



Brown Community Group Discussion Guide

“Origin of Sin” Series Lesson 1 – November 29, 2015

Origin of Sin

- I. **Series Starter:** What was the origin of sin? Where did it occur and how? How did sin originally manifest itself in a perfectly created world by God? We will study these issues from several different angles:
1. Origin of Sin
 2. Garden of Eden and Man’s First Sin
 3. Human Nature and All Mankind

Where did sin begin?

The age-old question of where and how sin began has been explored and debated by some of the greatest minds of history, yet no one can give a completely definitive or satisfying answer.

To know the truth about sin’s origins, we have to go back to the whole Bible. While the first humans, Adam and Eve, sinned, and their transgressions spiraled mankind into sin from Genesis 3, this was not sin’s origin.

Evil is not a created thing—it is not a creature and has no independent being. Evil has no standard as goodness does; it is a lack, a deficiency, a falling short of the standard of God’s perfect goodness. All sin, no matter how trivial it may seem, falls short of moral perfection. God is always consistent with His perfect nature ([Deuteronomy 32:4](#)). All sin, therefore, must come from the creature, and the desire for evil comes from within the creature ([James 1:14-15](#)). Sin was “found” in Lucifer because of a choice that angel made to seek something other than what God had chosen for him. Any time we seek “other” than God’s choice, we sin.

Choice of sin

When Lucifer first made that choice, he made it because he said, “I want to be like God.” And he found out that immediately he became as much unlike God as it is possible to be. God is holy; he became wretched

God created the conditions where creatures would be able to make a “free will” choice between obedience and disobedience to God. So, there is choice and the potential of a wrong choice. A measure of freedom is given to the creatures by which they can choose to honor God, by which they can choose to dishonor. As long as that is there, then the reality, the potential reality of evil exists when the wrong choice is made.

This condition existed when God created Lucifer, who was without sin, yet apparently had “free will”. Lucifer chose to rebel against God and sin ([Isaiah 14:12-15](#), [Ezek. 28:13-15](#)). Likewise, Adam and Eve, having been made by God without sin, listened to the devil and chose to sin against God ([Gen. 3](#)).

But God did not cause them to sin ([James 1:13](#)). In the freedom of their wills, each decided to rebel

against God, and sin entered the world ([Rom. 5:12](#)). God simply allowed the condition to exist where sin was possible.

Sin comes into existence when the standard of moral perfection is not met and that is an act based upon intellect, reason and choice made by His creatures.

II. Scripture Teaching:

Origin of Sin?

[Isaiah 14:12-15](#)

- ***"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!" 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. 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.***
 - Historically thought to reference a taunt song against the King of Babylon, an illustration of the fall of an earthly tyrant
 - When the Vulgate and others interpreted "Helas" as Lucifer, a whole new concept was introduced as referring to the prehistory and fall of Satan
 - Despite its lack of other specific biblical references in support of that idea
 - Old Testament takes sin seriously, it is singularly free of an any attempt to account for the origin of sin and evil, except for the story of Adam and Eve
 - Coveted God's throne
 - Some have interpreted that this is misuse of scriptures to pinpoint this to the "origin of sin", due to lack of supporting scriptures, but that is what we are here to contemplate and study!

[Revelation 12:7-13](#)

7 Then war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short." 13 When the dragon saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child.

- John felt the events of heaven and earth were related
- Satan and his angels were defeated in a heavenly war

- Must be cautious in the chronological order of this scripture
 - Defeat of Satan by Michael seems to be tied to “earthly victory” by the Blood of the Lamb
 - Why did Michael by defeating Satan not kill him? But throw him to earth?
 - Many first century Christians believed Satan was thrown into a “Lower heaven”, spiritual place not associated with God’s Throne or presence.
 - Satan had access to God’s presence and throne at some point, specific references:
 - Job 1:6 – Man’s Accuser
 - 6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. 7 The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it.” 8 Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.”
 - Zechariah 3:1 – Man’s Accuser
 - 1 Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. 2 The Lord said to Satan, “The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?”
 - Jude 9 – Michael disputing with Satan about Moses body
 - Verse 13, the woman referenced is generally interpreted as the “People of God”
 - Evil is serious and cosmic

Jude 1:6-7

And the angels who did not stay within their own position of authority, but left their proper dwelling, he has kept in eternal chains under gloomy darkness until the judgment of the great day— just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise indulged in sexual immorality and pursued unnatural desire, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

- Many interpret this illustration as a parallel to the non-canonical book of 1 Enoch, where multiple angels left heaven and descend to the earth for sexual union with women of the earth.
- Gabriel and other angels were sent to fight and bind them, then consigning them to darkness
- Illustration of God’s judgement of sin, whether angel or man
- Possibly a separate reference not the same as Revelation 12 with Satan himself

2 Peter 2:4

4 For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;

- Striking illustration of God’s responsible judgement of sin
- “if” clause extends from verse 4 through verse 8 for “to keep the unrighteousness under punishment until the day of judgement”
- Angels not specifically identified, but speculated reference to:

- “Sons of God” who entered into sexual relations with the “daughters of men” in Genesis 6:1-7
- Non-canonical book of 1 Enoch 10:4
- Revelation 12:7-12
- “Hell” referenced here is not the Hell of the Gospels, but a Greek word for the abode of the wicked as compared to the place of righteous
- Does not specifically say, but these angels could still be roaming the earth with Satan and the scripture references their eventual spiritual judgement as opposed to being currently “bound”.

Revelation 12:4

His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it.

- Sometimes interpreted along with Revelations 12:7-12 to imply that this was involved 1/3 of all angels on Satan’ side

Ezekiel 28:15-17

"You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. "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. "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.

- Generally interpreted to be concerning King of Tyre with theological implications to Satan
- Reference to “garden of God” and “holy mountain of God”
- Sin of misdirected wisdom; will and mind of the king were perverted
- Wisdom directed at aggrandizement of self
- True wisdom and arrogance are mutually exclusive
- Satan created perfect from God, but Satan’ pride and choice to become “like God” started his downfall.

Ephesians 6:12

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

III. Group Questions:

1. How could Satan initially make that first choice to sin while in God’s holy presence and original creation?
2. When considering “free will” choice and man’s personal decisions, think through our previous studies of 1) Personal Choice within God’s sovereignty and 2) Psalms; Is this this choice limited by God or is the human free to choose?