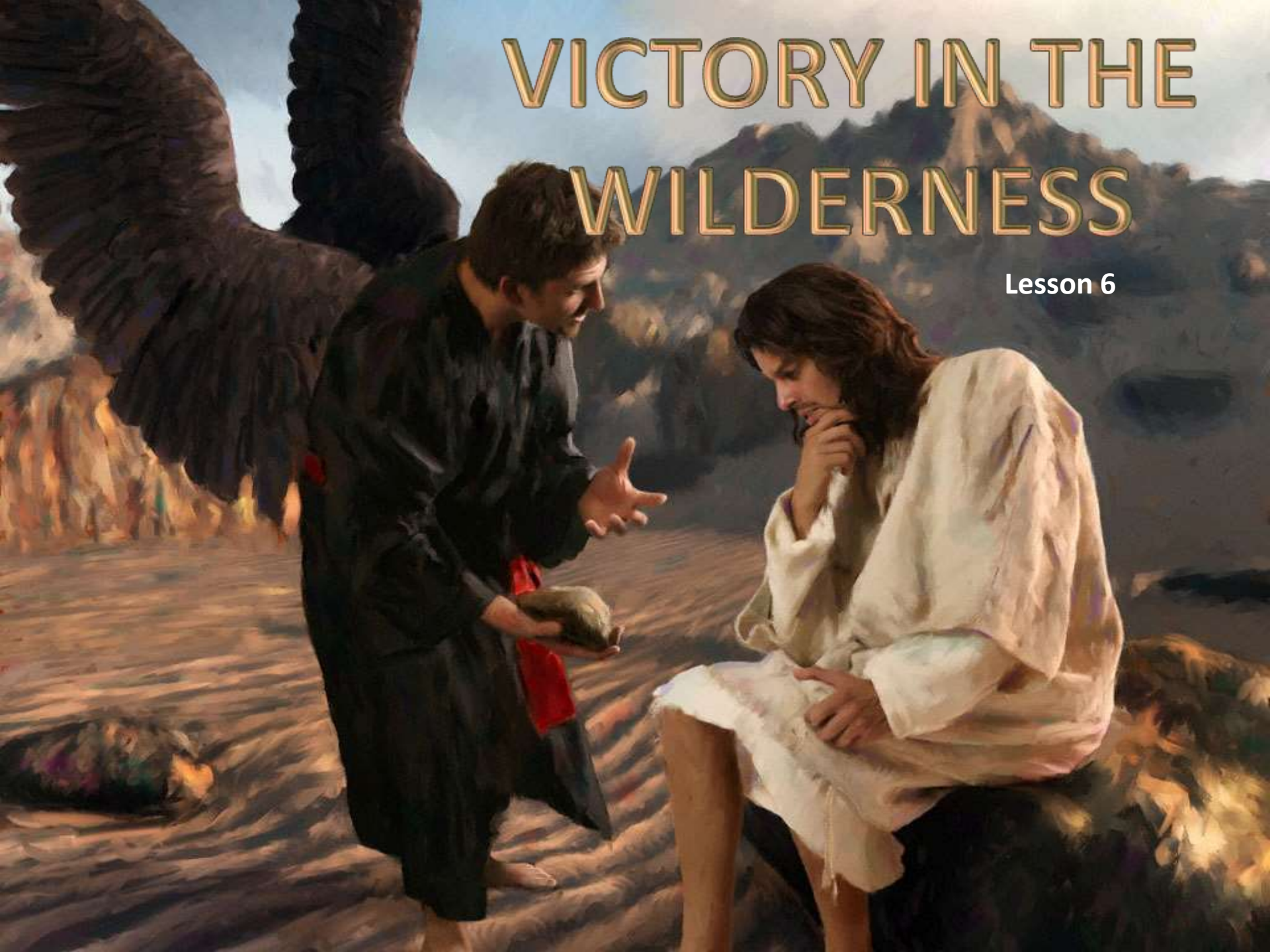


# VICTORY IN THE WILDERNESS

Lesson 6

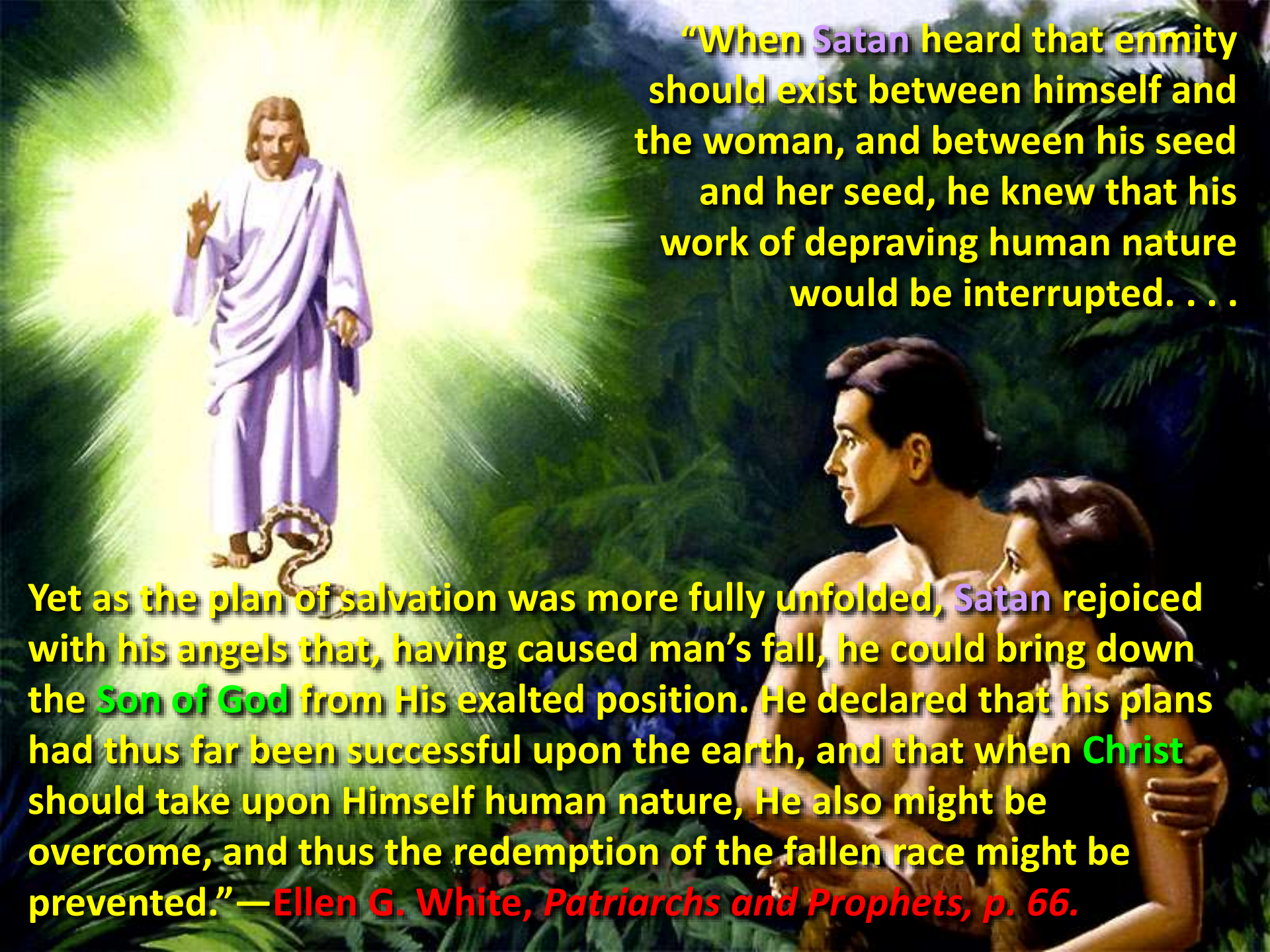


Key Text:

***“ ‘For the Son  
of Man has  
come to seek  
and to save  
that which  
was lost’ ”***

***Luke 19:10***





**“When Satan heard that enmity should exist between himself and the woman, and between his seed and her seed, he knew that his work of depraving human nature would be interrupted. . . .**

**Yet as the plan of salvation was more fully unfolded, Satan rejoiced with his angels that, having caused man’s fall, he could bring down the Son of God from His exalted position. He declared that his plans had thus far been successful upon the earth, and that when Christ should take upon Himself human nature, He also might be overcome, and thus the redemption of the fallen race might be prevented.” —Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 66.**

This lesson, as we look at the temptations in the wilderness, we can see, as perhaps never before so clearly revealed in the Bible, **the great controversy between Christ and Satan**

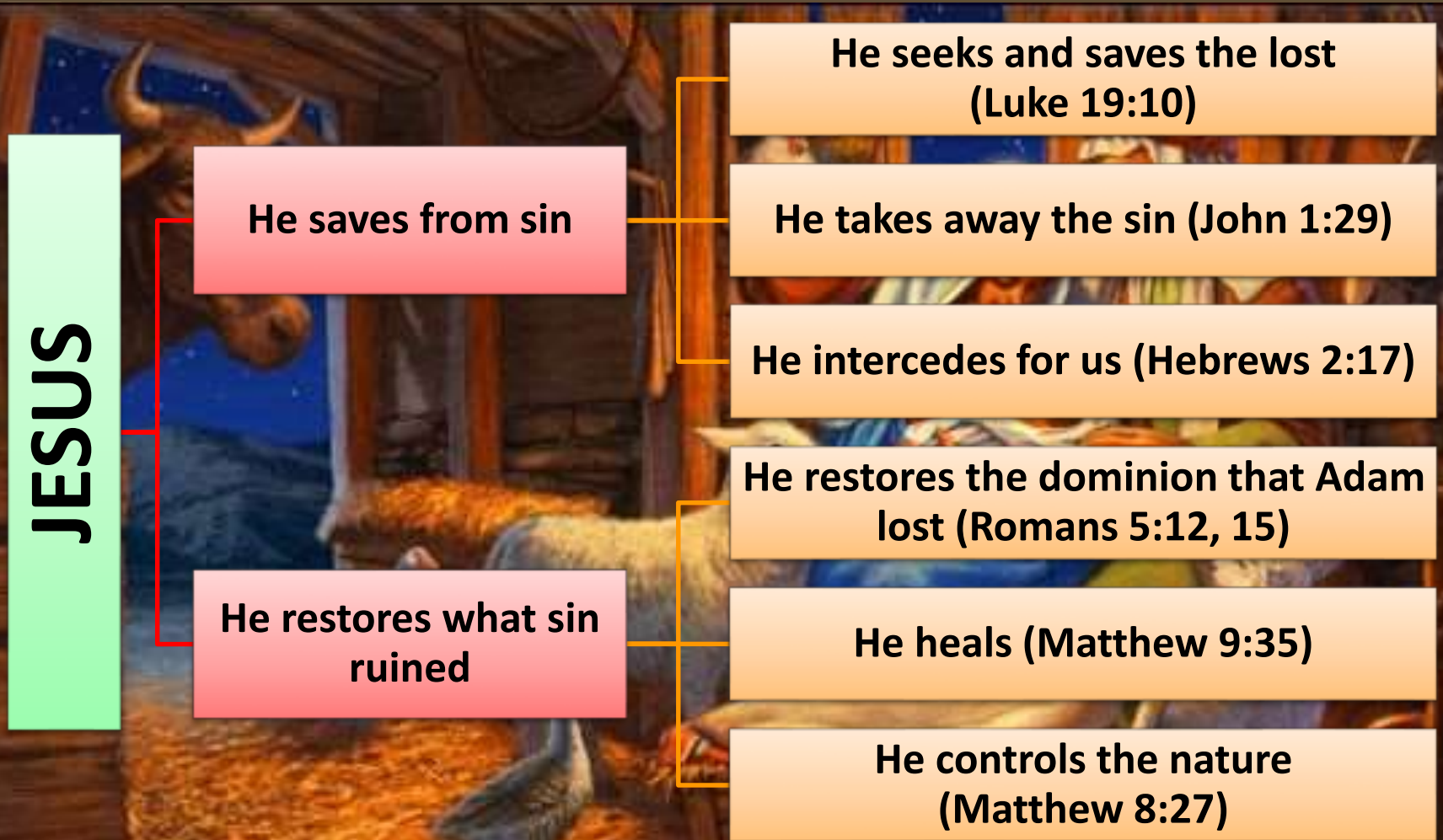


as it is openly battled out between them. **Satan** had claimed the world as his, and **Christ** came to win it back. And central to His winning it back was **the plan of salvation**. Having failed to kill **Jesus** after His birth, **Satan** tried another way to sabotage the redemption of the race. This we see unfold in the wilderness temptations.

# THE SAVIOR: JESUS / EMMANUEL

What do the Savior's names in Matthew 1:20-23 mean?

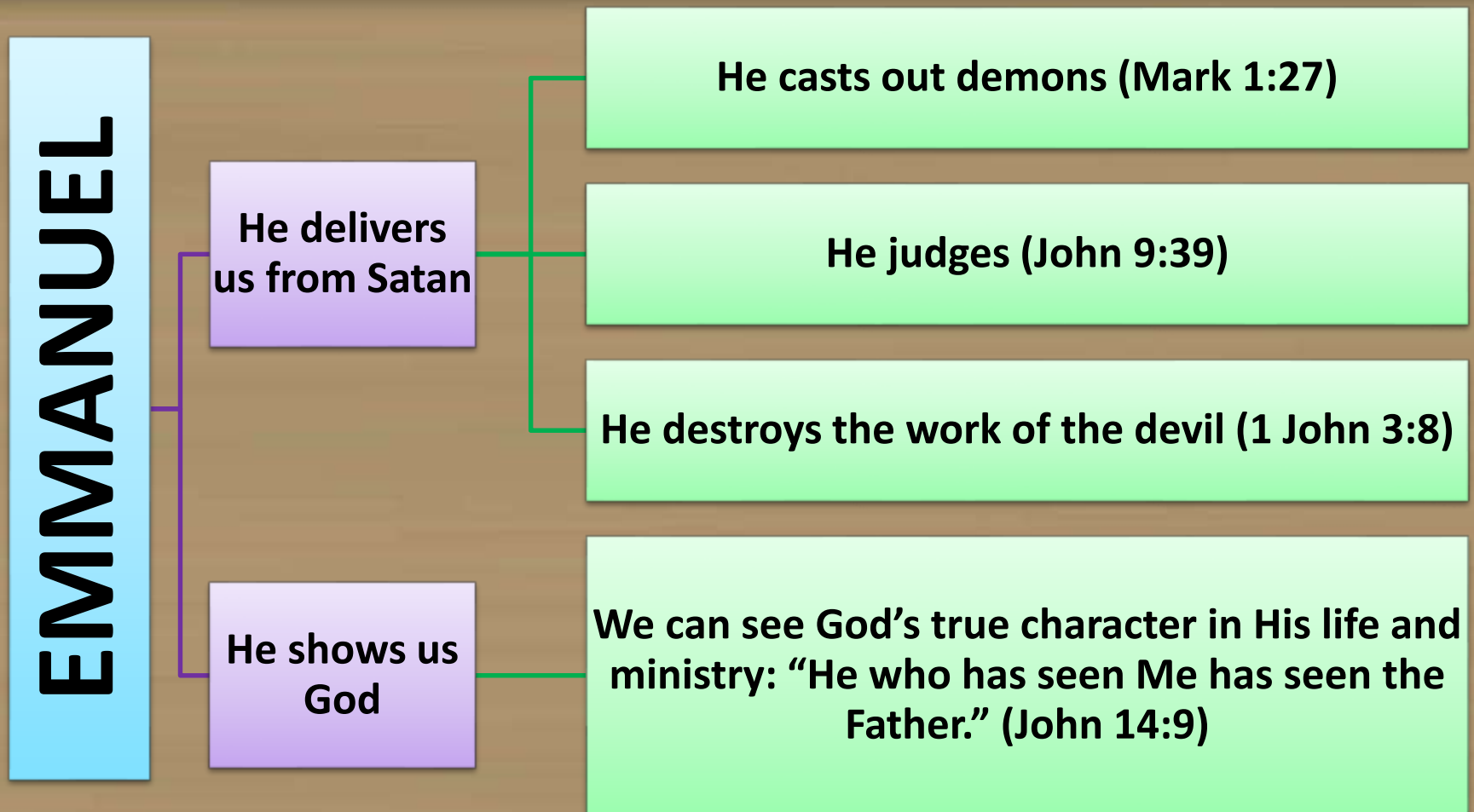
The names JESUS ("The Lord saves") and EMMANUEL ("with us God") represent the two goals of the Savior's mission: rescuing us from sin and restoring our complete communion with God.



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# THE WORK OF JESUS

**"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."** (Matthew 3:11)

**John the Baptist introduced the work of Jesus as judge with a series of examples:**



**John was leveling the ground so everyone could be ready to accept the Savior (Isaiah 40:1-5).**



**The wrath to come (Matthew 3:7).**



**The ax laid to the root of the trees (Matthew 3:10).**



**The winnowing fan ready to clean out the threshing floor (Matthew 3:12).**



**The chaff being burned up with unquenchable fire (Matthew 3:12).**

**To that end, he had to show the people their sins and invite them to repent before the imminent judgement.**

# THE TEMPTATIONS

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.” (Matthew 4:1)



**“When Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted, He was led by the Spirit of God. He did not invite temptation. He went to the wilderness to be alone, to contemplate His mission and work. By fasting and prayer He was to brace Himself for the bloodstained path He must travel. But Satan knew that the Saviour had gone into the wilderness, and he thought this the best time to approach Him.”**



# STONES INTO BREAD

**"Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'if You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.'"  
(Matthew 4:3)**



**The main figures in the Great Controversy met face to face. Satan pretended he was "giving a hand" to Jesus by offering him a solution to relieve his hunger.**

**Jesus faced that situation like the one in Deuteronomy 8:2-3**

- ❖ **40 years through the desert for Israel = 40 years at the desert for Jesus.**
- ❖ **They were tested to see if they could keep God's commandments.**
- ❖ **They went hungry.**



**Jesus admitted that He couldn't supply bread by Himself. He had to wait for God to supply it at the right time. Because "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."**



# ON THE PINNACLE OF THE TEMPLE

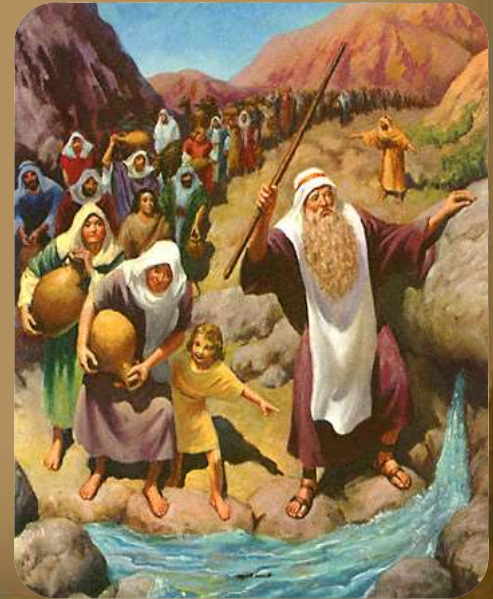
"Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: "He shall give His angels charge over you," and, "In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone."' (Matthew 4:5-6)



Jesus was challenged to prove that He was the Son of God, and to show if He trusted the divine—but distorted—promises.

Jesus remembered Israel's story through the desert again: "You shall not tempt the Lord your God as you tempted Him in Massah." (Deuteronomy 6:16).

In Massah, the people asked: "Is the Lord among us or not?" (Exodus 17:7). On the contrary, Jesus believed that God was with Him. He didn't have to prove that.

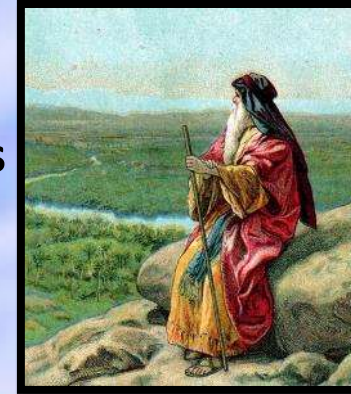




**"Then Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"" (Matthew 4:10)**

# WORSHIP

**God showed Moses the Promised Land from the top of Mount Pisgah. Likewise, Satan showed Jesus the "glory" of this world's kingdoms (and he hid all their misery).**



**Satan claimed he was in full control of this world as if he was God. He would give everything to Jesus in return for a little worship gesture.**



**Adam and Eve worshipped the serpent at Eden; they gave her the loyalty only the Creator deserved. Jesus was faithful to God alone at the desert.**



# IT IS WRITTEN

Jesus came to this world: to restore the dominion usurped by Satan, destroy the works of evil, save sinners, and reveal God to the universe.

The weapon Jesus used to fight temptation is available for us too: the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17).

**“The Word of God is a channel of communication with the living God. He who feeds upon the Word will become fruitful in all good works. He ... will be the discoverer of rich mines of truth which he must work to find the hidden treasure. When [he is] surrounded with temptations, the Holy Spirit will bring to his mind the very words with which to meet the temptation at the very moment when they are most needed, and he can use them effectually.”**

E.G.W. (The faith I live by, January 2)



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