

The Fall (Part 1)
Genesis 3:1
September 18, 2016

Introduction

The saddest commentary of our society today is that the word “sin” has been struck down from public discussion. Guilt and sin are no longer accepted by the world. In fact, they are no longer applied to human behavior today. Man cannot explain why people do evil things. They often place blame on the environment, society, parents, or anything but themselves. Man has labeled sinful behavior as normal or even a sickness that needs to be medicated. When man labels bad behavior as a disorder, they try to cure it with medication. Those never work because they are not dealing with the true issue—the heart. The Bible says

Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

Everything wrong, bad in this world can be explained from the Fall. When God created the universe, He saw that it was all very good, yet we do not see the very good today. The world has been decaying: pollution, destruction, and ugliness scar God’s creation. Paul says that creation is groaning:

Romans 8:20-22 *For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope **21** that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. **22** We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

Man’s relationship with God and with others have been ruined and are always less than ideal. We no longer have perfect relationship, but shame and guilt.

Before we look into the Fall of man, we need to define a few things before we can truly understand what Scripture describes that tragic event.

I. Definition of Sin

- Sin = breaking the moral law of God as revealed in the Scripture by act, attitude, and nature
 - Act
 - By breaking the Ten Commandments
 - Attitude

Exodus 20:17 *You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.*

- Nature
 - We are sinners by nature

Ephesians 2:3 *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*

- Our whole being does not conform to God’s holiness
- Our whole being is corrupted

- Sin is lawlessness

1 John 3:4 *Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.*

- Breaking God's law
- It is never approved by God

1 John 5:17a *All wrongdoing is sin,*

- Doing things that are wrong
- Sin is against God's alone

Psalms 51:4 *Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,*

- Sin's character
 - Sin is corruption
 - It stains the person and defiles them

Zechariah 3:3-4 *Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. 4 The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you."*

2 Corinthians 7:1 *Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

- Sin is rebellion

Leviticus 26:27 *If in spite of this you still do not listen to Me but continue to be hostile toward Me,*

Jeremiah 44:17 *We will certainly do everything we said we would: We will burn incense to the Queen of Heaven and will pour out drink offerings to her just as we and our fathers, our kings and our officials did in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. At that time we had plenty of food and were well off and suffered no harm.*

- Sin is unthankful

Romans 1:21 *For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

- Sin is death

Ezekiel 18:4b *The soul who sins is the one who will die.*

- Sin is irrational

Proverbs 14:1 *The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.*

II. Origin of Sin

- God did not make evil
 - God Himself is not evil, and He cannot give out evil

Deuteronomy 32:4 *He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is He.*

James 1:13 *When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone;*

- Evil is always a choice
 - God gave man a choice and man disobeyed
 - Disobeying God is always an act of evil
- When did this evil start?

Genesis 3:1 *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"*

- Serpent
 - Reptile
 - What kind of reptile? Snake? Dragon?
 - We do not know
 - This serpent could talk
 - Animals do not talk
 - This serpent is unique
 - This serpent was crafty
 - Evil intelligence
 - Who is this serpent?
 - Genesis does not identify who this serpent is
 - NT identifies him

Revelation 12:9 *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.*

- The serpent (or dragon) is Satan himself
 - Eve was deceived by him
- Who is Satan?
 - He was an angel

Ezekiel 28:12-15 *Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: " 'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. **13** You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. **14** You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. **15** You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.*

Note: Ezekiel 28 is actually a prophecy against the king of Tyre (a man **v2**) who thinks himself as God; however, there is a prophecy in the middle of the overall prophecy that does not talk about this man, but something greater—another king who is behind the king of Tyre. This is Satan.

- Wisest and most beautiful of all of God's creation
- He seemed to be God's prime minister
- He was a created being
- He fell from heaven because of his own pride

Isaiah 14:12-15 *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! 13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." 15 But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.*

Note: Isaiah is prophesying against the king of Babylon. Then he makes this prophecy that does not quite fit the human king. It has to be Satan.

- Jesus sees Satan fall from heaven

Luke 10:18 *He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."*

- Satan was an ambitious angel—he wanted to climb up above God
- "I will" used 5 times
 - Very opposite of Jesus who said, "Not My will, but the Father's."
- Satan manages to convince 1/3 of other angels to join with him in rebellion

Revelation 12:3-4 *Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. 4 His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.*

- Demons fell with Satan

Jude 6 *And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home—these He has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.*

- They are removed from God's presence
- They are also restricted in movement by God
- As a created, spiritual being, Satan has enormous power
 - However, he cannot make a person sin
 - Sin is always the response of a person to God—disobedience and rebellion
 - Sin started with Satan—he tempted Eve
 - However Adam and Eve are responsible for their own disobedience