

Lesson 4 – The Origin of Evil

- 1) What is God like?

1 John 4:8 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is _____.”

NOTE: Everything that God has done, is doing, or will do in the future, is based on the principle of love. This love is far more than the cultural love we often think of. This love is based on sacrifice and the willingness to forgive.

- 2) If God is such a loving being, then why does He allow bad things to happen to good people?

Matthew 13:24-28 “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed _____ seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow _____ seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An _____ hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?”

NOTE: Here Jesus tells a parable about a man that sows good seed in his field. But as the servants of the householder take a closer look at this field, they not only notice the fruit which came from the good seed, but they noticed the tares also. Then they ask the question, “Why does the field have tares, if you sowed the good seed?” And his reply is, “An enemy has done this.” God does not take responsibility for the bad things that happen to good people in this world, but He does place the blame on the appropriate party, the enemy, the devil.

- 3) Where did the devil come from? Did God create the devil?

Ezekiel 28:12-17 “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.

Thou hast been in _____ the garden of God; every precious stone *was* thy covering, the sardius, 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.

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* _____ in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, _____ iniquity was found in thee.

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will _____ thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Thine heart was _____ because of thy _____, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy _____: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that

they may behold thee.”

NOTE: God created a perfect, sinless angel named Lucifer and invested him with a very precious and dangerous gift. That gift was the freedom of choice. In fact, God has given all of His created beings this gift.

Why didn't God make Lucifer without the gift of choice? It is quite simple, really. Imagine if you have a son or daughter, and you had special scientific expertise to somehow manipulate their DNA so that they would always love you and always tell you how much they loved you all the time. Question: Would that be love? Of course not! Love, true love, can only come from the heart where there is freedom of choice. If love is forced or programmed, it isn't love at all.

The reason why God gave angels and human beings this choice is so they can choose to love Him. To love through choice rather than programming is true love.

How did Lucifer come to make the fatal mistake of sinning against God? The sad reality is that this beautiful angel became so enraptured by his own looks and intellect that he began to foster the idea that he knew better and thought that he was even wiser than God Himself. And as the last act of the drama unfolds he will be destroyed by God because of his unwillingness to change his murderous and rebellious ways.

- 4) What was and is Lucifer's longing desire?

**Isaiah 14:12-14 “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!
For thou hast said in thine heart, _ will ascend into heaven, _ will exalt my throne _____ the stars of God: _ will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: _ will ascend above the heights of the clouds; _ will be like the most High.”**

NOTE: Lucifer, since his initial downfall, has always wanted to usurp the authority that belongs only to God. His desire is to rob the worship that is due to God and apply to himself that which should solely belong to God. He wants to have power over the Most High. Today Satan (Lucifer) is robbing God of the worship He deserves in a very unsuspecting, underhanded way. We will be looking at this subject in depth in the very near future.

- 5) What happened to Lucifer once his rebellion became open and unchanging?

**Revelation 12:7-9 “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the _____; and the dragon fought and his angels,
And prevailed not; neither was their _____ found any more in heaven.
And the great dragon was cast _____, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which _____ the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”**

NOTE: When the rebellion of Lucifer reached a fever pitch, there was war in heaven. The Bible doesn't speak on what type of war it was, but the war was over the issue of worship. This same war that was fought in heaven is being fought right now on this planet. Lucifer and his angels were cast out of heaven because of their rebellion and their desire to rob God of the worship that is due only to Him.

Why is God the one we should worship? It's because He is our Creator and Sustainer of life. He loves us and only asks us to follow Him for our own good and happiness.

How deceptive is Lucifer? He deceived one third of the angels of heaven. (See Revelation 1:20; 12:4) These angels were holy and without sin, and yet he persuaded them to his side. Do you think that he will succeed in deceiving the majority of humanity? The Bible describes him in this way: "that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan which deceives the whole world." This is why it is imperative we follow carefully what Jesus teaches us through his Word.

- 6) What did Jesus say in regards to the fall of Lucifer?

Luke 10:18 "And he said unto them, I beheld _____ as lightning ____ from heaven."

NOTE: The Bible tells us that the armies of heaven cast out the devil. It all took place because Lucifer chose to rebel. Jesus says He saw Satan fall from heaven. It was his choice that ultimately led to his expulsion from the precincts of glory.

- 7) Why does Satan hate humanity with such fury?

Genesis 1:27-31 "So God created man in his _____, in the image of _____ created he him; male and female created he them.

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which *is* upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which *is* the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein *there is* life, *I have given* every green herb for meat: and it was so.

And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, *it was* very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

NOTE: Man was unique in the scope of the creation of God. Man was created in the image of God. This was a brand new order in the universe and infuriated Lucifer causing him to hate humanity so much today.

- 8) On what points did Satan deceive Adam and Eve?

Genesis 3:1-7 "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, _____, _____ said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 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.

And the serpent said unto the woman, _____:

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.

And when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, and that it *was* pleasant 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. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they *were* naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”

NOTE: Satan clouded the mind of Eve with doubts regarding the trustworthiness of God and His word. He made her feel as if God was holding something back from her, that her happiness would be complete if she would only comply to his devilish promptings. Today, the same strategy is working with the masses of this world. Satan still seeks to insinuate doubts about the motives and character of God. But we can learn from the mistake of Eve in the garden, to demand a “Thus saith the Lord,” for every belief and practice.

9) How does sin affect our relationship with God?

**Isaiah 59:1-2 “Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:
But your _____ have _____ between you and your God, and your ____ have ____ his face from you, that he will not hear.”**

NOTE: Sin separates us from God. It makes the things of God repulsive and creates a dislike in the heart for spiritual things. It creates an unwholesome fear of God that leads the sinner to run away from Him instead of running towards God and asking for favor and forgiveness. (See Genesis 3:8-9)

10) What is the ultimate result of disobedience?

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is _____; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

NOTE: Sin leads to death. Accepting the gift of God, salvation through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, is eternal life.

11) What happened to the human race as a result of Adam’s sin?

Jeremiah 17:9 “The _____ is _____ above all *things* , and _____ wicked: who can know it?”

Romans 5:12 “Wherefore, as by _____ entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Romans 6:16 “Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of _____ unto _____, or of _____ unto _____?”

NOTE: At the fall of our first parents, selfishness took the place of love and hence, all succeeding generations have been perverted. The nature of man has changed for the worse, but the good news is that Jesus can give us a new nature when we accept Him by faith that will, once again, be triumphant in the power of our Lord Jesus Christ. (See 2 Peter 1:4, Jude 24)

12) What did the life of Jesus prove?

Hebrews 2:14-17 “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he _____ took part of the ____; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

For verily he took not on *him* the nature of angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham.

Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* _____, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”

NOTE: The life of Jesus proved that man can overcome the temptations of Satan and be victorious. Jesus is our example and as we follow His manner of life, keeping the eye of faith riveted on Him we can be more than conquerors through Him that loved us. (See Romans 8:37-39)

13) Why is Jesus referred to as the second Adam?

Romans 5:17-19 “For if by one man's offence death reigned by ____; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the ____ of righteousness shall reign in life by ____, Jesus Christ.)

Therefore as by the offence of ____ *judgment came* upon all men to _____; even so by the _____ of ____ *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.

For as by ____ man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of ____ shall many be made _____.”

NOTE: Jesus overcame where Adam failed. He is our perfect substitute and surety. Consider it, if you will, as a divine transaction. Naturally, we are born selfish and bent toward evil and sin. Without Jesus we are children of wrath. When we accept Jesus Christ as our substitute, sinful as our past may have been, because of the perfect life of Jesus we are covered by His life, and his death was the final payment in this transaction. You see, the wages of sin is death. This is why Jesus had to die in our place! It was the only way that the penalty of sin could be paid and the life of the sinner be spared. What an act of unselfish love Jesus displayed on the cross!

14) What do we have to do to earn our salvation?

Romans 3:24-25 “Being justified _____ by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are _____, through the forbearance of God;”

NOTE: Although it is free to us, it cost Jesus everything. We are justified freely by His grace. We can do nothing, and let me reiterate -- nothing, to earn our salvation. Jesus has already paid the price for us. All we do is reach out the hand of faith by confessing our sins to Him, and to accept this Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. This is something that separates the Christian faith from all other religions. We need not appease an angry god by meaningless rituals. We accept freely what has been done for us by a loving God who is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

15) Does Jesus involve Himself in our day-to-day life if we allow Him?

Isaiah 41:13 “For I the LORD thy God will ____ thy right hand, saying unto thee, ____
____; I will ____ thee.”

NOTE: The God of the Bible is not some aloof, arbitrary God who stands back and watches some type of twisted ecological experiment. The God of the Bible is a God who is intimately interested in your trials, heartaches, joys and sorrows. He is always ready to help you in all the experiences of life. His caring cannot be sufficiently expressed by mere words. To know Him, to experience Him, to live for Him, is to love Him.

16) What will ultimately happen to Satan?

Ezekiel 28:17-18 “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.
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 _____ thee, and I will bring thee to _____ upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.”

NOTE: Satan will one day be destroyed once His government reaches fruition. We will see in future studies the issues surrounding his final demise.

17) What will happen after the destruction of Satan?

Revelation 21:1-5 “And I saw a ___ heaven and a ___ earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, _____ from God out of _____, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is _____, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be their God.*
And _____ shall _____ away _____ from their eyes; and there shall be no more _____, neither _____, nor _____, neither shall there be any more _____: for the former things are _____.
And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, _____: for these words are _____ and _____.”

NOTE: Imagine the scene. The very place where rebellion has flourished for thousands of years will become the dwelling place of God and the capital of the universe. And God will wipe away all tears from the eyes of the redeemed. There will be no more death, sorrow or crying. Then the redeemed will watch God make all things new, better than they were in their original edenic luster.

18) Will the problem of sin ever come back again?

Nahum 1:9 “What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end:

_____ shall not _____ the _____ time.”

NOTE: Once the cancer of sin is eradicated, along with the originator of sin, there is no need to worry for what the future holds. Sin will no longer be a part of humanity’s experience. We can all live in perfect freedom without the oppressive shadow of death and sin.

IS IT YOUR DESIRE...

To prepare yourself to live for eternity without the fear of death and sin? Yes or No