast out of heaven because he wanted something. What was it?

Isaiah 14:13, 14: “For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into _____, I will _____ my throne above the stars of God; . . . I will be like the _____.’”

Satan—or Lucifer, as he used to be called—became prideful and wanted to be worshipped like God. He started to speak with other angels and raise questions about God’s government, and managed to convince one third of them to turn against God! (See Revelation 12:3, 4.) Because sin and suffering are not allowed in God’s presence, they had to be removed from heaven. Satan decided to try to convince the human race to rebel, too—and with a lie he convinced Adam and Eve to sin, which led to tragic consequences: pain, suffering, and death. (See Genesis 3:14-19.)

Will there be more disastrous events before Jesus comes?

Matthew 24:6, 7: “And you will hear of _____ and rumors of _____. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.

And there will be _____, _____, and _____ in various places.”

The Bible teaches that Jesus created the world and that He holds it together. (See Colossians 1:16, 17.) As a planet we have chosen to let go of God and follow the devil, and as a result our world is no longer the paradise it used to be. The devil has changed it, and as time moves along, the problems get worse and worse.

Do we need to be worried about these terrible events?

Psalm 91:10: “No _____ shall befall you, nor shall any _____ come near your dwelling.”

As things get worse just before Jesus comes, God promises to shelter us against the final plagues that fall on the world. Remember, in Matthew 24:6 Jesus told us to “see that you are not troubled.”

Isaiah 43:2: “When you pass through the _____, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the _____, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.”

Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of _____ and not of evil, to give you a _____ and a _____.”

Even though the Bible doesn't promise Christians that we will never experience trouble, God promises to be with us always.

Why does God allow these things?

Joshua 24:15: “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, _____ for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the _____.”

Because God is love, He doesn't force anybody to love Him back. Even though people's decisions to follow the devil must be very painful for Him, He chooses to allow people to go their own way. We are free to choose—and to live with the consequences that come with a world that has rejected God. But what God hopes is that we will choose Him!

What is God's ultimate plan for our world?

Revelation 21:1: “Now I saw a _____ heaven and a _____ earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.”

God plans to replace our broken world with a brand-new one!

What will this new world be like?

Revelation 21:4: “And God will wipe away every _____ from their eyes; there shall be no more _____, nor _____, nor crying. There shall be no more _____, for the former things have passed away.”

Why doesn't God simply make this new world now?

John 3:16: “For God so _____ the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have _____ life.”

2 Peter 3:9: “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should _____ but that all should come to repentance.”

People who continue to choose the devil would never be happy in the new earth, because sin will not be a part of that world. God is “longsuffering,” which means that He is suffering over sin and pain just like us—but God loves us so much that He is waiting long enough to give everybody a chance to discover Jesus’ love and to accept Him as their Lord and Savior!

Based on what you have read in the Bible, do you believe that God is love? And do you choose to follow and accept Jesus instead of believing the devil’s lies?

What is *your* answer? _____

*All Bible texts in this study are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



“Satan on the Loose,” from p. V5

Her dad smiled broadly. “You nailed it, Kayla! That’s exactly why God has allowed the devil to do what he wants for a little while. He knew that Satan would prove that rebellion against God leads to disaster, and that people who thought about it would see that the devil is a murderer and that God is love.”

Kayla smiled too. “And once we’ve seen how much pain the devil causes, we’ll never choose to rebel against God again!”

“That’s right, honey. And God has a plan to stop the pain forever once people have had a chance to learn about His love and make their own decision.”

Kayla suddenly got excited and grabbed the laptop. “Dad, people need to know this! I think I’m going to post something under the video so people can know what’s actually going on . . . and how much God loves them . . . and that He’s going to make things right . . . and how they can choose Jesus . . . and how the devil is trying to keep us away from Him, and . . .”

Kayla was gushing again, and she stopped to catch her breath. “And maybe my friends can help. Maybe if we all just started posting ‘God didn’t do this—God is love!’ on all these kinds of videos, it might catch on!”

Dad reached over and patted her arm. “That, my dear, is a *fantastic* idea.”

*All Bible texts in this story are from the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The War Is Won!

In the book *The Great Controversy*, Ellen White writes that the outcome of the war between God and Satan, known as the great controversy, was settled at a specific point in history. “The great controversy which had been so long in progress was then decided, and the final eradication of evil was made certain” (p. 503). To see what point in history she was talking about, color in all the boxes that contain the letters in the word VICTORY.

D	F	A	I	V	R	C	N	G	G
E	L	S	T	W	Q	T	D	A	S
S	B	W	I	M	N	O	X	P	M
T	V	T	T	B	G	V	Y	V	C
C	H	J	P	E	F	N	S	D	R
I	L	E	F	D	A	U	Z	X	T
R	C	V	I	S	E	C	Y	I	Y
D	A	L	C	M	U	C	P	L	F
K	X	G	O	N	W	R	Q	L	E
B	S	A	O	H	F	I	N	Z	U
H	F	G	V	J	Q	C	S	U	W
A	G	F	V	D	M	V	L	P	X
L	B	W	C	P	J	T	E	U	J
G	S	D	O	O	O	T	A	B	W

An illustration of Ellen White, a woman with dark hair, wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved dress with a white collar. She has her arms raised in a gesture of praise or prayer, looking upwards with a joyful expression. The background is a textured, brownish-gold color with several white, starburst-like light effects scattered around her.

About Ellen White

Ellen White was born in 1827 near Portland, Maine, U.S.A. Seventh-day Adventists believe that God called her to be a prophet and gave her messages through dreams and visions, as foretold in such Bible passages as Joel 2:28, 29 and Ephesians 4:11-13.

Ellen White's writings bring messages of hope that express the love of Jesus for every person. She proclaimed that the Ten Commandments are based on God's great love and that God will help His children keep His commandments as a response to that love. Ellen White dedicated her entire life to serving others.

The editors of *Visionary* invite you to read Ellen White's writings for yourself to discover, enjoy, and build a stronger friendship with Jesus.

For more fun stories and puzzles, visit our online edition of *Visionary* at www.whiteestate.org/vez.

Visionary is provided by the Ellen G. White Estate.

Director: James R. Nix • Vice Director: Tim Poirier

Associate Directors: William Fagal, Cindy Tutsch, Ivan Leigh Warden

Visionary Editor: Cindy Tutsch • Associate Editors: Darryl Thompson, Helen Lee Robinson

Contract Writer: Helen Lee Robinson • Artwork and Design: Brandon Reese, Darryl Thompson

Writer-Researchers: Darryl Thompson, Cindy Tutsch, Helen Lee Robinson

Online Coordinators: Helen Lee Robinson, Darryl Thompson • Consultants: Larry Blackmer, Linda Koh, Kimberly Luste Maran

Unless otherwise noted, photos © 2012 Thinkstock.com.

V12

Visionary