

THE ORIGIN AND END OF SIN

We cannot consider Christ and the gospel without also considering "sin." Christ came to this earth because of sin, and the "gospel" is the good news for the sinner of salvation from sin through a belief in and acceptance of Christ.

In our last lesson we briefly concluded with some verses from Revelation 20. There the Bible says that all sin will finally end in a lake of fire. But what about the beginning of sin? We have studied about Adam and Eve and their sinning in Genesis 3. Was that the beginning? Who was there, or what force was there, to tempt them at that tree? With God there in the garden, what could be strong enough to lead them away from Him?

To discover the real originator of sin, his power, his deceptiveness, leads us to see clearly why our relation to Christ is so vital. When we see the supernatural character of the one who originated sin, we will then realize more fully the battle we all face, and the wonderful victory we can have through Christ.

1. The Bible tells us that a being called "Satan" was the originator of sin. What can we learn about him and the beginning of "sin" in this passage of scripture--Revelation 12:7-9? (See also 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6.)

2. For a long time, many have asked a puzzling question: If a holy God created an angel who was later found to be defective, wouldn't God then be responsible for sin? The fact is that God created all angels good and perfect. Not one had a flaw. The fact that a good angel went bad is at best, inexplicable. We must leave it that way. But we do know that sin began, in heaven, when a perfect angel went wrong.

- (a) Study Ezekiel 28:11-17. This lamentation on the king of Tyrus (verse 12) is really a revelation of the power behind the king, or the power that worked through the king. What are some of the points in this passage that clearly describe a power far greater than any earthly king?

- (b) Study also Isaiah 14:12-14. It is a very similar passage, describing the power behind the king of Babylon (verse 4). It tells us of Lucifer, the shining one, who later became Satan, the accuser, the devil, the dragon, the serpent. Verse 14b helps us see a little of what happened. He fell, he spread his discontent among many of the angels, many good angels became evil angels, they were all cast out of heaven, Adam and Eve were led into sin, and he proclaimed himself "prince" of this world (John 12:31; 14:30).

3. Cast to this earth, Satan immediately set out to seek those whom he might devour (1 Peter 5:8). What do these sample passages teach us about his success during the years of the Old Testament?

- (a) Genesis 3:1-6 _____
- (b) Romans 5:12 _____

4. When Christ came to this earth to save sinners, the devil immediately attacked Him also. He sought to destroy Him when He was born (Matthew 2:1-16). His "great temptation" of Christ marked the beginning of Christ's ministry. How, in what three areas, did the devil tempt Christ in Matthew 4:1-11?

(a) _____ (b) _____ (c) _____

5. The truth is that the devil was on Christ's trail all through His earthly life. But Christ never sinned (Isaiah 53:9; 2 Corinthians 5:21). What effect did the death of Christ have on the future of the devil, in Hebrews 2:14?

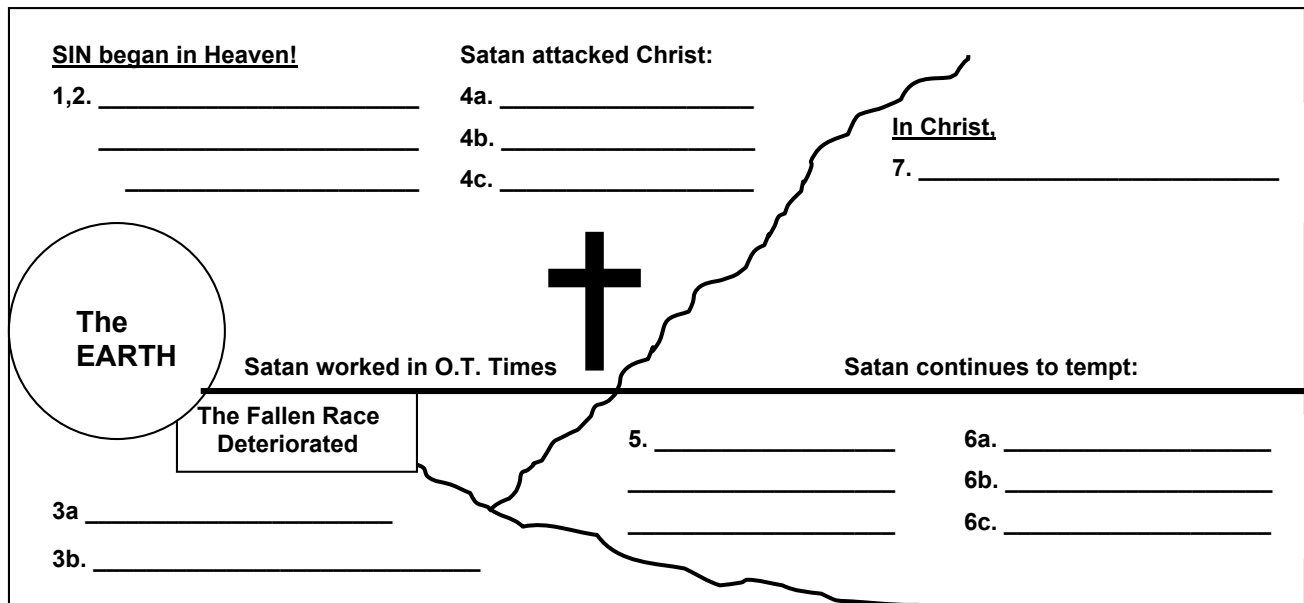
6. Satan will continue his attack on all mankind until Jesus comes the second time. He tempts you and me, as he has tempted every person since Adam and Eve. He will work in the same areas as he did with Christ. (See question 4.) What are some of the other ways he seeks to tempt and mislead us?)

(a) Zechariah 3:1 _____

(b) James 1:13,14 _____

(c) Matthew 24:23,24 _____

7. Satan tempts, misleads, deceives in many ways. That is his work. But God's work is to help us be **overcomers, victors, saints** for His kingdom. 1 Corinthians 10:13, James 4:7, 1 John 5:4 give us great assurance that we can overcome temptation as we depend on Christ.



WHO IS "MICHAEL?"

Meaning of the original words: In the Old Testament Hebrew, the name, Mika'el (Mik-ah-el) means, "Who is like God?" The New Testament Greek word, Michael, is derived from the Old Testament word.

Various Bible Occurrences of the Name:1. The archangel (Jude 9).

Michael as a heavenly being appears only in apocalyptic passages such as Dan. 10:13,21; Dan. 12:1; Jude 9; Rev. 12:7. ("Apocalyptic" refers to books regarded as prophetic, and using symbols, and looking to the final destruction of evil and the triumph of good.) In Dan. 10:13, Michael is described as one of the chief princes who had come to the help of an angel in his contest with the prince of the kingdom of Persia. In Dan. 10:21, he is described as "your prince," and in Dan. 12:1 as the "great prince" who is the protector and deliverer of Daniel's people. In Rev. 12:7, he is mentioned as having fought in heaven with the dragon, or Satan, and his angels, a fight that ended in victory for Michael and the expulsion of Satan and his angels from heaven.

Jude 9 tells of a contest between Michael and the devil for the body of Moses. Jewish literature describes Michael as the highest of the angels, the true representative of God and identifies him with the "angel of Yahweh," a term frequently mentioned in the Old Testament as a divine being. Many Bible scholars identify Michael with Christ. The context of Rev. 12:7, including verses 2,4,5,10, all of which depict Christ as the child of the woman, would lead to the conclusion that Michael in verse 7 would refer to Christ as well. In Jude 9, Michael is said to be the archangel.

In 1 Thess. 4:16, the voice of the archangel is associated with the resurrection of the saints at the coming of Christ. Christ declared that the dead would come forth from their graves when they hear the voice of the Son of Man (John 5:28).

The name, "Michael," is used only in instances where Christ is in direct conflict with Satan. Thus it seems to be used as the name of One who is like God, or Christ, where the "great controversy" between Christ and Satan is the subject. Since the rebellion in heaven, and continued on earth, is Satan's attempt to install himself on the throne of God, and "be like the Most High" (Isa. 14:14), the name Michael is a most fitting name for Him who has undertaken to vindicate the character of God and disprove Satan's claims.

2. Num. 13:13: Here Michael was the name of a man whose son Sethur was the spy representing the tribe of Ashur.

3 and 4. Two Gadites, one the descendant of the other. 1 Chron. 5: 11,13,14.

5. 1 Chron. 6:40; compare 39,43. A Gershonite Levite, and ancestor of Asaph.

6. 1 Chron. 7:3. Michael here is a "chief man" of the tribe of Issachar.

7. 1 Chron. 8:1,16. A descendant of Benjamin.

8. 1 Chron. 12:20. A warrior from the tribe of Manassah.

9. 1 Chron. 27:18. A man whose son Omri was David's chief officer over the territory of Issachar.
10. 2 Chron. 21:2. A son of King Jehoshaphat of Judah.
11. Ezra 8:8. A man of the family of Shephatiah.

IntroductionRefer to Revelaiton 20 and Gensis 31. Revelation 12:7-9

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. ⁹So 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.

2 Peter 2:4

⁴For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast *them* down to hell and delivered *them* into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

Jude 6

⁶And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

Answer: Satan (the Devil) used to be in heaven, but he challenged Michael and was eventually thrown out of heaven and someday will be judged.

2a. Ezekiel 28:11-17

¹¹ Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying,
¹²“ Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD:
 “You *were* 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 sardius, topaz, and diamond,
 Beryl, onyx, and jasper,
 Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.
 The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes
 Was prepared for you on the day you were created.
¹⁴ “You *were* the anointed cherub who covers;
 I established you;
 You were on the holy mountain of God;
 You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.
¹⁵ You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created,
 Till iniquity was found in you.
¹⁶ “By the abundance of your trading
 You became filled with violence within,
 And you sinned;
 Therefore I cast you as a profane thing
 Out of the mountain of God;
 And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,
 From the midst of the fiery stones.
¹⁷ “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty;
 You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor;
 I cast you to the ground,
 I laid you before kings,
 That they might gaze at you.

Answer: He was in Eden, he was one of the cherubs who covers, he was perfect, he was in God's holy mountain, but iniquity (sin) was found in him (arose in him, even though he was originally sinless), and he was cast out of heaven by God.

2b. Isaiah 14:12-14

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!
¹³ 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;
¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,
I will be like the Most High.'

John 12:31

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

John 14:30

³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.

Answer: Lucifer (Satan) desired to "be like the Most High (God Himself) and he now is "the ruler of this world".

3. 1 Peter 5:8

⁸Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

3a. Genesis 3:1-6

¹Now 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'?"
²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but 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.'"
⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For 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."
⁶So 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.

Answer: He deceived Eve to distrust God (sin), who then caused Adam to distrust God (sin).

3b. Romans 5:12

¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

Answer: Adam, by sinning, brought sin into the world, which has infected all humanity and causes death.

4. Matthew 2:1-16

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

³When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

⁶ *'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you shall come a Ruler
Who will shepherd My people Israel.'*"

⁷Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

⁹When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. ¹¹And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

¹²Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him."

¹⁴When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*"

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men.

Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

⁴But He answered and said, "*It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'*"

⁵Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written:

'He shall give His angels charge over you,'

and,

*'In their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'*

⁷Jesus said to him, "*It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God.'*"

⁸Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! For it is written, *‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’*”

¹¹Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.

Answer: (a) Appetite (b) Presumption (c) Love of the world

Trust (faith) in God’s Word is the underlying issue in all of these temptations – was Jesus willing to trust his life with God or would he take things into his own hands because he “had a better idea”?

5. Isaiah 53:9

⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked—
But with the rich at His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.

2 Corinthians 5:21

²¹For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Hebrews 2:14

¹⁴Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,

Answer: Jesus died to break the devils power of sin over us and thus break the power of death and to make it possible for us to become righteous.

6a. Zachariah 3:1

¹Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him.

Answer: Satan opposes anyone who turns and comes to God.

6b. James 1:13, 14

¹³Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

Answer: Because of sin in our lives, we are naturally tempted to sin.

6c. Matthew 24:23, 24

²³“Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here *is* the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe *it*. ²⁴For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

Answer: Satan will try to deceive people with false christs and false prophets.

7. 1 Corinthians 10:13

¹³No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear *it*.

James 4:7

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

1 John 5:4

⁴For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Lesson 13, THE ORIGIN AND END OF SIN

THE ORIGIN AND END OF SIN

Notes for the Instructor

Purpose of lesson 13: The last lesson emphasized the end of the millennium and the end of all sin. This lesson answers the question of the origin of sin more fully--where, when, how it all began. It clarifies the Bible fact that sin centers on a powerful "being," rather than its simply being a "force," as many claim. It also will serve to lay groundwork for a later discussion of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, between good and evil. It attempts to keep the subject simple, and to exalt God as loving and fair and just in all that He does with and for His created beings.

During the study itself: In questions 1 and 2, make it crystal clear that sin began before the creation of this earth. You will note that in question 2, the matter of setting and context are observed in the discussion of the two, well-known passages. Often we do not do this. You could read with profit the comments on these passages in 4 BC, pages 169-171, and pages 675-676.

Question 5 presents a point not usually included in this study. Make it clear as it further establishes the final destiny of Satan.

Appeal: Use question 7 to emphasize the truth that all can be victorious over temptation and in daily readiness to meet Christ.

Illustration: The horizontal line, with the proper placement of events, will give a visual picture of where the beginning and endings of sin are located. It will also serve to review and tie together several of the previous studies.

