



# THE GREAT CONTROVERSY WORLDVIEW

**28** FUNDAMENTAL  
BELIEFS  
BIBLE STUDY  
“From Rebellion to Restoration”

**T**he motif or theme of the cosmic controversy, sometimes called “the great controversy,” is a philosophy of history—a biblical worldview from which one may understand humanity’s story.

This worldview provides the context in which the drama of our world and even of the universe unfolds. Sin, suffering, death, the rise and fall of nations, the spread of the gospel and end-time events, all occur in the context of the cosmic controversy.

This cosmic controversy gives rise to several questions. How did it all get started? What is it and how will it be resolved? The Word of God explains to us what is going on, what is behind it, and most important, how it is going to end. It began in the heart of a perfect being known as Lucifer, who brought his rebellion to earth through the fall of other perfect beings, Adam, and Eve. From these two pivot points, the fall of Lucifer and then of our first parents, the great controversy took root and has been raging ever since.

Lucifer rebelled against his Maker. The great controversy is not about dueling gods; it’s about a creature rebelling against his Creator and manifesting that rebellion by attacking the creation, as well. Failing in his battle against Christ in heaven, Satan sought to go after Him on earth right after His human birth (Rev. 12:4). Failing in his battle against Christ there, and then failing against Him in the wilderness and later at the cross, Satan—after his irreversible defeat at Calvary—went to war against Christ’s people. This war has raged through much of Christian history (Rev. 12:6, 14–16) and will continue until the end (Rev. 12:17), until Satan faces another defeat, this time at the second coming of Jesus.

Throughout this ongoing conflict, God by his actions has demonstrated His love for humanity. In fact, the Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 5:19, “that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself...” God is passionate about restoring man to a right relationship with Him. Whether during the time of the patriarchs, in Israel’s sanctuary sacrificial rituals and prophetic activity, in Christ’s ministry, in His death on the cross, in the work of the church, in Christ’s ministry in the heavenly sanctuary, God’s love has progressively manifested itself, and it has all been for the salvation of fallen humanity. God wanted to restore rebellious humanity to a right relationship with Him.

In this Bible study series, ***From Rebellion to Restoration***, the lessons are arranged to unfold the story of the cosmic controversy through the lens of relationship. According to systematic theologian Dr. Norman Gulley, Christ is central to all our doctrines, and therefore they should be arranged concentrically around Him. Consequently, every doctrine should reveal something about Jesus. He proposed that we need to arrange our 28 fundamental beliefs [FB] to unfold the narrative of the cosmic controversy.

This new arrangement falls into six major sections, going in concentric circles around Christ and Calvary at the center. Thus, all our beliefs would convey the solution to broken relationships found in Christ and Calvary. This would take them beyond being vehicles for information. It would make them channels for affecting practical life and restoring a relationship with God and mankind.

The 28 fundamental beliefs [FB] would then unfold as a story, as follows:

1. The cosmic controversy biblical world view.
2. A look at God, the One who has been called in question by Satan’s charges.
3. The creation of mankind and their joining the cosmic controversy.
4. Christ comes to reveal what God is like and to save humans.
5. The meaning of salvation is explored.
6. Those being saved together form the church.
7. The church moves through history to final events, and the resolution of the cosmic controversy.

***From Rebellion to Restoration*** builds on Dr. Norman Gulley observation and suggestions and encourages bible students to look at the controversy through the lens of relationship. Joshua 24:15 says “And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose 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 Lord.” At the center of this great controversy is choice and humanity need to be intelligently informed in order to make up its mind about its allegiance to either God or Satan. Which side will you choose? This study will inform and influence your choice.

May God bless you as you study to be reconciled, restored, and remain in an abiding relationship with Christ “For He who has the Son has life.” **1 John 5:12**



# THE RESTORATION OF RELATIONSHIP

This new arrangement is under six major sections, going in concentric circles around Christ and Calvary at the center. Thus, all of our beliefs would convey that the solution to broken relationships is found in Christ and Calvary. This would take them beyond being vehicles for information. It would make them channels for affecting practical life and restoring a relationship with God and mankind.

1. **The cosmic controversy biblical world view.**
2. **A look at God, the One who has been called in question by Satan's charges.**
3. **The creation of mankind and their joining the cosmic controversy.**
4. **Christ comes to reveal what God is like and to save humans.**
5. **The meaning of salvation is explored.**
6. **Those being saved together form the church.**

## THE DOCTRINE OF GOD [THEOLOGY]

- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. <b>Cosmic Controversy</b>    | Angels break relationship with God; cause mankind to do the same. FB 8. |
| 2. <b>Trinity</b>               | Perfect relationship. FB 2.   |
| 3. <b>Father</b>                | Father gives to restore relationship. FB 3.                             |
| 4. <b>God's Self-Revelation</b> | Scripture given to restore relationship. FB 1.                          |

## THE DOCTRINE OF MAN [ANTHROPOLOGY]

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1. <b>Human Creation</b> | Humans created for relationship with God and each other. FB 6.       |
| 2. <b>Human Fall</b>     | Human nature is in a broken relationship with God and mankind. FB 7. |

## THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST (CHRISTOLOGY)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <b>The Son</b>                        | Christ came to earth to restore broken relationships. FB 4.       |
| 2. <b>Life, death &amp; resurrection</b> | Christ came to earth to restore broken relationships. FB 9.       |
| 3. <b>Intercession</b>                   | Christ ministers to earth to restore broken relationships. FB 24. |

## THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION (SOTERIOLOGY)

1. Holy Spirit	To restore relationships now and for heaven. FB 5.
2. Experience of Salvation	To restore relationships now and for heaven. FB 10.
3. Christian Behavior	To restore relationships now and for heaven. FB 22
4. Growing in Christ	To retain restored relationships now for heaven FB11

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:  
The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:21*

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH [ECCLESIOLOGY]

1. The Church	The Community of restored relationships. FB 12.
2. Baptism	Public declaration of a restored relationship with Christ. FB 15.
3. Lord's Supper	Celebration of restored relationship with Christ. FB 16
4. Unity in the Body	Relationship of members to each other and to Christ. FB 14.
5. Stewardship	Manifestation of restored relationships. FB 21.
6. Marriage and Family	Manifestation of restored relationships. FB 23.

## UNIQUE SDA DOCTRINES

1. Remnant and Mission	End time truth and restoration of relationships. FB 13.
2. The Law	To preserve relationship with God and mankind. FB 19.
3. The Sabbath	Resting in Christ as the essence of relationship. FB 20
4. Spiritual Gifts/ Ministries	To work for the restoration of human relationships. FB 17.
5. The Gift of Prophecy	To restore relationship with Christ and mankind. FB 18.

## THE DOCTRINE OF LAST THINGS [ESCHATOLOGY]

1. Second Coming	To restore relationship to face to face communion. FB 25
2. Death and Resurrection	All saints enter relationship with each other forever. FB 26
3. Millennium and the end of sin	Loss of eternal life seen as rejection of relationship with Christ. FB 27.
4. New Earth	Sin and sinners gone; redeemed and God with rest of universe live together in unbroken relationship. FB 28.

## THE GREAT CONTROVERSY WORLDVIEW "From Rebellion to Restoration"

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