

#### 4. The Eyes of the Lord: The Biblical Worldview (4Q 2020—Education)

**Biblical Material:** Prov. 15:3; Job 12:7–10; Eph. 6:12; Rev. 20:5, 6; John 1:1–14; Mark 12:29–31.

##### Quotes

- “Biblical worldview.” The term means literally a “view of the world,” a biblically informed perspective on all of reality. A worldview is like a mental map that tells you how to navigate the world effectively. It is the imprint of God’s objective truth on our inner life. *Nancy Pearcey*
- The absence of consistent biblical worldview thinking is a key mark of spiritual immaturity. *Albert Mohler*
- We stand in the shadow of the Bible today as opposed to in the pages of the Bible. I think that the biblical illiteracy comes as a direct result of a failure to recognize that the DNA of western civilization comes from a biblical worldview. *Hank Hanegraaff*
- The Biblical worldview is not given to us in the discursive and analytical language of philosophy and science, but in rich and compact language of symbolism and art. *James Jordan*
- A person with a biblical worldview experiences, interprets, and response to reality in light of the Bible’s principles. What Scripture teaches is the primary grid for making decisions and interacting with the world. For the purposes of our research, we investigate a biblical worldview based on eight elements. A person with a biblical worldview believes that Jesus Christ lived a sinless life, God is the all-powerful and all-knowing Creator of the universe and he still rules it today, salvation is a gift from God and cannot be earned, Satan is real, a Christian has a responsibility to share his or her faith in Christ with other people, the Bible is accurate in all of the principles it teaches, unchanging moral truth exists, and such moral truth is defined by the Bible. In our research, we have found that people who embraced these eight components we have a substantially different faith from other Americans – indeed, from other believers. *David Kinnaman*

##### Questions

How would you define a “biblical worldview”? How can we speak to different worldviews without seeming odd? How do we best share the character of God issues and the great controversy? How would you answer those who say that this is simply “Adventist mythology”? Can we even get hung up on this to our detriment?

##### Bible summary

“The Lord sees everywhere, watching the evil and the good.” Prov. 15:3 FBV. Job tells his friends to go and ask created world about its Creator (Job 12:7–10). Paul reveals the supernatural battle that is ongoing (Eph. 6:12). Rev. 20:5, 6 speaks about the first resurrection. John 1:1–14 shows the active agent in Creation was Jesus. Mark 12:29–31 is Jesus’ answer as to what is the greatest commandment.

##### Comment

This study reminds us of the wider aspects of belief—how it influences the very way we think and interact with the world around us. Believing in God as Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer has a profound impact on how we see ourselves and concepts of meaning and purpose.

Most significantly the great controversy theme supplies the context in which all this is taking place. The great controversy is all about God and who he is, and our praise and joy comes from finding out God is not the kind of person the Devil has described, but that he is the source of all that is good and true and loving—revealed in the person of Jesus Christ.

The Devil's greatest tool in his rebellion against God is to defame him. The Devil's highest ambition is to be like God. He even had the gall to demand worship of God himself, when God came as Christ to this world: "The devil took him [Jesus] to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'All this I will give you,' he said, 'if you will bow down and worship me.'" (Matthew 4:8,9 NIV.)

As Goethe wrote in *Faust*, "The devil is an egotist." He is completely wrapped up in himself and his selfish ambitions to such an extent he will falsify every truth in order to gain his objective. He is the Father of Lies, the Murderer of Truth from the beginning.

Right from the beginning, Satan has been lying to humankind about the kind of person God is. First to Eve, then through Eve to Adam (Genesis 3). Then to Cain, in convincing him to rebel against the "arbitrary" worship requirements of God, leading him eventually to murder his righteous brother (Genesis 4). Then to all the inhabitants of the earth before the Flood. The time in which "the Lord saw how terribly evil people on earth had become—every single thought in their minds was evil all the time!" (Genesis 6:5 FBV).

In this we see the issues of the great controversy working out as God answers the charges of the Devil and demonstrates that he is exactly who he says he is. Only through such demonstration can all have complete confidence in a God who is love in person.

The reassurance that God is in control is one we all cling to. Eventually, ultimately, finally, all will be resolved for good. But for the moment the conflict continues, the controversy is not ended. We look for and long for the ultimate End, but the End is not yet...

### **Ellen White comments**

It is Satan's constant effort to misrepresent the character of God, the nature of sin, and the real issues at stake in the great controversy. His sophistry lessens the obligation of the divine law and gives men license to sin. At the same time he causes them to cherish false conceptions of God so that they regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love. The cruelty inherent in his own character is attributed to the Creator; it is embodied in systems of religion and expressed in modes of worship. Thus the minds of men are blinded, and Satan secures them as his agents to war against God. By perverted conceptions of the divine attributes, heathen nations were led to believe human sacrifices necessary to secure the favor of Deity; and horrible cruelties have been perpetrated under the various forms of idolatry. {GC 569}

The writing of the great controversy story stemmed from several visions, but particularly two that were very comprehensive. One was given to Ellen White in 1848 and the other on March 14, 1858. In great panoramic views the history of the age-long conflict between Christ and His angels and Satan and his angels passed before her. Of this she later wrote: "Through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, the scenes of the long-continued conflict between good and evil have been opened to the writer of these pages. From time to time I have been permitted to behold the working, in different ages, of the great controversy between Christ, the Prince of life, the Author of our salvation, and Satan, the prince of evil, the author of sin, the first transgressor of God's holy law... *Ellen G. White in Europe 1885-1887*, pp. 257-8.