

# The Paradise Contagion

## Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 5

### Study Guide

– Pastor Michael Oxentenکو

## I. THE GREAT CONTROVERSY OVER GOD’S NAME

### Genesis 3:4-5

<sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. <sup>5</sup> For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

### Hebrews 13:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight.

### Ephesians 1:4-6

<sup>4</sup> Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

### **A. God’s Name Is God’s Covenant**

1. God has a name, and His name is at the heart of the Great Controversy between good and evil.
2. Satan’s attack on God is really an attack upon His name (Genesis 3:4-5).
3. Our eternal destiny has everything to do with what we do with God’s name.
4. Three truths are essential in understating the war over God’s name:
  - (1) God’s name is God’s covenant. In fact, His name is the everlasting covenant.

- (2) God's name means God is here. And when God is here you are blessed with mercy.
  - (3) The sign of the everlasting covenant is the seventh-day Sabbath.
5. The word "covenant" means "contract" or a "legal guarantee" based on a promise that carries force of law.
  6. The everlasting covenant is the ancient covenant that brought Jesus into this world to die for our sins.
  7. The everlasting covenant is the oldest covenant that was *never* made because it is a covenant that has no beginning and no end. It is eternal because God's name is eternal (Hebrews 13:20-21).
  8. Just as people sign a contract with their name, God's name is the ultimate contract and He is the only one who can sign His own name with His own blood.
  9. The eternal Covenant is the pact that existed between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit from all eternity – ever ready to save the sinner (Ephesians 1:4-6).
  10. The eternal covenant has been ratified in history by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, signed in blood. It can never change because it is the everlasting covenant.
  11. In the Bible, the eternal covenant cannot be separated from the blood of Jesus Christ.
  12. A new-covenant Christian is of necessity an everlasting-covenant Christian because of the blood of Jesus Christ.

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Exodus 34:28

*So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.*

Deuteronomy 4:13

*And he declared to you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, that is, the Ten Commandments, and he wrote them on two tablets of stone.*

1 Chronicles 13:6

*And David and all Israel went up to Baalah, that is, to Kiriathjearim which belongs to Judah, to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the name of the LORD who sits enthroned above the cherubim.*

Deuteronomy 10:8

*At that time the LORD set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister to him and to bless in his name, to this day.*

### Psalm 111:9

*He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!*

### **B. The Ten Commandments Is God's Covenant**

1. In the Old Testament, the Ark of the Covenant was the only box that contained the Ten Commandments.
2. The Ten Commandments were clearly identified as God's covenant in Exodus 34:28, and Deuteronomy 4:13.
3. The Ark of the Covenant was strongly associated with God's eternal name. In fact, it was called, "God's name" (1 Chronicles 13:6).
4. The Ark of the Covenant is the ark of God's name (Deuteronomy 10:8).
5. The Bible is clear that God's covenant name and the Ten Commandments are one and the same (Psalm 111:9).
6. If you honor God's ten-commandment law, you honor God's name.

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### Exodus 3:14-15

<sup>14</sup> *God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"* <sup>15</sup> *God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.*

### Isaiah 65:1

*I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here am I, here am I," to a nation that did not call on my name*

### Exodus 33:19

*And he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD;' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy."*

### James 2:12-13

<sup>12</sup> *So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty.*  
<sup>13</sup> *For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

## C. God's Name Means God Is Ever Present

1. The name "LORD" spelled with all capital letter is always "YAHWEH" or "Jehovah" in the Hebrew Bible. God says that this name is His name forever (Exodus 3:15).
2. In Exodus 3:14, the name LORD means "I Am". What does "I Am" mean? In the context, it means "I Am here." The God who is – is here to save from Egypt.
3. The Covenant Name of God is the personal name of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Isaiah 65:1).
4. Because God's name is personal, God's name means mercy – here and now – in the life that needs God presence for grace and peace (Exodus 33:19).
5. God's law is a revelation of God's mercy rooted in his eternal name – the Everlasting Covenant (James 2:12-13).

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### Genesis 2:1-3

<sup>1</sup> Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. <sup>2</sup> And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. <sup>3</sup> So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

### Genesis 2:4

*These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.*

### Exodus 31:13

*"You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, 'Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the LORD, sanctify you.*

### Exodus 31:16-18

<sup>16</sup> Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. <sup>17</sup> It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.'"<sup>18</sup> And he gave to Moses, when he had finished speaking with him on Mount Sinai, the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

### Isaiah 56:6-7

<sup>6</sup> "And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath and

*does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant—<sup>7</sup> these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”*

#### **D. The Sign of The Everlasting Covenant**

1. The Sign of the everlasting covenant is the seventh-day Sabbath (Exodus 31:13, 16-18).
2. Every Covenant in the Bible has a sign:
  - The sign of the covenant with Noah was the Rainbow.
  - The sign of the covenant with Abraham was circumcision.
  - Yet, the sign of the everlasting covenant is older than them all. It goes all the way back to Eden (Genesis 2:3).
3. The Hebrew letter “seven” in the Bible literally means “oath.”
4. The seventh day is literally the “oath” day. That means it is the covenant day when God’s name was revealed in promise at the beginning of creation.
5. In Genesis 2, the name LORD is tied to the day creation was complete.
6. Genesis 2:4 is the first time the personal, covenant name of God appears in the Bible.
7. God’s name, His law, and the Sabbath are one package that cannot be untied (Isaiah 56:6-7).

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## **II. WHAT IS THE PARADISE CONTAGION?**

### Genesis 3:1

*Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”*

#### **A. Attack Upon The Everlasting Covenant**

1. The paradise contagion is the first lie that corrupts the name of God and the truth about the God behind the name.

2. Satan distorts the character of God by deliberately eliminating the name LORD from God's covenant name (Genesis 3:1).
3. The personal covenant name LORD God as revealed in the seventh day is ignored. The seventh day and the name LORD is of no regard to Satan.
4. The serpent deliberately insinuates that God is only the powerful distant God – not the LORD God who cares or the personal God of the garden.
5. In Genesis 3:1, we find the Eden disease that started the sin problem we all struggle with today.

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Isaiah 29:13-14

<sup>13</sup> *And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, <sup>14</sup> ...the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden."*

2 Timothy 3:7-8

<sup>7</sup> *Always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth. <sup>8</sup> Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so these men also oppose the truth, men corrupted in mind and disqualified regarding the faith.*

Romans 1:21-22

<sup>21</sup> *For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools,*

**B. Belief In God Without Faith In God**

1. The paradise contagion is the disease of outward religion without love for the law of God deep within the heart and manifest in one's life (Isaiah 29:13-14).
2. The contagion is the lie that knowledge of God's power advances the human condition (2Timothy 3:7-8).
3. Eve sought the knowledge of good and evil in pursuit of personal power leaving behind the greater pursuit. With pride and self-deceit, she left the true knowledge of God for the kind that kills (Romans 1:21-22).
4. The knowledge we all need of God the creator is the knowledge that **God is here**, that **God cares**, and that **God can save you** where you live. It is the knowledge of His mercy, the knowledge of His law, and the knowledge of His name.

### Deuteronomy 6: 4-6, 8

<sup>4</sup> *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

### Revelation 13:15-16

<sup>15</sup> *And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. <sup>16</sup> Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead,*

### Revelation 7:2-3

<sup>2</sup> *Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, <sup>3</sup> saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.”*

## **C. The Mark of The Beast**

1. At the end of time, the “Mark of the Beast” will be an attack upon the everlasting covenant of God’s name. The attack upon the name of God is the attack upon the everlasting covenant.
2. The devil will convince men and women that the world can fix their problems and they have no need of a worship friendship with God.
3. The “Mark of the Beast” is a counterfeit for the sign of God’s everlasting covenant.
4. The name of the beast will take the place of God’s name in people’s lives.
5. The mark will go on the forehead where God’s name should go (Deuteronomy 6:4-6, 8; Revelation 13:16).
6. The law of God will be supplanted by the law of man and the law of the beast. In the end, the law of man and the law of the beast will surrender to the Law of God.
7. Revelation 13:15 describes a day when a lamb-like Christian nation will build an image to the persecuting beast of the Middle Ages. Political leaders will join hands with religious leaders of this nation to deny God’s name and God’s law in an attempt to save the country.
8. Together, religious and political leaders will institute the “Mark of the Beast.”
9. Those who stand with Jesus will know Him as LORD God. And the Father’s name, and the name of the Lamb, will be written on their foreheads (Revelation 7:2-3).
10. The LORD God will save his people in the end. And in the end, the LORD God will be the new beginning.