

THE ORIGIN OF SIN

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Genesis 3:1-7

1. Genesis is the book of beginnings; God's revelation related to the origin of our current universe and world order.
2. Here we find out that God created a mature universe, a mature earth, and a mature man and his spouse.
3. When the work of Creation was complete we read, "And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." Genesis 2:31
4. In chapter two it is revealed that Adam and Eve were not only created, they were also placed in a perfect environment that provided them with all their needs.
5. Not only were their needs met, but they also existed in perfect harmony with God.
6. Since they were created in the image of God they were moral beings and capable of making moral decisions.
7. The only moral decision they were faced with was God's emphatic command that they were not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because if they did they would surely die. Genesis 2:15-17

NOTE: God alone was to be their moral authority.

8. Had the tree of the knowledge of good and evil not existed Adam and Eve's obedience would have been meaningless.
9. As followers of Jesus Christ our love, devotion, and obedience would also be meaningless if another path was not open to us.

NOTE: An example of this principle would be absolute faithfulness within a marriage relationship. That faithfulness has meaning because the opportunity for unfaithfulness exists.

10. In the beginning sin was nonexistent.
11. So how did sin become a factor, and where did it come from?
12. The Bible makes it clear that sin entered what was otherwise perfect in every way. Rom 5:12-14

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned —13 for until the Law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. 14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

I. The Deceiver.

- A. Here we are introduced to the Serpent and his craftiness.
- B. We know his identify because it is clearly revealed in Revelation 20:1-3.
Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. 2 **And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan,** and bound him for a thousand years; 3 and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, **so that he would not deceive**

the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

C. The Scriptures reveal that this being was once what the Bible calls the Anointed Cherub.

1. Ezek 28:11-17

Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, 12 "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 **"You were in Eden, the garden of God;** every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. 14 **"You were the anointed cherub who covers,** and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 **"You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.** 16 "By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and **you sinned;** therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17 "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, that they may see you.

NOTE: This passage is somewhat obscure, but it speaks of a heavenly being who was cast out of Heaven because unrighteousness was found in him and he sinned. **Also note that sin originated in heaven.**

2. Isa 14:12-15

2 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, you who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

NOTE: This being who is referred to in the Bible as the Dragon, the serpent of old, is the Devil and Satan attempted to dethrone God.

E. Paul reference this being in 2 Corinthians 4:1-4.

Therefore, since we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart, 2 but we have renounced the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness or adulterating the word of God, but by the manifestation of truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case **the god of this world** has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

II. The deceived.

A. Note Paul's admonition in 11:1-3.

I wish that you would bear with me in a little foolishness; but indeed you are bearing with me. 2 For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. 3 But I am afraid that, **as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness**, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

B. Here we see a clear statement that Eve was deceived by the serpent.

1. To start with he misrepresented God. 1
2. Secondly he misinterpreted the words of God. 2-4
3. Thirdly he attacked the character of God. 5

C. The result was that Eve dethroned God in her life and enthroned self.

1. When she saw that the tree was good for food she became subject to the lust of the flesh.
2. When she saw that fruit of the tree was a delight to the eyes she became subject to the lust of the eyes.
3. When she saw that the fruit was able to make one wise she became subject to the boastful pride of life. (See 1 John 2:15-17)

D. Once she had become her own moral authority she took from the tree's fruit and ate, and became the tool of the Devil in Adam's life by enticing him to join her in her rebellion.

III. The disobedient.

A. God's command related to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil predated Eve.

B. The command was given prior to Eve's creation because it was God's intention that Adam was to have authority over his wife.

C. We can only surmise what would have happened had Adam reprimanded his wife rather than disobeying God.

D. However, he listened to the voice of his wife rather than the voice of God.

NOTE: It is a dangerous thing to put yourself above God and to tempt others to do the same. It is also a dangerous thing to elevate others above God.

APPLICATION

1. Everything changed for Adam and Eve as the rest of chapter three reveals.
2. Their relationship to God changed as did their relationship to each other and their environment.
3. They were banished from the intimate presence of God as well as from the Garden of God.
4. Death became a reality.
5. But God gave them a promise to cling to in verse 15.
6. That promise was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ, through Whom forgiveness and restoration can be ours.