

The Battleground

**What do all of the following
events have in common?**

Satan's temptation of Eve?

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Cain slaying Able?

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Judas' betrayal of Jesus?

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David sending Uriah to his death in battle?

Satan's temptation of Eve?

Cain slaying Able?

Judas' betrayal of Jesus?

David sending Uriah to his death in battle?

Joseph's brothers selling him into slavery?

They all began with a thought!

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Acts 24:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to always have a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men.

Cool Science Facts

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It has been estimated that an average brain has anywhere from 25,000 to 50,000 thoughts a day and 70% of them are believed to be negative. (Source: Psychology Today)

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John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things.

Isaiah 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High. ASV

OV 299 “Satan obsessed, or took control of the Serpent, and so guided it that it spoke the deceptions to our first parents. It is not even necessary to suppose that the serpent spoke with an audible voice. Quite likely, as our adage goes, its actions spoke louder than words. It partook especially of the fruit forbidden to our first parents. The fruit did not kill the serpent. On the contrary, Mother Eve perceived that it was wiser than any other of the beasts of the earth. By its actions it declared to her mind that God had misstated the facts when He told them that the eating of that forbidden fruit would bring death to them.”

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James 1:14-16 "A man's temptation is due to the pull of his own inward desires, which can be enormously attractive. His own desire takes hold of him, and that produces sin. And sin in the long run means death - make no mistake about that, brothers of mine!" (Phillips)

Gen 6:1 When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them,

Gen 6:2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose.

Gen 6:3 Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years."

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God perceived that the earth was full of violence, and that the thoughts of men's minds were only evil continually. God's wisdom saw that it would be best to blot out entirely that order of things, and to start a new arrangement. The deluge accomplished this. OV300

on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

Gen 6:7 And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

“assures us of the solidarity of our race, and that the Redemption price paid for Adam includes every one of us; under the Lord’s arrangement that “As all in Adam die, even so all in Christ shall be made alive.” OV300

Of the total time man has been on the earth, roughly 1/4th of his history had occurred at the time of the flood.

That is, it took only approximately 25% of the total time of man's current existence on earth for God to become so "grieved in his heart" that he decided to destroy all but Noah and his family.

“the Lord's people should learn proportionately not to receive what they might hear without proper examination and criticism: they should prove all things that they hear, should exercise discrimination of mind, as to what is logically and scripturally supported,” R 3135.

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Psalms 139:18 If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee.

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Psalms 40:5 Many things hast thou done, O Lord my
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2Co 1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

Exo 32:19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and broke them beneath the mount.

Exo 32:20 And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strewed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

Exo 32:21 And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?

Exo 33:13 Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

Exo 33:14 And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.

Exo 33:17 And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

Exo 34:6 “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness,

Exo 34:7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

Rom 5:8 Yet the proof of God's amazing love is this: that it was while we were sinners that Christ died for us. Phillips

Pro 4:20 My son, attend to my words, (instruction) unto my sayings incline thy ear.

Pro 4:21 Let them not slip away from thy eyes: guard them in the midst of thy heart (mind).

Pro 4:22 For they are life unto every one of those that find them and to all his body a healing.

Pro 4:23 Above all that is to be guarded, keep thy heart, (mind) for out of it are the issues of life. (Lesser)

THE heart, which is the center and mainspring of physical life, is here used as a symbol of the affections--which are the center and mainspring of the moral nature. R 1562

“God’s spirit transcends man’s ability and transforms his inability!” (author unknown)

“The first thing sacrificed is the human will; and thenceforth we may not be guided either by our own or by any other human will, but only by the divine will.”

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A193:4 “through consecration, the mind is renewed or transformed, and the desires, hopes and aims begin to rise toward the spiritual and unseen things promised, while the human hopes, etc., die.”

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

R2479 Comparatively few realize to what extent we have the forming of our own characters – to what extent our minds, our affections, are gardens, in which we may plant either the thorns and thistles of sin, or plant the merely moral and practical qualities corresponding to the useful vegetables, or plant those seeds which will produce the fragrant and beautiful flowers which more particularly would represent the heavenly and spiritual graces.

R4810:2 “It is not until the old creature submits and we are transformed, so far as the will is concerned, that we become new creatures.”

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

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Genesis 5:1 This is the book of the generations
of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the
likeness of God made he him;

2 Co 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

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2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

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2 Peter 3:18 (To) “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

Luke 2:40 And the child grew, and waxed strong,
filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

“He was permitted to grow after the ordinary manner, gradually, getting stronger physically and mentally, being filled more and more with wisdom, and giving evidence that God’s favor was upon him,” (R3291:1, 2558:3).

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Even though he had a perfect mind, able to retain all the information he received, he didn’t miraculously know all that was in the Law and of the prophets. He needed to acquire his knowledge as well, (R 1916).”

“Though tempted in all points like as we are (Heb 4:15), he ignored his own will and all suggestions from others contrary to God's plan and obeyed God implicitly. And therein lay the secret of his success,” (see Luke 4:1-13), R 1125.

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‘Our Lord's success, then, was the result of being rightly exercised by his knowledge of God; as it is written: "By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many, while bearing their iniquities,"

Isa 53:11, R 1125.

Luke 4:13 “when he had exhausted every kind of temptation, the devil withdrew until his next opportunity.” (Phillips)

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Jas 4:7 Be subject therefore unto God; but resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

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NS506:2 “the members of the Church are required to avail themselves of knowledge, as a part of being copies of God’s dear Son.

Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by the knowledge of himself shall my righteous servant justify many; and he shall bear their iniquities.

Pro 15:7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools. ESV

Psalm 55:16 As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.

Psalm 55:17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.

Psalm 55:18 He hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me: for there were many with me.

Mat 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

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“continual and abiding presence of divine representatives” (R 3441:2)

2 Kings 6:16, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

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2 Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see.

And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.

“It will be in vain that we shall endeavor to cleanse the flesh and to bridle the tongue if we neglect the heart, the mind, the spirit, in which are generated the thoughts, which merely manifest themselves in filthiness of the flesh-- by words and deeds.” F409:2

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The cleansing process must begin at once, but it will continue until our latest breath. R3986:5

2 Cor 10:3-5 The truth is that, although of course we lead normal human lives, the battle we are fighting is on the spiritual level. The very weapons we use are not those of human warfare but powerful in God's warfare for the destruction of the enemy's strongholds. Our battle is to bring down every deceptive fantasy and every imposing defense that men erect against the true knowledge of God.

We even fight to capture every thought until it acknowledges the authority of Christ.

Phillips



“In order to be counted worthy of a share in the first resurrection, it is required of us that we shall demonstrate our willingness of mind, our earnest desire to be all that the Lord would have us be; and in no way can this be better demonstrated to the Lord and to ourselves, or prove more helpful, than by keeping a strict surveillance of our hearts and of our thoughts.”

R3304

