

12) The Origin of Evil

Its easy to blame God when bad things happen And that's exactly what Satan wants. Society even refers to natural disasters as "acts of God". But are they? Is God the creator of evil and sin, or is there a misunderstanding in the world? Is there a different source for sin and evil?

Lets discover what the Bible teaches about the origin of evil

1 John 4:8. Love, pure love, is God's very nature. Its more than what He does, love is who He is!

Matthew 13:24-30. Jesus used this parable to teach people then and now that God created only good things, but an enemy later came in and sowed evil, sin and strife. But it would cause more damage to the good to remove the enemy and what he sowed, so it must all grow together till it was obvious to all what is sin and what is good, and who the enemy really is.

Ezekiel 28:12-18. Using the illustration of a wicked earthly king, God identifies who the enemy, the sower of evil and sin is. Lucifer was a beautiful angel created by God. He was placed in the highest position a created angel could have. He stood next to the throne of God to carry out the will of God. He was perfect, because that is how God created him. But something changed in his heart, not because of God, but because of his choices. He started to cherish pride and his nature changed. He started to oppose God's order and law. He started to subvert God's government and sought to cause mistrust of God in the rest of the created angels. Verse 18 is prophetic revealing the eventual result for this fallen angel and all those who would follow him instead of God. He, and his followers, will be destroyed by fire. With only ashes remaining. Satan is not in charge of hell fire, it was designed to utterly destroy sin, Satan, and sin's followers in the future, once it is time.

Isaiah 14:12-14. Lucifer's name meant "light bearer". He was to carry and represent the light of God's truth. But his focus was turned inward. He allowed pride and jealousy to creep into his heart where he cherished it and allowed it to grow. Lucifer the light bear would become Satan the deceiver and oppressor of God's truth. He wanted to overthrow God and His government. An angel that had created perfect now wanted to be God. He wanted to be in God's place, on His throne. Wanting something other than God's wisdom, grace, and law provide always has tragic ending.

2 Thessalonians 2:7. Scripture speaks of the mystery of iniquity. We may not be able to fully understand how an angel, perfectly created by God, could become fallen. Its important to remember that God's character and government is based on love, mercy, fairness/truth, and choice (free will). God does not force the will of His creation, but there are consequences to choice. This is not manipulation or coercion; rather it is love and a natural consequence. God is the creator and sustainer of life. When He is pushed away,

disregarded, rebelled against, the natural result will be death ultimately. That is mercy towards the rebellious who no longer want to exist in God's presence and abide in His laws. It is mercy to the obedient by the eventual removal of all sin and its sources.

Revelation 12:7-9. Satan, also known as the devil and great dragon, rebelled in heaven. The word translated "war" comes from the Greek word "polemos". This is where the word polemics is derived. This war was a war of words and ideology. Satan falsely accused God of being unfair, His laws and government as arbitrary and not needed. He presented himself and his ways of governing as a better choice. But God only allowed the rebellion to go as far as necessary for the angels to make their choice. Satan was and is brilliant at manipulating and distorting truth, he deceived one third of God's created angels, and they followed Satan. When Satan and his host were expelled from heaven they eventually came to this newly created planet called earth.

Luke 10:18. Jesus defeated heaven Satan in heaven by showing the true nature of God's love and government. He also defeated Satan at Calvary. He wants to defeat Satan in your heart and life, but that choice is yours.

Genesis 1:27-31. God the Son, Jesus Christ, had created this world perfect. Adam and Eve were made in His image. They were created with free will and given dominion of this new world.

Genesis 3:1-7. Disguising his identity and intent, and working through the serpent, Satan deceived Eve by questioning God's words, then calling Him a liar. Portraying to Eve that God was simply keeping her from a better life, a better attainment, she could after all, be like God. They very much think Satan coveted in heaven. There was nothing injurious about the fruit. Think of the tree of knowledge of good and evil as a voting booth. If they resisted Satan and his temptation, they would overcome as God's children; but if they listened and disobeyed God they were, in essence, casting their vote for Satan to be their head, their god. Eve was deceived, but Adam rebelled. He took the fruit knowing full well the consequences, but could not bear losing Eve, his helpmeet. After sinning and yielding the dominion of this world and themselves to Satan they realized their mistake. They truly knew sin and evil were different than God's goodness. They lost their perfect unfallen nature, with which they could have resisted sin, and realized they were spiritually, and literally, naked.

1 Peter 5:8. Satan's goal is simple, like a ravenous lion, he seeks to destroy us.

Isaiah 59:1-2. God is a holy God. He does not choose to leave us, we push Him away when we choose sin, when we love sin more than God.

Romans 6:23. When we sin, we are earning death. That is the reward, consequences, natural result of sin.

Jeremiah 17:9. The fallen heart is self deceiving and terribly wicked. It has a bent or disposition to sin that no one can resist, outside of God's help.

Romans 5:12. We did not inherit Adam's sin, but because of his sin, and because we are all his descendants, we are all born with (inherited) a fallen nature that cannot resist sin.

Romans 6:16. The choices we make, indicate who we belong to: Satan or God, and our ultimate end: eternal destruction or eternal life.

Hebrews 2:14-18. Not only does Jesus perfect life on earth, and sacrificial death set us free from sin and its condemnation, it will also result in the destruction of Satan!

Romans 5:17-21. Grace! Through His perfect life and sacrifice, Jesus can reverse the curse of sin by offering us His righteousness.

Romans 3:23-25. Even though we have all sinned, our debt has been paid by Jesus. If we, in faith, accept His grace and substitutionary righteousness, we are justified and God considers us free of the condemnation our forgiven sin had caused.

Isaiah 41:13. As long as that is our continual heart response, God helps us to overcome sin.

Ezekiel 28:17-18. Satan is not "in charge of the fire of hell". Hellfire does not yet exist but it will eventually be God's means to utterly destroy Satan, all the fallen angels, every person who rejected God's grace, and all the effects and traces of sin. The only thing left of Satan and sinners will simply be ashes.

Revelation 21:1-5. After the hellfire has finished its work and burnt itself out, God will recreate this earth. His followers will inhabit the city He created for them – New Jerusalem. There will never again be sin, death, or sorrow.

Revelation 20:10. Please compare 1 Samuel 1:22 with 1 Samuel 1:28. Hannah promised to give her son, Samuel, to serve the Lord forever which meant - as long as he lived, That expression "forever and ever" simply means until there is no life left. In the same way, Satan and unrepentant sinners will be cast into a lake of fire, hellfire. They remain there until the life is gone and they are reduced to ashes.

Nahum 1:9. God makes a simple yet profound and comforting promise, sin will never rise again!

My friend, don't you want to be a citizen of that perfect city, where God will actually dwell with His children? If you haven't already, please commit your life into Jesus' care. It really is as simple as inviting Him into your heart and asking Him to forgive you your sins. He promises that if any one comes to Him with a sincere heart, He will not cast them out – John 6:37

