

# **PASTOR RAY'S BIBLE SCHOOL 201**

## **THE BOOK OF BEGINNINGS**

(How To Apply The Prophetic View Of Scripture To The Book Of Genesis)

### **Session Three**

#### **“The Origin Of Evil”**

##### **I. A Question For The Ages: If God Is Good Why Is There Evil?**

###### **A. If God Is Good...**

1. Our 201 Course focuses on Genesis, the “Book of Beginnings”.
2. Every major doctrine or principle in scripture is found in Genesis in “seed form”.
3. We have seen Genesis 1:1 is probably the most important VERSE in the Bible because of its astounding authority, which presupposes:
  - God, a self-existent Being Who predates time
  - God, Who intentionally chooses to “create” (make from nothing), all things
  - Therefore, Genesis 1:1 presupposes the authority of scripture as revelation of God
4. The first CHAPTER in the Bible expands on the first VERSE in the Bible, providing the details of Creation:
  - a. 10 TIMES, we are told, “And God said...”, so we know everything was created by the Word of God, Who is Christ.
  - b. 7 TIMES we are told that God provided the “seed principle” for the perpetuation of all living things
  - c. And 7 TIMES we are told that everything God made was “good”.
5. This immediately begs the question, “What has gone wrong?”
  - a. Why is there so much evil in the world?
  - b. If God is good, why does He allow evil?

c. If He allows such evil, how can He be good? If He can't stop it, how can He be God? If He can stop it and chooses not to, how can He be God? (We could go on and on, but you get the picture).

## B. Two Mysteries: Backtracking Our Way To Some Answers

1. In Genesis 1:1, God “creates” the heaven and the earth; But in Genesis 1:2, we are told the earth was “without form” and “void”, from the Hebrew terms “tohu et bohu”, meaning a condition of disorder and chaos. What happened?

2. In Genesis 2:7, we read:

Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

NKJV

a. 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.

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

**Genesis 2:15      Today's English Version**

b. 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! So the second great question is, “Where did evil begin?”

## II. The Origins Of Evil

### A. What Is Evil?

1. Who defines “evil”? By what authority do we order our ethics? The scripture assumes that the Creator Himself sets the standard by which we judge good and evil, right and wrong.

2. Since the Bible presupposes the goodness and the holiness of God, EVIL WOULD BE DEFINED AS THAT WHICH IS IN OPPOSITION TO GOD AND HIS WILL.

3. The Bible confirms this statement. The “origin” of evil can be understood as the “entrance” of a second “will”, in rebellion against God and His rightful authority.

a. The Bible presupposes God is “good”, (Psalm 34:8,100:5,Jeremiah 33:11, and tells us that “everything” He made was “very good”, (Genesis 1:4,10,18,21,25,31), the natural question that arises is, “So where does evil come from?”

4. The answer is not immediately revealed.

a. The Bible is a story, but it is a story not always in sequence, or chronologically told.

5. The Bible begins with the story of Creation, but “evil” was already present when Adam was created. So the existence of evil is “pre-Adamic”.

## B. Reading Between The Lines-Connecting The Dots

1. God created man and charged him with ‘guarding’ the Garden, (Genesis 2:15), implying the existence of an “enemy”.

2. The explanation of the mystery of the presence of evil in God’s creation is not immediately revealed. The details are not revealed until later. In a “flashback”, the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel pinpoint the entrance of evil in the pre-Adamic “fall” of the Archangel Lucifer:

" 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! "

Isaiah 14:12

NKJV

3. \*The name “Lucifer”, in Hebrew, literally means “shining one”, and the Bible describes this magnificent angelic creature in glowing terms!\*

\*This prophecy in Ezekiel, addressed to the “king of Tyre”, is obviously written as a “double reference”, since the description cannot apply to any man of “flesh and blood”. Many Bible scholars believe the prophecy, while addressed to the “king of Tyre”, was more accurately directed toward the “spirit” that was controlling this earthly king, none other than Satan, the fallen angel known as Lucifer.

11 Again the word of the Lord came to me saying, 12 "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. 13 "You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, Was in you. On the day that you were created They were prepared. 14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire. 15 "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created, Until unrighteousness was found in you.

Ezek 28:11-15 NASB (Emphasis Added)

4. Now we can apply our “prophetic view” of scripture to “connect the dots” of the story:

a. Prior to the creation of man, God had created a magnificent angelic being, (an “anointed cherub”), named Lucifer. (Ezekiel 28)

b. This Angel was set in a high place in God’s Kingdom, and was “perfect” in the day of his creation until “iniquity” was found in him.

c. The ORIGIN OF EVIL is found here... Lucifer used his “anointing”, his “free will” so to speak, to “create” iniquity, (lawlessness); so we might say that the “root” of all evil is REBELLION AGAINST GOD!

d. This rebellion resulted in God’s judgment: He was “cast down” out of heaven into the earth.

By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground. I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Ezekiel 28:16-17 KJV

e. Jesus Christ referred to this event in the Gospel of Luke:

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through your name. "Yes," he (Jesus) told them, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning! "

Luke 10:17-18

f. Thus “Lucifer”, (“shining one”), *became* Satan, (the Adversary).

5. The term “Cherubim” is a plural noun in Hebrew and refers to very high angels called “Archangels”. There are 3 Archangels in scripture, (Michael, Gabriel and Lucifer). As Lucifer was cast down from His high placement in God’s Kingdom, he managed to persuade 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the angelic host to follow him in his rebellion! (Connect Luke 10:17-18 w/ Jude 6-7 w/ Revelation 12:3-4)

7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. 4 His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth\*

\*Many, if not most Bible scholars understand the term “stars” as prophetic language that refers to angels. It is obvious the text cannot be referring to literal, cosmic “stars”.

6. From this we learn that God not only allowed Satan to rebel against Him, but also allowed Satan to establish a “kingdom” of his own, referred to by Jesus when He was accused of casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub, which means “Lord of the flies” or “prince of devils”:

And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do

your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Matthew 12:25-28

KJV

a. Jesus depicts the deliverance ministry of “casting out devils” as nothing less than a clash of two “kingdoms”!

b. When we are saved, God actually “translates” us OUT of the kingdom of darkness and INTO the Kingdom of God!

For (God) has delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son...”

Colossians 1:13

NASB

Col 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

Col. 1:13 ESV

7. Pause and reflect on what we’ve learned using the prophetic view of scripture:

- We have “read between the lines” of *Genesis* 1-3 and discover that evil was present in Creation prior to the creation of man
- We have gone to the prophets *Isaiah* and *Ezekiel* to discover the origin of evil is revealed in the rebellion of Lucifer
- We have seen Jesus refer to these events in the Gospels, *Matthew* 12, *Mark* 3, *Luke* 10
- And we have found confirmation of all that’s gone before in the Book of *Revelation*! (Revelation 12:1-9)

**And the “seeds” of everything are found in Genesis, God’s “Book of Beginnings”!**

### III. Powerful Principles And Applications

#### A. The Roots Of Evil

1. The primary “seed” or root of all evil is *SELF-WILL* which is *rebellion*.

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! 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.'

Isaiah 14:12-14 NKJV (emphasis added)

a. These are called the 5 “I Wills” of Satan. The Principle of Frequent Mention applies here: God does not want us to miss the fact that the WILL is an expression of the HEART.

b. All “warfare” is spiritual, a conflict of two “wills”, God’s will versus our will, (or Satan’s will, who is the prototype of all rebellion.)

c. The fundamental expression of satanic influence is *rebellion against proper authority*.

d. In another class in this course,(but worth noting here), that the Fall of Man in Genesis 3 is a “mirror image” and copy of the Fall of Satan described in this class!

2. The seed of SELF-WILL is watered by *PRIDE*.

*"Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty."*

*Ezekiel 28:17a*

a. The Bible teaches everywhere that God hates pride. And no wonder! It was the food that fed the first rebellion!

These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: **A proud look...**

Excerpt of Proverbs 6:16-17 KJV

**“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”**

James 4:6

b. Lucifer forgot that it was GOD who made him beautiful.

c. To be prideful means we exalt ourselves in our own eyes, we get out of touch with reality.

3. Pride feeds *CORRUPTED WISDOM*.

**“ You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.”**

Ezekiel 28:17 NASB

a. Man was made a “living soul”, which means he was given intellect and the ability to reason, plan and rationalize. He had a MIND.

b. We are soulical beings, and we always act according to what we think.

c. Pride “corrupts” wisdom by exalting what we think about things ABOVE what God thinks about things.

d. This is the basic choice set before Adam in the “2 trees” specifically mentioned as being “in the midst of the garden”: The Tree Of Life/The Tree Of the KNOWLEDGE Of Good And Evil. (Genesis 2:15-17)

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

e. God, demanded that man defer to God in the dimension of “knowledge” or “wisdom”, specifically in ethics, (right and wrong, good and evil, etc.)

f. The various philosophies, scientific theories (like evolution), political systems, that contradict the Word (wisdom) of God are expressions of human pride, the “fruits” of the wrong “tree”.

4. Finally, we consider the ultimate evil: *MAN ATTEMPTING TO BE GOD!*

a. We can never fathom *the depths of human depravity* without a revelation of this sin, the greatest sin of all...Not only to displace the true God, but to be a “god” unto ourselves!

b. This one evil universally contaminates the human race, and finds its seeds in the original sin of Lucifer...

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! 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.'

Isaiah 14:12-14 NKJV (emphasis added)

c. Notice that the essence of Satan’s fall was not only an expression of self-will, pride and corrupted wisdom...It was the desire to BE GOD!

d. Once we can see that the world is a theater of war between two “kingdoms”, (governments); Once we understand that the issues is not God Versus Satan, but God Versus ALL who would take His place...the trouble, sin, evil and pain in the world makes sense.

### III. Conclusion:

#### A. The Great Temptation

1. We conclude this lesson with a conclusive proof that the origin of evil is as we described it...as we re-examine the ‘great temptation’ Satan presented to our first parents...

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be

opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Genesis 3:1-6 KJV

and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

Gen 3:5 NLT

God knows that the moment you eat from that tree, you'll see what's really going on. You'll be just like God, knowing everything, ranging all the way from good to evil."

Genesis 3:5 The MESSAGE Bible

God knows very well that the instant you eat it you will become like him, for your eyes will be opened-you will be able to distinguish good from evil!"

Genesis 3:5 The Living Bible

2. Do you see it???

*The temptation that proved irresistible to the man and the woman was the attempt to be God!!!*

3. The tragic history of the human race is explained in this one great sin.

4. The "bait" that continues to ensnare all of mankind is only understood in the origin of evil in Satan, mirrored in the Fall, and manifest in history.

a. The human condition continues to verify what the Word of God already tells us...the problem is SIN...the solution is a SAVIOR...Who reverses the curses and removes man *out* of his relationship in the rebellion of Satan and *in* to restored fellowship with the one true God!

5. This is the explanation for sin, sickness and death, with all its awful manifestations: rape, murder, war, and all other forms of human misery and suffering.

6. Only the first two chapters of the Bible and the final two chapters of the Bible describe a world uncontaminated by sin.

7. The promise of God is that sin will be dealt with. And the seeds of how God deals with it are found in Genesis!

*And now we know that pride and rebellion, as first modeled in Lucifer, are the heart-attitudes, the "birth mark" of all those who follow in his sinful footsteps.*