

DEMONOLOGY AND DELIVERANCE #6

“The Origin of Evil”

Part 2

I. Introduction

We are continuing our series on “Demonology and Deliverance” with a second message on “The Origin of Evil” because one of the ways you win a war is by knowing your enemy; to know his background and how he thinks.

A. Know Your Enemy

“He is the best commander in war who best understands his enemies.”

Chabrias, Athenian General, 4th Century B.C.

1. In his classic book, “The Art of War”, the great Chinese military strategist said...

“If you know neither your enemy nor yourself, you will lose every battle.”

Sun Tsu, “The Art of War” 544–496 BC

2. *The same principle applies to spiritual warfare.* The Apostle Paul teaches Christians to take the time to understand our enemy...

2 Corinthians 5:11

...Lest Satan should get an advantage of us, for we are not ignorant of his devices.

Matthew Henry

“Satan is a subtle enemy, and he uses many stratagems to deceive us; and we should not be ignorant of his devices.”

3. The Greek word translated as “devices” is very interesting...

“Devices”

(Gk. ‘noema’)

Purpose, disposition, or thought process (NLT “evil schemes”)

4. The devil’s devices are first revealed in his origin, how he came into being, as revealed in the Prophets Ezekiel and Isaiah.

a. Last week we learned that Satan was originally known as Lucifer, one of the 3 Archangels of God. But something went wrong. And the origin of evil is recorded here...

Ezekiel 28:15

You were perfect in all of your ways, until iniquity was found in you.

5. There are many words for “sin” in the Bible; but the “mother” of all sins is...

“iniquity”

- **In the OT, it means crookedness, perversity; moral distortion; it primarily refers not to an action but to the character of an action**
 - **In the NT, the literal meaning is “lawlessness”**

6. Iniquity begins as an *attitude* of the heart; its first manifestation is PRIDE;

Ezekiel 28:17 (NKJV)

"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor.

Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty. (NLT)

7. The 2nd manifestation of iniquity is REBELLION; the desire to be independent from authority.

Isaiah 14:12

How are you fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!

Then we learn the reason for the Fall....

Isaiah 14:13-15

For you have said in your heart:

- I will ascend into heaven,
- I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;
- I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;
- I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
- I will be like the Most High.'
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INIQUITY produces PRIDE which leads to REBELLION;
Which is exalting our will above God's will.

Donald Gray Barnhouse

“It is possible to say that the shortest definition of sin is simply, I WILL.”

8. It was this sin that transformed the Archangel Lucifer, (which means “shining one”), into Satan, (which means “adversary”); the result is recorded in...

Revelation 12:7-9

And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

9. The one we know as the Devil is now cast out of heaven and into the earth...

Revelation 12:12

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time."

Review

So we have seen how the origin of evil in heaven brought about the Fall of Satan.

Now we will see how the origin of evil on earth will bring about the Fall of Man.

II. The Origin of Evil on Earth

A. The Fall of Man

1. In Genesis 1, God creates man; in Genesis 2 God gives man *one commandment*:

Genesis 2:15-17

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

2. God placed man in the wonderful world He created and gave him an "all access pass" to it; except for one thing: the tree of "the knowledge of good and evil."

Derek Prince

"The only thing God denied man in all that He created was the pursuit of independent wisdom."

a. Independence is not always a good thing!

"independent"

Free from outside control; not depending on another's authority.

Synonyms: self-sufficient, self-supporting, self-sustaining

3. Satan suffered his fall seeking independence from God; and now he offers the same sin to the human race.

Gen 3:1-3

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

Genesis 3:4-5

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

4. Here we have all the manifestations of iniquity:

- Lawlessness-questioning the Word of God and denying the Word of God
- Pride-Seeking to be "Like God"
- Rebellion-the desire to be independent from God

Derek Prince

"The root error of Adam and Eve was to be like God without depending on God. This is the sin of independence."

5. The origin of evil in heaven was an angel trying to be God; the origin of evil on earth is man trying to be God. The same sin that brought about the fall of Lucifer now brings about the fall of man:

Genesis 3:6

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Genesis 3:7

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked...

6. This is a terrible truth: all the characteristics of Satan in the origin of evil in heaven now enters the human race through the sin of our first parents on earth.

Derek Prince

“Adam never had any children until he was a rebel. And every descendent of Adam, from that day to this, has been born with rebellion inside; and the essence of the rebellion is the desire to be independent of God. And this is the root of all our problems.”

a. Never underestimate the sin of rebellion!

1 Samuel 15:23

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

b. Bible commentator Albert Barnes says:

Albert Barnes

“The meaning is that ‘rebellion’ is as bad as the sin of divination, and stubbornness is as bad as worshipping false gods (iniquity), and teraphim (idolatry).”

Barnes

7. We can never defeat the demonic until we face up to the fundamental problem of iniquity; which is rebellion and the fleshly desire to be independent of God.

Derek Prince

“Many run away from responsibility, away from accountability and submission to authority. But they can never get away from their fundamental problem: the desire for independence, the desire to be in control of their lives. The problem is in us: the ‘flesh’, the carnal nature, the ‘old man’ all have the desire to be independent of God.”

8. Demons feed on the flesh; the carnal nature.

III. Close

A. The Explanation of Evil

1. If you have been listening, you can now know the answer to the fundamental question of life: “If God is good, why is there so much evil in the world?”

- Why did God not stop evil in the Garden of Eden?
- Why did He cast the Devil into the earth instead of just destroying him?

2. The great Donald Barnhouse gives the answer in his classic book, “The Invisible War”.

Donald Grey Barnhouse

“God, in His omnipotence, could have destroyed Lucifer. However, God chose rather to give the rebel a full opportunity of exploiting every avenue of his power and wisdom so that it might be demonstrated that nothing good could ever come to the Creation apart from that which originates in God Himself.”

3. God, in His sovereign wisdom, has chosen to allow the human race to experience the futility of living our lives independent of God.

Donald Grey Barnhouse

“God has determined to give this rebellion a fair trial...permit it to run its course. In it the spirit of independence shall be allowed to expand to the utmost. And the wreck and ruin which shall result shall be demonstrated to the universe that there is no life, no joy, no peace apart from a complete dependence upon the most High God, the Possessor of heaven and earth.”

4. This is why we say, “Deliverance is for the desperate”; this is why He allows all the miseries of this world so that men will repent and return to submission to His will alone!

Donald Grey Barnhouse

“The real purpose of history is that every thought and device conceivable to the mind of Satan and man must be explored and found wanting.”

5. All the miseries of mankind are manifested to show us that the only hope of the human race is a total submission to the Lordship of Christ in every area of our lives!

B. Life Lessons of Spiritual Warfare

1. Defeating the demonic depends upon knowing our enemy and not being ignorant of his devices.

2. **Know your enemy!** Demons can only operate where there is:

- **Iniquity**
- **Pride**
- **Rebellion**
- **The spirit of independence from God**

3. **Let's close by praying this together:**

**Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus to renounce Satan and all his works. I renounce iniquity in all its forms. I repent, and turn away from, all pride. I renounce all rebellion of my will against your will; or any desire to be dependent upon anyone or anything but You!
Deliver me from the evil one. In Jesus' name. Amen!**

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