

THE ORIGINS OF EVIL

To understand evil we must first look back to its origin and to its development. We are wise to familiarize ourselves with the devil's schemes – the better to escape his traps. His ways are from ancient times.

In the beginning there was nothing except God (Gen. 1:1). God is an infinite all-powerful all-knowing divine being who pre-exists all created things. He made a gracious decision to create life and share time and space with created things: angels, humans, animals, plants.

God created Heaven – a place for angels to dwell. The Bible refers to angels as the 'sons of God' because each angel is the direct creation of God. Angels do not multiply themselves. The number of angels created at the beginning is fixed for all time. There are myriads upon myriads of angels. Angels have an eternal existence – they do not die. However angels are able to suffer and to experience joy. Angels are arranged in layers upon layers of hierarchies. There were three angels who were the most senior in rank, called cherubs. All the rest of the angels were arranged beneath those three. Their names are: Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer. **Angels, although powerful and spiritual are not God – do not worship them or pray to them!**

God created Earth – a place for man to dwell. We know God created the Earth after he created Heaven because when God laid the foundation of the Earth all the angels cheered (Job 38:4-7).

God created Adam. God put Adam into the Garden of Eden – a physical place on Earth of much beauty, peace, and restful enjoyment. **Adam was created in the image of God –he reflected God's glory.**

THE GARDEN OF EDEN



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God created Eve. God saw that it was not good for Adam to be alone – he needed a helper. So, he put Adam into a deep sleep, removed one of his ribs, and made Eve from it. Adam said **“This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman’ for she was taken out of man”** (Gen. 2:23)

¹ Source of Image: Unknown

After the creation of the Earth, an amazing thing occurred in Heaven: the Fall of Satan². Heaven was a place where all the angels worshipped God. Each of them was created 'good' – no sin was placed in them. Lucifer was perhaps the most sublime angel God ever created. He was filled with wisdom and beauty. He was created blameless but wickedness was found in him. His heart became lifted up because of his beauty and splendor. He was filled with admiration for himself (pride) and this corrupted his wisdom. Because of his pride, God expelled Lucifer from the place of worship in Heaven and along with him all the angels loyal to him.³ Because of his disgrace, Lucifer became the enemy of God – sworn to glorify himself and to hide the glory of God. *Lucifer means 'light bearer' – but he became the 'prince of darkness'*.

THE FALL OF SATAN



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Lucifer's duty before he fell was worship leader and spiritual teacher - high priest to the angels in Heaven. Concerning him the Bible says: "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." (Eze. 28:14) We learn in the Law of Moses that the priests of the Temple on Earth were anointed (with oil) thus sealing their ordination for sacred work (Lev.8:11-13). Lucifer was anointed and ordained for a purpose in the Temple in Heaven: the Holy Mountain of God. This may explain why Lucifer has such a religious spirit – always going about organizing systems of worship. Not the worship of God of course: rather, in his case anything but God. Worship of false gods, worship of demons, worship of ancestors, etc. ***How deceitful Satan is: beware of false worship!***

With the fall of Satan – a place was missing in Heaven. If Lucifer's responsibility was leading worship, then there was a gap in Heaven that needed to be filled: a high priest who would lead the ministry of worship to God in Heaven. God chose not to create a new guardian cherub together with a new myriad of angels loyal to him to fill that gap. No other angels were either available or suitable to take that place.

² When Satan's heart became proud the Bible said God "threw him to the Earth" (Eze. 28:17)

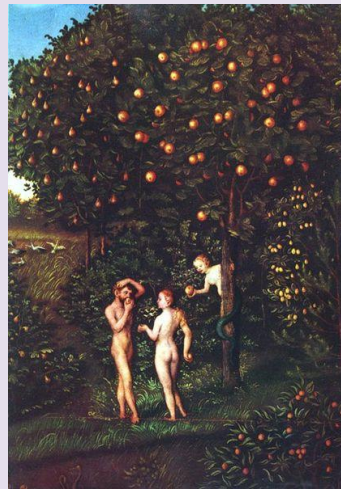
³ For the full account, read Ezekiel 28:11-19. It is clear the 'King of Tyre' referred to cannot be a man.

⁴ Source of image: crossinthewilderness.blogspot.com

The rebellion of Satan polluted the place of worship in Heaven. The holy things in the heavenly tabernacle had become so unclean no one was permitted to enter the sanctuary⁵. It was necessary to cleanse the Temple in Heaven of that pollution. Once the pollution was removed Heaven could experience the full and free worship of God as occurred before the fall of Lucifer. But this would wait for a time yet to come.

Man was created in the image of God. So, it became the mission of fallen Satan to corrupt the image of God in man and thereby hide the glory of God. God had commanded Adam not to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Satan took the form of a creature, possibly a bird of attractive plumage. He perched in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil and discussed with Eve whether or not to obey God's command. Believing Satan's seduction, in Eve's eyes the fruit of the Tree became good, so she ate some. She also gave to Adam, who was with her, and he also ate. After they had eaten they realised they were naked and hid themselves from God the Son who was just about to visit the garden.

ORIGINAL SIN



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Original sin meant Adam's life in paradise was over. Concerning the forbidden fruit, God had told Adam "**when you eat of it you will surely die**" (Gen. 2:17). Not only would Adam be cast out of the Garden of Eden, but Adam would eventually die. ***This is the first death – the dust of Adam's body would return to the soil from which it came, but the soul of Adam would not perish. Man is made in the image of God – he has an eternal soul – he will be resurrected to live on at a later time.***

When Adam and Eve sinned they were cast out of the Garden of Eden – but that was not the only result of their sin. God placed a curse on the ground: "**through painful toil you shall eat of it**" (Gen. 3:19). God put Eve in subjection to Adam: "**he shall rule over you**" (Gen. 3:16) and brought her pain in child bearing. God cursed Satan and predicted he would "**crawl on his belly and eat dust**" (Gen. 3:14). ***Most significantly, God left Adam and Eve with hope – God predicted the Seed of the Woman would crush Satan's head.***

⁵ The first to re-enter the Temple in Heaven was Christ. He cleansed the holy sanctuary with his own blood (Heb. 9:23)

⁶ Source of Image: www.toptenz.net

So far, it would appear Satan has won a great victory. He has polluted the Temple of Worship in Heaven. He has divided the loyalty of angels so that continual war would prevail between angels loyal to him and angels loyal to God. Through temptation Satan facilitated the corruption of innocent of man. This corruption tarnished the image of God man bore. Even worse, the ***original sin of Adam corrupted the line of his progeny so that all the descendants of Adam would continue to sin and fall short of God's glory after him.***

Why did God permit original sin to happen? God grants us a free will. If we obey God it can't be under compulsion. If we refuse to obey God then we accept the consequences. But, we can be thankful of this opportunity because through obedience we have something to offer God that pleases him. ***God who is complete and perfect in himself considers obedience or worship that is freely offered to be precious.***

To cover their nakedness, God clothed Adam and Eve with animal skins. In order for this to have happened, God the Son must have taken one of Adam's beloved animals from within the Garden, one who was innocent of all these affairs, killed it, and skinned it. Adam loved his creatures. He named them and he enjoyed them. ***When the innocent animal was sacrificed, this produced remorse in Adam because he saw how his sin had repercussions on a cherished innocent life that was required to die to cover his sins.***

Animal sacrifice became the prescribed form of worship of God on Earth. All true believers and followers of God – those who put their faith in the promise of God that the Seed of the Woman would one day crush Satan's head – entered into the experience of the shame of Adam by sacrificing animals to God. ***In an irony that Satan could not have predicted, God was glorified as good and just whenever man confessed his sin to God in this way.*** What Satan had intended for evil – causing man to sin - was turned into good through worship according to God's prescribed way.

WORSHIP BY SACRIFICE



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⁷ Source of image: www.answersingenesis.org

Satan's new goal was to establish his own kingdom on Earth based on his version of earthly wisdom and knowledge. His success in tempting Adam and Eve to sin so that God's judgment fell upon them was not enough satisfaction for him. ***Satan's intention was to compete for the obedience and affections of man.*** He would use any deceit and craft necessary to do this.

Adam and Eve began to have children. Some chose to serve God, some did not. Their first born was Cain, who tilled the soil like his father Adam. The second son was Abel, a keeper of flocks. Abel made a sacrifice to God of one of animals from the flock and God accepted it. Cain made an offering to God of the fruit of the soil, and God did not accept it. ***Cain was angry God did not accept his offering – he wanted to approach God by his own terms.*** Cain then invited Abel for a walk in the fields and killed him. The murderer Cain departed from the faith, wandered away from his family, and went on to be a founder of Satan's earthly kingdom. Cain built cities, founded trades, and established a community that did not worship God.

Cain lived a life that ignored God – a life based on his own idea of right and wrong. As such, ***Cain joined the rebellion of Satan.*** As the seed is evil – so is the fruit. Over time as the generations of Cain multiplied, ***evil multiplied upon the earth.*** One of Cain's descendants, Lamech, killed a young man for merely injuring him. Justice was not seen in the land. ***This prompted a revival - believers began to seek God again.***

Satan's plan to establish a kingdom on earth was stalling. The holy people were gaining in influence as the wickedness of the worldly way of life became plain to all and the common people yearned for righteousness.

Satan devised another strategy: demonic invasion! The Bible says "***the sons of God⁸ saw that the daughters of men were beautiful and they married any of them they chose...the Nephilim were on the Earth in those days...when the sons of God went into the daughters of men and had children by them.***" (Gen. 6:2 & 4) Nephilim were semi-humans who inherited from their fallen angel fathers super-human strength and evil appetites. ***Nephilim were exceedingly violent, destructive, and had no conscience to restrain their lusts.***

FALLEN ANGELS TAKE HUMAN WIVES



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⁸ Hebrew words "***ben elohim***" or "***sons of God***". This is the exact same term used in Job 1:6 and Job 2:1 to describe the presentation of the angels before God. This term does not mean 'offspring of the holy people' as some suggest.

⁹ Source of image: <http://eclectariumshuker.blogspot.ca/>

The result of the Nephilim invasion was superfluity of evil: “The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was evil all the time.” (Gen. 6:5) We do not know if the evil in man’s hearts was because: Nephilim genetics were spreading though the whole population; under Nephilim authority society conformed to their evil ways; the terror of the Nephilim caused the social fabric to come apart; or all of those things combined. What we know is the world became exceedingly wicked in a short time. The people who stayed true to the God of Heaven became a mere remnant in the midst of a depraved and maniac generation. ***Satan’s plan appeared to be working.***

God decided to wipe all of mankind off the face of the Earth, except Noah and his family (Gen.6:11-13). His servant Noah was “perfect in his generations” (Gen. 7:1) meaning there was no Nephilim blood in his genetic line whatsoever. This was critical because in order for the Seed of the Woman to be born, his mother must have genetics which were of a pure human strain. Noah was also a chosen prophet of God who heard the words of the Lord directly and clearly. God instructed him to build an ark of specific dimensions, which he did. God brought pairs of animals to Noah’s ark in order that the soon to be destroyed world could be repopulated. At the appropriate time the Ark was sealed, the rains came, the fountains of the deep broke forth, and the world was flooded by water. All flesh upon the earth was destroyed in the flood (Gen. 7:11-12; 21). ***Satan’s plan to corrupt the seed of Adam with the seed of the Fallen Angels had failed.***

THE FLOOD OF NOAH



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Note to doubters of the flood of Noah: Why do you ignore the testimony of all the ancient peoples and races on Earth? In spite of the significant differences in languages and culture and religious orientation of the diverse peoples of the world – all preserve an account of a great world-wide flood. What is more, the closer the source is to the Middle East, the more the details in the ancient accounts agree with the Bible.

Satan’s plan to foil God’s promises had failed. Satan tempted man to sin in order to hide the glory of God. God made a way for sinful man to worship him by sacrifice. Satan planted his worldly kingdom on Earth to draw men away from serving God. Men saw the evil and wickedness of the worldly life and were drawn

¹⁰ Source of Image: iamthewordthecomforter.blogspot.com

back to God. Satan attempted to pollute human purity through the genes of Fallen Angels. God wiped genetically corrupted and wicked humanity off the face of the Earth.

The world was repopulated by Noah's three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. **Shem** was the father of the semitic people. Shem's sons: **Elam** (a people who formed part of modern Iran), **Asshur** (modern Iraq), **Arphaxad** (grandfather of Eber – father of the Hebrews), **Lud** (uncertain), and **Aram** (modern Syria). **Ham** was the father of the African races. Ham's sons: **Cush** (modern Eithiopia), **Mizraim** (modern Egypt), **Put** (modern Lybia), and **Canaan** (no inheritance: left Africa and settled in the land of modern Israel). **Japheth** was the father of the peoples who spread out North and West. Japheth's sons: **Gomer** (Gauls – modern France); **Magog** (ancient inhabitants of Eurasian steppes¹¹); **Madai** (ancient Medes); **Javan** (Greeks including Cyprus and coastlands of Turkey – maritime peoples); **Tubal** (possibly Iberia); **Meshech** (part of modern Turkey), and **Tiras** (ancient Thrace – north of modern Greece – opposite modern Turkey).

A race of giants, called Anakim, arose on the Earth. Although the blood of Noah and his wife was pure and the blood of all three of his sons was pure, **it is apparent that the blood of one of the wives of Noah's three sons was not pure¹².** A fraction of Nephilim blood trickled back into the human gene pool and the descendants of these became the giants. Once again, like their Nephilim forefathers the Anakim began to cause mayhem upon the Earth. They subdued humans through warfare and ruled over some of the lands.

A mighty warrior arose who fought the Anakim, and conquered them. His name was Nimrod. **To the peoples of the world, Nimrod was a great hero and deliverer who saved them from the scourge of the Anakim.** The name Nimrod means "subduing leopard" in Babylonian. Legends say Nimrod used trained leopards in his battles¹³. Nimrod was an illegitimate son of Cush. He founded Babylon.

NIMROD – THE MIGHTY WARRIOR



¹¹ The Greeks referred to the Sythians as 'Magogia' according to Josephus (Antiquities). We believe the ancient inhabitants of the Eurasian steppes were the Magogia. The Sythians may have been a race who later conquered them.

¹² This might have been the wife of Ham or the wife of Japheth but it could not have been the wife of Shem because from his line the mother of the Seed of the Woman was descended.

¹³ As unlikely as this sounds, in India cheetahs were used in hunting parties by the Raj up until recent times.

Nimrod set up a one world government with himself as absolute ruler. To his vast temporal power, Nimrod added a religious system to ensnare the people. ***Satan's first strategy of constructing a world system based on cities and trades had failed to overcome the God believers. With Nimrod, Satan began a new strategy of invading the spiritual ground – offering a religious system to go with the world system.*** Specifically, Nimrod introduced the practice of astrology and the worship of ancestors. The pantheon of pagan gods was invented and propagated by Nimrod. This was a slight variation on the wicked practices of the Nephilim, who worshiped their fathers also – except their fathers were the “sons of God” and had a real claim to otherworldly existence. The gods of the pagans introduced by Nimrod were dead ancestors - no gods at all – a complete fiction of the Devil – presented to ignorant man in the form of idols of wood and stone.

Nimrod built a tower in the plains of Shinar, known today as the Tower of Babel! This immense structure was made of bricks. According to extra-Biblical accounts the Tower rose up in the sky many times higher than the Great Pyramids of Egypt. The Tower was intended to have an astrological observatory at the top, to be a center for the practice of astrology, and to be a Temple for the worship of false gods. In later times, ***a tower or obelisk or pole became the universal symbol of the worship of false gods.***¹⁴ The Bible says “***As men moved eastward they found a plain in Shinar and settled there...they said, come let us build ourselves a city with a tower that reaches to the heavens [i.e. of spiritual importance], so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the earth. But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower the men were building. The LORD said ‘If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand one another. From there the LORD scattered them over the face of the earth.’*** (Gen. 11:5-9) ***Again, the strategy of Satan to deceive and control men was thwarted by God.***

THE TOWER OF BABEL



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¹⁴ For example: the Asherah poles of the Canaanites.

¹⁵ Source of image: seven-wonders-world.com

In spite of the destruction of the Tower of Babel and the scattering of people throughout the world, pagan beliefs were the common religious practice everywhere. Very few faithful remained who called on the name of the LORD and worshiped the God of Heaven. Yet, this apparent disadvantage was overcome. As Jonathon famously declared **“Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few”** (2 Sam. 14:6). In the face of all obstacles, faith in God did not expire, but by the grace of God it continued.

The efforts of evil to thwart the plan of God did not succeed. In the fullness of time, the LORD overcame all the schemes and the power of the devil by bringing forth the promised Seed of the Woman, Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary through immaculate conception by the Holy Spirit. Evil was defeated at the cross of Calvary, where Jesus Christ bled and died as the fulfillment of the sacrifice acceptable to God that was foreshadowed by the animal sacrifices. By offering his life and his body to God once and for all time he made it possible for sin to be removed from those who put their trust in his blood. After his resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven, He took his own sinless blood into the Temple in Heaven and cleansed that too (Heb. 9:11-14). Jesus now sits at the right hand of God and has taken up his rightful place as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. At the appointed time, he will return to earth with his heavenly army and in a final battle completely defeat the kingdom of this world and the evil spiritual powers behind it. Heaven will be filled with all the resurrected saints who put their trust in Jesus. The saints will live in perfect holy bodies and will enjoy the pleasure of fellowship with God forever and forever.

Amen.