

Anthropology and Hamartiology 6 The Origin and Definition of Sin a study for the Bible Institute of Gulf Coast Baptist Church Fall 2022 by Steve Thomas

Introduction

Americans tend to fall into three categories when it comes to sin, according to LifeWay Research's representative survey of 1,000 Americans that was conducted Sept. 27–Oct. 1, 2016. A third (34 percent) of Americans say they are sinners and are working on being less sinful, while a quarter (28 percent) say they are sinners and rely on Jesus to overcome their sin. One in 10 say sin doesn't exist (10 percent) or that they are not sinners (8 percent), while a larger 15 percent prefer not to say if they are sinners at all. Only 1 in 20 are fine with being sinners (5 percent).¹

Seeing so many different opinions concerning sin one might ask the question, what is sin? God is the one to whom sin is leveled against. And so it is He who defines sin. David understood this fact when he said:

“Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.”²

God has set a definition for sin in His word and it can be discerned. God has clear teaching on how sin should be handled by the believer. There are several words used in scripture to define unrighteous activity and those will be explored in the second half of this course.

Bible Words for Sin

The primary Hebrew word for sin is *chattah*. The same word is used to describe the behavior of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah and the lie told by Abram to Abimelech.³ This word can be used as an “offence” or even for the offering that is needed for a sin. In the New Testament the word for sin is *hamartia*. Sometimes this word is translated into the English Trespass, and the Greek word *papaptoma* which is the word for trespass is translated sin. The translators tend to believe that this word should be interchangeable despite the distinctions that are found between the two words.

Definition of Sin

Scofield gives a very broad definition for sin. ***“Sin is transgression, an overstepping of the law, the divine boundary between good and evil PS 51:1, Lk 15:29, iniquity, an act inherently wrong, whether expressly forbidden or not; an error, a departure from right Ps 51:98 Rom 3:23, missing the mark, a failure to meet the divine standard; trespass, the intrusion of self-will into the sphere of divine authority Eph 2:1, Lawlessness, or spiritual anarchy 1 Tim 1:9, unbelief, or an insult to the divine veracity Jn 16:9”***. In this broad definition distinctions can be seen between the word sin and other Bible words often substituted for sin. These distinctions will be explored later.

¹ <https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/survey-spotlights-american-views-on-sin/> accessed 10/17/22

² Psalm 51:5

³ Gen 18:20; Gen 20:9

In 1 John 3:4 the Bible defines sin as lawlessness, the acting without regard to the fact that God has placed restraints upon man. This Greek construction in this passage is to equate both of the nouns with each other. The article with both the subject and the predicate makes them coextensive and thus interchangeable. Later on in chapter 5 John does not use the article, further giving the reader information about unrighteousness and sin. “*All unrighteousness is sin...*” this beginning to verse 17 would seem to remove any doubt that there is a difference between sin and unrighteousness. However, the Greek construction gives the reader more information. The use of these Greek words **without the article** emphasizes that which has the character and quality of the other word. John is saying here that all unrighteousness has the quality or character of sin, but they are two distinct words that scripture has drawn a distinction between.

Sin can be defined as acting as if God has not placed any restrictions on one’s life.

The Origin of Sin

Some, quoting [Isaiah 45:7](#), seek to make God the author of sin: "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things" (KJV). However, the KJV’s word *evil*, from the original Hebrew *rah*, is better translated as “calamity.” The context of this passage concerns God’s sovereignty over natural disasters. God is sovereign over all things ([Exodus 4:11](#)), but He is not the author of sin ([1 John 1:5](#); cf. [James 1:13](#)). He hates sin ([Proverbs 8:13](#)). Moral evil originated with the creature, not the Creator.⁴

In a prophecy about how the remnant of Israel will taunt her oppressors, Lucifer’s fall from heaven (still to take place) is documented. Lucifer’s sin (having taken place before the fall of man) is clearly laid out. Lucifer’s pride and planned attack on the leadership of God will be part of Israel’s rejoicing. The one that caused so much trouble will be laid low and be an object of derision and scorn. But for now, Satan is a powerful adversary who is “ruling the nations in anger”.⁵

Ezekiel 28 gives revelation concerning Satan, through a judgement to be brought on the King of Tyre. There is definite language concerning Satan used here which leaves the believer with no doubt that it is the prince of this world being described. The “annointed cherub that covereth” and his place on the “holy mountain of God” are phrases that only apply to one being. Vs 15 makes the statement “*till iniquity was found in thee.*” The Hebrew word for iniquity is different than that of sin, meaning “perverseness” or “wickedness”. Darby explains that the King of Tyre was exhibiting some of the same qualities as that of Lucifer, and the “mind of the Spirit goes much farther.” The guilt levied on the King of Tyre versus the guilt levied on Lucifer is proportionate - Satan has oppressed more, and he is accountable for more.⁶ Satan’s fall was because of a choice that the cherub made to seek something other than what God had for him. Anytime one seeks for something other than what God provides, they sin.

⁴ <https://www.gotquestions.org/origin-of-sin.html> accessed 10/14/22

⁵ Isaiah 14:6

⁶ Darby, John. *Synopsis of the Bible*. Esword Ipad App. Accessed 10/14/22

This sin took place before Adam's sin. Satan was described by the author of Genesis as being in the serpent more subtil [cunning (usually in a bad sense);crafty] than any beast of the field. Satan committed the first sin.

Sin in the World

Paul deals with the sin problem in Romans chapter 5. He lays out a case by which he will prove that the work of Christ solve the problem of Adam's sin. The consequences of Christ's obedience extend as far as the consequences of Adam's disobedience. The point is made that there was neither sin nor death before Adam's choice; after that there were both. Adam's sin was therefore the cause of both. This is Paul's case and it is proven well. When God created the world, He called it "exceedingly good". Romans 5:12 through 19 gives the consequences to sin multiple times. Death, which is what God promised to Adam, is what came on man when sin was brought into the world. Sin separated man from God, both physically and spiritually. Mankind experienced separation from God in their bodies and spirits when Adam sinned.

These scriptures provide some support for the belief that the spirit beings were not part of Adam's creation, that there was a calamity that was suffered before the six days of creation recorded in Genesis 1 and 2. Lucifer, if part of the 6 days of creation, would have been the individual who brought sin into the world. But Paul records that it was Adam.

Conclusion

God is the one who is assaulted when an individual sins. God created the universe and it was pure. Sin changed this. God has set restrictions upon man and man does not like this. Man acts as if there is no authority over him and lives life as such. This activity is sin, acting outside of God's set boundaries or laws. Lucifer was the first individual to sin, seeking something other than what God had provided him in his function as the anointed cherub that covered the Glory of God. When God created the human race, they were innocent, but with a volition that was unbound, meaning they could choose options that they were presented with, even if those options were wrong and calmitous. Adam and Eve made such a choice, and Adam as the federal head of the human race, plunged mankind into sin. God gave consequences for those choices, and man is suffering today because of it. There are many examples of this kind of behavior, which will be explored in the words for sin lesson (A& H 8) and the sources of sin in the world lesson (A & H 9).

Anthropology Midterm exam part of the course Anthropology and Hamartiology for the
Gulf Coast Baptist Church Bible Institute by Steve Thomas Fall 2022

_____ Name

_____ Date

Fill in the Blanks use one of the suggested answers to make the statement complete and correct.

1. _____ broke man beyond his ability to repair himself. (Satan, Sin, Eve, Disco music)
2. The _____ theory originated in the 1920's and is held to by most scientists today as the best theory for the origin of the universe. (Alien, Intelligent Design, Big Bang, Gap)
3. The scriptures tell us that God formed the matter of the universe from the _____ . (words of His mouth, primordial ooze, spiritual lego blocks)
4. The words "without form and void" found in Genesis 1:2 are used elsewhere in scripture when there has been a _____. (creative event, destructive calamity, thoughtful pause)
5. Adam and Eve were created by _____ a word meaning "an authoritative decree, sanction or order." (dust, aliens, fiat)
6. The word used for Eve's creation is used over 345 times in the Old Testament many times for building things like _____. (stars, oceans, cities)
7. The word _____ used in connection with Adam's creation means "God's glory garment". God wears light like we wear clothing. (likeness, image, good, naked)
8. The word _____ used in connection with Adam's creation means "able to think objectively, outside of the realm of experience. (likeness, image, good, naked)
9. The new life that the believer has received in his spirit means he has a _____ of life in the realm of his spirit. (pure-quality, young-quality, God-quality, eternal-quality)
10. The _____ is unregenerate, awaiting its salvation. (Spirit, Soul, Alabama Crimson Tide)

11. During His temptation, Christ's body was weak, and his soul was sorrowful, even unto death.
Christ filtered information through His _____ in order to do always those things that pleased the Father. (divinity, intelligence, spirit, power)
12. The _____ is the battleground for the believer, and the Sin nature has the "home field advantage". (spirit, body, soul, earth)
13. When the believer acts in the proper way it can have a _____ effect on the soul. (refreshing, sanctifying, anchoring, all of these)
14. Satan's originating sin was that of _____ ; whose discontented rebellion occasioned his own fall. (covetousness, pride, deceit, making a pitchfork)
15. God _____ everything that man needed to live in the way that He wanted him to. (desired, eliminated, provided, hid)
16. Sin is basically _____ from life or God. (cessation, exaltation, separation)
17. _____ will be judged at the Judgement Seat of Christ to test the type of works that they have done. (Israelites, Unbelievers, Believers)
18. _____ will be judged at the Judgement of the Sheep and Goats to receive the consequences for how they treated God's people during the Tribulation. (Believers, Nations, Israelites)
19. _____ will be judged at the Great White Throne judgement where their deeds will be recited out of the record books before they are thrown into the Lake of Fire. (Believers, Nations, Unbelievers, Israelites).
20. Crowns will be rewarded to believers at the _____. (Judgement of the Sheep and Goats, Judgement Seat of Christ, Great White Throne Judgement)

Bonus - The Special resurrection of the Old Testament Saints will take place between what two prophetic events? (Rapture and the Tribulation, Bema Seat and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, Tribulation and the Millennial Reign of Christ, The Millennial Reign and the Great White Throne Judgement)