

THE ORIGIN OF SATAN AND SIN

Presented by

Justin Schumacher

Do you have any enemies? How many enemies do you have? What's the name of your **worst** enemy? Would it surprise you to know that **I** know the name of your worst enemy? Believe it or not, I do. And so does everyone else in this audience. He is the most horrible enemy you can imagine. He lies **to** you, and he lies **about** you. He will do anything he can to trick you or deceive you. He is hateful, and he can never be trusted to do anything good for you or to say anything nice about you. He is pure evil, and he wants to hurt you any way he can.

What is your enemy's name? It is...**SATAN!** You may know him by his other name—the **devil**. Did you ever wonder what the words “Satan” and “devil” mean? The word Satan comes from the Greek word *satanas*, which means “enemy.” The word “devil” comes from the Greek word *diabolos*, which means a traitor. His names alone should tell us how treacherous and evil Satan really is.

But did you ever wonder where Satan came from? The Bible gives us the answer. There is evidence within the Bible which indicates that at one point in the past Satan was one of God's angels. The apostle Peter said that “God spared not angels when they sinned, but cast them down to hell, and committed them to pits of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment” (2 Peter 2:4). Jude wrote, “And angels that kept not their own principality, but left their proper habitation, He kept in everlasting bonds under darkness unto the judgment of the great day” (Jude 6). Since the Bible also refers to Satan as “the prince of demons” (Matthew 12:24), and speaks of “the devil and **his angels**” (Matthew 25:41), the only possible conclusion is that the devil is the leader of a group of angels who rebelled against God, and therefore were expelled from heaven to eventually spend eternity in hell.

Did you ever wonder when all of this took place? We know from Scripture that God created the angels sometime before He created the Earth. Job 38:6-7 says that the angels sang and shouted for joy at the creation of the Earth. We therefore know that they must have been created by God before He made the Earth. This means that Satan stopped being a good angel, and became the devil sometime after God created the Earth, but before the events of Genesis 3 when Satan tempted Eve to sin.

Did you ever wonder how sin got started on the Earth? Once again, the Bible gives us the answer. God had told Adam and Eve that they were not to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Satan lied to Eve and told her that God did not really mean what He said. Eve believed the lie and ate the fruit. Eve then convinced her husband Adam to eat the fruit as well. When they disobeyed God, sin entered the world for the very first time.

But what is sin? One more time, the Bible gives us the answer. The apostle John wrote: “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and **sin is lawlessness**” (1 John 3:4). Thus, sin is defined as the act of breaking God’s law. The apostle Paul observed that “where there is no law, there is no transgression” (Romans 4:15). If there had been no law, then there would have been no sin. But God **had** given mankind a law. And mankind chose to break that law.

Since the sin of Adam and Eve, every human who has ever lived has sinned. The Old Testament talks about how sin has affected humans when it says: “There is no one who does not sin” (1 Kings 8:46). In the New Testament, the apostle Paul talked about how “all have sinned, and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

But how does all of this affect you and me today? As a result of man’s sin, God placed the curse of death on the human race. While all men and women must die **physically** as a result of Adam and Eve’s sin, each person dies **spiritually** for his or her own sins. Isaiah reminded God’s people: “Behold, God’s hand is not shortened that it cannot save; neither is His ear heavy that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He will not hear” (Isaiah 59:1-2).

Sin separates us from God. And if we remain separated from God, we will have to endure what Christ called the “judgment of hell” (Matthew 23:33). Fortunately, we do not have to remain separated from God because He sent His Son Jesus to die as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. The apostle John wrote, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Because Jesus died to take away our sins, we can become Christians and go to heaven to live with God forever. When we obey God, we defeat our horrible enemy Satan. He loses, and God wins. But more important, we win, too. Ask yourself today this question: Which would I rather be—a winner on God’s side, or a loser on Satan’s side? Only you can answer that question. What will your answer be?