

The Origin of Evil



Bible Study Pathways Lesson 2

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A Story to Ponder...

When cattle are prepared to slaughter in some parts of the United States, a tranquilizer is put into their food for some time. This drug makes even the wildest steers calm and listless. They quietly eat and get fat in preparation for the approaching slaughter. Sin is the tranquilizer which Satan is using to prepare millions of human beings for the final day of destruction.

To learn more about the sin problem we need to see how sin began. In order for us to find its origin, we have to look back in history to a time before and during the creation of our earth, and we find sin's origin actually beginning with an angel in heaven itself.

 **Ezekiel 28:14-17** 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. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee...Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness:..

 The Bible says that the "anointed cherub" was perfect from the day he was created until _____ was found in him. This _____ was the result of his heart being _____

Isaiah 14:12-14

 Lucifer, the "anointed" or "covering" cherub, began to harbor "Pride" in his own glory and to nourish the desire for supremacy. He wanted to be like God. Satan began rebelling against the law of God, because he was ambitious to exalt himself, and unwilling to submit to the authority of God's Son, Heaven's great commander. Satan began to spread his dissatisfaction to the other angels. All the heavenly hosts were summoned to appear before the Father, to have each case determined. Satan grew bold in his rebellion, and expressed his contempt of the Creator's law. He claimed that angels needed no law; but should be left free to follow their own will, which, he claimed, would ever guide them right; that law was a restriction of their liberty, and that to abolish law was one great object of his standing as he did. The condition of the angels he thought needed improvement. But God, who had made the laws and exalted them equal to himself, knew that the happiness of the angelic host consisted in their perfect obedience to law.

Each had his special work assigned him; and until Satan rebelled, there had been perfect order and harmonious action in Heaven. Then there was war in Heaven. This is the beginning of the war, that we call, the Great Controversy.



Revelation 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 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.



Here we see that Michael (Christ) and His loyal angels expelled the _____ (Lucifer aka. Satan), and the angels that rebelled with him, from heaven and cast or banished him to this _____. Luke 10:18



Revelation 12:12 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.



Revelation declares a "woe" on the _____ of the _____.



Read the story of the fall of man in Genesis chapter 3

With the earliest history of man, Satan began his efforts to deceive our race. He who had incited rebellion in heaven desired to bring the inhabitants of the earth to unite with him in his warfare against the government of God. Adam and Eve had been perfectly happy in obedience to the law of God, and this fact was a constant testimony against the claim which Satan had urged in heaven, that God's law was oppressive and opposed to the good of His creatures. And furthermore, Satan's envy was excited as he looked upon the beautiful home prepared for the sinless pair. He determined to cause their fall, that, having separated them from God and brought them under his own power, he might gain possession of the earth and here establish his kingdom in opposition to the Most High.



Satan is at war against the government of God in heaven. He seeks to enlist all humanity on his side in this rebellion. To accomplish this purpose, he tempts us to sin against God. So just what exactly is "sin?"



1 John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.



So "sin" is the _____ or violation of the Law of God. In reality, sin is making the same claim, by either, your thoughts, words, or actions, that Satan made against God's Law (His government) – "It's unfair, it cannot be kept."

But is this a true claim, or just a subtle lie of Satan's?



For example, in most areas of the world, the state government has posted "Speed Limits" along the highways. These are the "Laws" that are in place to keep travelers safe. But many people do not keep these "Laws." Why is that?

Is it because the "Law" cannot be kept; or, is it rather because the people do not WANT to keep the "Law?"

This mental choice to "rebel" against the law is the same principle that is used to make excuses for rebelling against God's Law.

Is it possible for us to obey God's Law?



Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.



So we are told to ____ God and ____ his _____. This means that it is possible for mankind to obey God's Laws.

Have any of us done so all of our lives?



Psalm 14:2-3 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

CONCLUSION

Just as a person who has broken the speed limit before has violated the law, so all of us have, at one point or another, broken God's Law. So even though we are to do our best to stay faithful to His Law, our strict obedience to it today cannot erase the violation of it that we did in the past.

But God has a plan that He has put in place that was created specifically for this emergency. His plan will not only give us the strength to live a victorious life of obedience, but it will also provide for the total erasure of our past sins.

We will explore this Plan in Lesson 3