

DEMONOLOGY AND DELIVERANCE #4

I. Introduction

The Desert Fox

During WWII, Nazi Germany controlled North Africa under the leadership of military genius Erwin Rommel, who was known as “The Desert Fox”. His seemingly undefeatable Panzer tank corps controlled North Africa from 1941-1943...until he was defeated by the great American General George S. Patton.

Patton

There’s a moment in the Oscar-winning movie “Patton”, where Patton’s Allied tank forces overcame Rommel’s Panzers; as Patton views the victory of his tanks over Rommel’s tanks, he shouts:

“Rommel, you magnificent bastard...I read your book!”

What he meant was that he had read Rommel’s book on tank warfare; he knew how the “Desert Fox” would fight; and he used that knowledge to defeat the one who seemed to be undefeatable!

And that is also how we can defeat the Devil and his demons.
If we know where he came from and how he thinks, we can easily overcome him!

So we’re going to take the time tonight and next week to take a look at how Satan came to be and answer one of the great questions of life...

Where does evil come from?

“The Origin of Evil”

A. Definitions

1. What is an “origin”?

Origin

The point or place where something begins.

a. It is always good to study “origins” because many times the only way to interpret the present is to understand the past; to go back to the beginning, or the origin of a thing.

b. This is especially true when it comes to the origin of evil.

2. So what is “evil”? Let me offer a biblical definition.

“Evil”

Anyone or anything that is in opposition to God or to God’s will.

3. So when we look for the “origin of evil” we are looking for...

The point and place where opposition to God and rebellion against God’s will came into being.

4. Some of you may be thinking the origin of evil was the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. But you’d be wrong. Evil already existed before Adam and Eve were created.

Genesis 2:15 Today’s English Version

Then the Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to dress (cultivate) it and keep (*guard*) it.

5. **The Hebrew word translated “keep” (shamar) literally means “to hedge about, guard, or protect.** Castles have been known as “keeps” because they are “guarded” facilities.

6. The clear implication here is that *evil existed before God created man!* The “enemy” was already lurking about and part of Adam’s responsibility was to “guard” the garden!

7. **The origin of evil did not take place on earth. It took place in Heaven!**

II. The Origin Of Evil

The origin of evil, the point where opposition to God first came into being, took place in Heaven, before the Creation of man. The details are found in 2 Old Testament prophets, Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28.

A. Ezekiel's Version (28:11-15)

Ezekiel 28:11-13

Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering...

1. This prophecy in Ezekiel is addressed to a historical person, the “king of Tyre”; but it is what Bible scholars refer to as a “double reference”, since the description cannot apply to any man of “flesh and blood”.

a. The principle of “double reference” refers to occasions where the speaker is addressing the person, but is actually speaking to the spirit or power behind or operating through that person.

Matthew 16:23

But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me, for you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

2. This is why many Bible scholars believe this prophecy, while addressed to the “king of Tyre”, was more accurately directed toward the “spirit” that controlling this earthly king, who is none other than Satan:.

a. Look at the passage again:

Ezekiel 28:11-13

Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, "Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering...

b. These attributes could not apply to any mere mortal man

3. The next verse confirms the prophecy refers to an angelic being, the one known as Lucifer:

Ezekiel 28:14

"You were the anointed cherub who covers (ESV: "an anointed guardian cherub"); I established you...

- a. A "cherub" is an archangel; the highest order of angel.
- b. He was 'anointed'; God had given him great authority.

You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

c. This angel had it all going; until something horrible happened in v.15; this is the "origin of evil"; the point in which evil entered the creation...

Ezekiel 28:15

You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till *iniquity* was found in you.

4. Iniquity is just one of over 20 words in the Bible that refer to sin: so why does Ezekiel use the term "iniquity"?

"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, it refers to the condition of one without law; "lawlessness"**
- International Standard Bible Encyclopedia**

5. My personal view is that iniquity is the "mother" of all sins; it is not so much an "act of sin" as it is an attitude that results in sinful acts.

a. Iniquity, or lawlessness, is at the root of all satanic activity.

Ezekiel 28:16 NIV

Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned.

b. The original Hebrew for the 1st phrase here is complex; but I agree with the scholars who believe it refers to how Satan conspired to bring about a violent rebellion against God among the angelic host; he actually attempted to lead an assault against the throne of God. This brought judgment from God:

So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones.

6. So Ezekiel teaches us that the origin of sin was iniquity (lawlessness) found within the heart of the archangel.

7. Now let's look at the story of the origin of evil in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

B. Isaiah's Version (Isaiah 14:12ff)

1. The 2nd version of the origin of evil is found in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

Isaiah 14:12

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!"

2. Unlike in Ezekiel, there is no double reference here; God is speaking directly to the Archangel Lucifer; Ezekiel taught us that the origin of evil was the iniquity of his heart. Isaiah gives us the specifics:

Isaiah 14:13-14

**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.'**

3. Ezekiel taught us that the origin of evil is iniquity, or lawlessness; Isaiah tells us that the essence of lawlessness is self-will exalted above God's will.

4. The origin of evil occurred when a "2nd will" entered the Creation.

Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse

"It is of extreme importance that we catch the transition which comes with the introduction of this second will. The quality of eternity is the fact that there is but one will—the will of God. The quality of time is that there is more than one will. There came into the universe a second will, rising from the heart of Lucifer. There was rebellion; but more important, in back of the rebellion there were 2 wills. That means conflict."

5. Let me pause here for those of you who think this message is complicated. It's this simple; the origin of evil entered the creation when a "2nd will" was set in opposition to the will of God!

Donald Grey Barnhouse

"How can a good God allow so much evil? The answer is that there are now more than two wills in the universe. When there was only one will in the universe, back in eternity past, there was peace and joy. When there shall be but one will again, all of the problems of the world will be settled."

a. This why the 1st petition in the Lord's Prayer is: "Thy kingdom come, THY WILL be done on earth as it is in heaven".

6. God has given us the "Book" on the Devil-how we overcome him.

III. Conclusion

A. Review: The Origin of Evil in the Rebellion of Lucifer

1. We can defeat our enemy when we've read the book on him.
2. All evil originated in him:

The Signposts of Satanic Strategy

- **Iniquity**
- **Pride**
- **Rebellion**
- **Self-will**

a. These are the “signposts” of Satan. Wherever we find these things, we will find demonic activity.

3. For these sins Satan was cast out of heaven; this is one of the most dramatic events recorded in scripture! Jesus referred to it in the Gospel of Luke: Jesus had send 70 disciples out to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom...

Luke 10:17

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

Notice Jesus' surprising response...

Luke 10:18

And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven".

4. It means that when His disciples cast demons out of people, it reminded Jesus of when God cast the Devil out of heaven!

- a. Every time a Christian casts out a demon, it's an echo of God casting Satan out of heaven!
- b. Then read the next verse...

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give you the (power/exousia) authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power (dunamis; ability, might, strength) of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

5. The same authority of God that expelled Satan out of heaven is given to us to expel demons out of people! This is what He meant when He said...

And these signs will accompany those that believe: In My name they will cast out (expel) demons...

Mark 16:17

6. We have authority over demonic power in the name of Jesus! Eventually, this proud being will be humbled forever.

Isaiah 14:15-17

Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, and consider you, saying: 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world as a wilderness and destroyed its cities, who did not open the house of his prisoners? '

When the devil tries to remind you of your past, remind him of his future!

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