



# Truth For These Times



## 6. THE ORIGIN OF EVIL

*Use with Chart "Lucifer's Rebellion" At end of lesson.*

The Bible reveals an unseen mastermind behind the trouble, woe and suffering in this world of turmoil. This super-human personality is called the devil or Satan, who was originally created a perfect angel, but fell from his high position. Since his fall, his efforts have been devoted in hardened rebellion against God. The devil is mentioned 71 times in the New Testament. There are some who disbelieve in a personal devil, but if we believe the Bible and Jesus Christ we have no alternative but to believe that such a disastrous creature exists and is actively engaged in his work of destruction.

### JESUS BELIEVED IN THE EXISTENCE OF A DEVIL

John 8:44 <sup>44</sup> Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Not only did Jesus clearly show the devil's existence, but He also revealed the evil one's character – a murderer and a liar.

Matthew 13:28,39 <sup>8</sup> He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? ..... <sup>39</sup> The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

This parable speaks about weeds (called tares) that were sown amongst the wheat, and points out that the weeds were sown by an enemy. The enemy is exposed as the devil. Thus Satan is responsible for 'sowing the seed' or originating evil that culminates in the development of evil men and women (the tares). The wheat represents those who have accepted Christ and through His strength overcome the devil.

1 John 3:8 <sup>8</sup> He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

The devil is clearly seen as the originator of sin.

### HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

Ezekiel 28:12-15 <sup>12</sup> Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. <sup>13</sup> Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius(ruby) , topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. <sup>14</sup> Thou *art* the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee *so*: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. <sup>15</sup> Thou *wast* perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.



Jesus taught that there was Devil who was the author of sin.

The king of Tyre is here used as a symbol of Satan, for although Tyrus was the literal king, the real ruler was Satan himself who had control over the monarch. As Ezekiel looked at the characteristics of Tyrus, he was given a vision that transcended beyond this earthly ruler. It is quite evident that this text is not speaking about the literal king. Notice the statements, “You were in Eden” – Satan had been there, but Tyrus had not. “You were created” – the devil as a fallen angel certainly was, but not Tyrus – he was born. Also notice “You were the annointed cherub”, and “You were on the holy mountain of God.”

### DID GOD CREATE A DEVIL?

God created a perfect being – an angel that excelled in beauty. As it states here “You were perfect in your ways”, but then “iniquity was found in you”. God made a perfect angel, but “Lucifer” (which was his name when God created him) rebelled against God and made a devil of himself. Some will say, “Then is not God responsible?” The answer is “NO”. For example; God made pure grapes, but man allows the juice to ferment and turns it into alcoholic wine. Alcohol robs man of his reason and induces unworthy behavior. Is God to be blamed for the woe caused by alcohol? Of course not! Sin made a devil out of Lucifer. Sin made a race of rebels from perfect humanity. God hates sin and will ultimately eliminate it.



Lucifer in heaven.

Ezekiel 28:17 <sup>17</sup> Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

The devil became infatuated with himself and his own beauty. His whole existence became self centered instead of God centred.

Isaiah 14:12-14 <sup>12</sup> How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! <sup>13</sup> For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: <sup>14</sup> I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Lucifer was cast out of heaven because of a long succession of selfish choices. He came to live in one narrow dimension: “I”. This is how Lucifer, the Archangel, perfect and sinless, debased himself into Satan, the devil. So selfish had he become that he aspired to take God’s position of rulership. He wanted God’s power, but not His character of love.



Lucifer and his sympathisers were removed from heaven.

Some then ask, “Why didn’t God make Lucifer without freewill so that he could not sin?” God could have made him like clockwork – a machine – not capable of choosing evil, but then neither could he choose good. Voluntary worship, obedience, and the development of character would not have been possible. God wanted His creatures to give Him spontaneous, chosen love and affection. This could only be possible if he created beings with freewill.

Then the question is often asked, “Why didn’t God destroy Lucifer when he sinned, to save the woe brought about by his evil work?” God could easily have done this, but his destruction would have been misunderstood by the other angels. Satan had boasted of great promise in disobedience to the law of God. His claims

were undermining God’s perfect government. He claimed God was a tyrant, a dictator, with no right to impose His restraints upon His creatures. If the devil had been destroyed immediately, his charges would have been supported. The angels would say, “Satan was right”, and would remain loyal to God through fear instead of love. This type of service God could not accept. God has given His beings the power of choice and

accepts the service that comes by love. Time was needed to give sin and its results a chance to grow. When the universe sees the full outcome of sin, nobody will be left in doubt that it should be eliminated forever. God's government will be proved beyond doubt for eternity.

Revelation 12:4,7-9 <sup>4</sup> And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. <sup>7</sup> And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, <sup>8</sup> And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. <sup>9</sup> And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.



Eve believes the lies of Satan against God and takes the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

When the devil was cast out of heaven, a large number of angels (a third of the stars of heaven), were cast out with him. These fallen angels are often referred to as demons.

Jude 6 <sup>6</sup> And the angels which kept not their first estate (principality), but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment

These wicked angels are awaiting the judgment.

### THE ORIGIN OF SIN ON PLANET EARTH

Genesis 3:2-6 <sup>2</sup> And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: <sup>3</sup> But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. <sup>4</sup> And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: <sup>5</sup> For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

<sup>6</sup> And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant (desirous) to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

The devil, speaking through the serpent, deceived our first parents, Adam and Eve, into disobeying God. This brought the troubles, woe and suffering we see in the world today.



Adam and Eve had to leave their beautiful garden home because they disobeyed.

Romans 5:12 <sup>12</sup> Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

The one man refers to Adam. The whole human race descends from Adam and Eve and all have inherited the tendency toward evil.

Some will ask "Why didn't God blot out Adam and Eve and start again?" What do parents do with disobedient children? Do they destroy them and adopt others? Of course not! Parents are sorry for their children's disobedience, but they still love them and hope they will turn out right in the end. And so God did not destroy

Adam and Eve. He had a better way. He solved the problem by love. This love sent Jesus to Calvary.

### WHY DOES GOD PERMIT SUFFERING?

Job 2:7 <sup>7</sup> So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

The story of Job shows that God is not primarily responsible for suffering. Sometimes God allows suffering for the development of character as was true in the case of Job. Job said, "When He has tested me I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10). God did not prevent the suffering of His own Son on the cross. If Jesus had not suffered and died there would be no hope for us to gain everlasting life. Then much suffering is caused by man's own folly, such as the consequences of war. Suffering is often caused by disobedience to natural laws. Often sickness comes because of a failure to exercise or eat correct food. The basic cause of suffering is sin, because suffering was unknown before sin existed. The devil is the originator of sin, so he is primarily the one to blame – but not God.

### WHAT HAS GOD DONE ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING?

John 3:16 <sup>16</sup> For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life



The death of Christ made sure the death of sin and suffering.

### GOD HAS DONE SOMETHING

Because of what Jesus has done, there will be an end to sin and the suffering it causes.

Matthew 24:14 <sup>14</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

GOD IS DOING SOMETHING about suffering now. Through His earthly representatives the gospel message is being proclaimed. This message extends an invitation to be part of God's kingdom where there will be no more suffering.

Revelation 21:4 <sup>4</sup> And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

GOD WILL YET DO SOMETHING ABOUT SUFFERING. Those who accept the gospel are given the reward of living in God's eternal kingdom where sin and suffering will never arise. Soon Satan, sin, sinners and suffering will be gone. The wickedness of sin will have filled its cup of iniquity and will prove beyond doubt to the whole universe that sin and its government must be shunned for eternity. Even Satan will be destroyed. His outcome is eternal death; meaning he will be as though he never existed. The lake of fire will bring about his destruction. The torment he experiences will largely be the pain of rejecting the most loving being in the universe – God.



The Devil is like a roaring lion seeking to devour us.

### THE DESTRUCTION OF SIN AND THE DEVIL

Ezekiel 28:18,19 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth A FIRE FROM THE MIDST OF THEE, it shall devour thee, and I WILL BRING THEE TO ASHES upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee; thou shalt be a terror and NEVER SHALT THOU BE ANYMORE. (KJV)

The devil is to be destroyed forever.

Nahum 1:9 <sup>9</sup> What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time.

Sin will never reoccur anywhere in the universe throughout all eternity. Its results in this world will forever put the question beyond doubt, that sin has something worthwhile to offer. It will be brought to an utter end.

Revelation 12:12 <sup>12</sup> Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

The devil is having his last fling. His end will come soon.

1 Peter 5:8 <sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The devil is angry because his time is short.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 <sup>13</sup> For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. <sup>14</sup> And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.



Satan and his followers will be destroyed at the end of the millennium.

The devil operates by deception. He has always appeared as a benefactor when his work is bent on destruction. His supreme aim is to prevent people from receiving eternal life. Some ask “What chance do we have against such a crafty foe?”

1 John 4:4 <sup>4</sup> Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

The devil’s death knell was rung at the cross of Jesus. If Jesus abides in us, we have no need to fear the devil. The Christian is on the winning side, for Christ is far more powerful than Satan.

James 4:7 <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Here is the solution.

1. Submission to God.
2. Then resist the devil.

To reverse the procedure would bring defeat. We have nothing to fear while we constantly surrender our lives to Jesus Christ. We need never fear the devil – in fact it is better to think of Jesus.



Jesus loves us and will defeat His and our enemy – Satan.

“There are Christians who think and speak altogether too much about the power of Satan. They think of their adversary, they pray about him, they talk about him, and he looms up greater and greater in their imagination. It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but thank God, we have a mighty Saviour, who cast out the evil one from heaven. Satan is pleased when we magnify his power. Why not talk of Jesus? Why not magnify His power and His love?” *Desire of Ages*, page 493.

Here is good counsel. We can be overcomers at last – not in our own strength – but in His strength. In Rev.12:11 it states “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” Dear friend, will you determine to be on the side of Jesus – the winning side? Satan’s way leads to death – God’s way leads to life.

## ***Review Sheet – The Origin of Evil***

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ASSIGNMENT – Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. Did Jesus believe in the existence of the devil? John 8:44
2. Who originated sin? 1 John 3:8
3. Did God create a devil? Ezekiel 28:12-15
4. Why did Lucifer choose to rebel against God and become Satan? Isa 14:12-14  
(In your own words)  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who joined the devil in his rebellion and what was their fate? Rev 12:4,7,9
6. Who was responsible for the origin of sin on our planet? Romans 5:12
7. Why didn't God make the angels and man obey automatically so that they would never have sinned?  
(In your own words)  
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8. Is God responsible for suffering? Job 1-3. Why is there suffering?  
(In your own words)  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Will suffering continue for eternity? Revelation 21:4
10. How will the devil be destroyed? Ezekiel 28:18,19
11. Will sin ever raise its ugly head again after the devil is destroyed? Nahum 1:9
12. How can we overcome the devil today? James 4:7

Have you chosen to be on God's side – the way that will conquer at last?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_



# Lucifer's Rebellion



1. Created Perfect  
Eze 28:13-15



2. Became Proud  
Eze 28:17; Isa  
14:13,14



3. Caused War in  
Heaven Rev 12:7



4. Cast Out of Heaven Rev 12:9



6. Forms one-  
world religion  
Rev 13:12-17



5. Deceives  
the world Rev  
13:3,4



7. Destroyed  
Rev 20:10