

THE ORIGIN OF SATAN – ELM 77

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These notes, composed from 2013 on, are based on taped lectures given between 1977 and 1997 by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., formerly the Head of Theology for the Worldwide Church of God; he resigned in January 1974 because of his unresolved doctrinal issues with the administration. Sadly Dr. Martin died in January 2002, a great loss to the world and to those who seek Biblical truth.

God is a 'being', i.e. God has 'Life', existence inherent in Him. God is represented by the verb 'to be'. He is Eternal, and He 'was', 'is' and 'will be' Human beings are God's children, at present in physical form, and we are to become Spirit Beings at the resurrection. Human beings are created in the form, the likeness, and the image of God, we look like Him.

We are here on earth in human form to learn about 'being', that is about having a 'life', and having to learn how to manage the characteristics of God that He has incorporated in our 'beingness'.

The words that describe us in the English language are 'Human Being'. The word 'Hu-man' has its etymology in an ancient root 'Hu' which means god. So we are 'god-man', and like God we are in a state of 'Being', but as humans we are mortal, and will die.

God also created a spirit being called Satan. There is certainly a personality by the name of Satan. Satan is the Devil, the Adversary, the Destroyer, and God created him for His purposes.

God is love. Satan is the opposite. Satan opposes God in every way he can. Why does God allow this evil force to exist? To continue to exist? Why has God given Satan control of most of everything that goes on all over our planet earth?

For us to know and understand light we also have to know and understand darkness. To know and understand good, we also have to know and learn to work against evil.

Cleverly, Satan has persuaded most people in the world to think that he does not really exist. This way he can continue his activities without anyone realising what is actually happening.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Satan has become a useful scapegoat, or 'fall guy' for human beings to blame for their evil actions and behaviour. When we sin, it is most convenient to have someone to blame, and feel better about ourselves. We are here to learn how to deal with temptation, or being tested. It is not God who tests us, but we have inherent in our nature the desire to push against the Goodness of God, and break His laws, and sin. But the end of this human life is to be glorious for every human being as we will be raised incorruptible at the resurrection to be at God's Right Hand for evermore.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

So we should never think that God is tempting us, He is not.

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

We are the ones who have original sin in our lives. We sin when we are drawn away by our own lusts. We can make the excuse that 'Satan made me do it' as many religious people exclaim, but the reality is that God has given us the ability to resist the wiles of the Devil, the problems arise when we do not use this power.

James 4:4 From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3 Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. 4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. 5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? 6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

During the Millennium, Satan will be bound in chains, and his demons with him. They will all be removed from the earth and far from human beings, yet there will be sinning by human beings during the Millennium. Humans sin of their own accord.

Peace will abound all over the earth under the reign of Christ Jesus, but the wickedness of some humans will exist in sinful rebellion against the Prince of Peace. Why will his happen?

God and Christ Jesus want human beings to experience and realize who is responsible for sin, and that indeed it is humans that are personally responsible for their actions when breaking God's laws of Love, and that they have no real excuse.

God is in control of everything. Should we hate Satan, or just the things he does? We should not hate any person, but we should hate the sinful actions they commit.

God is Love, and God is in charge of all things, and God creates evil.

Remember, every Word of Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is the Truth.

Isaiah 45:5 I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else. 7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.

Deuteronomy 32:39 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

1 Samuel 2:6 The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up. 7 The Lord maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up.

God could put an instant stop on Satan's activities at any moment, but He does not. God is using Satan as an integral and important part of His Plan for His children to learn to deal with evil influences and to mature as beings by controlling their sinful nature with His help.

All sin is evil. But not all evil is sin. 'Evil', bad, calamitous things happen on earth, storms, floods, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, but they are not sin.

So many ask the question, 'why do the wicked seem to prosper and seem to be happy in their evil ways?'

Jeremiah 12:1 Righteous art thou, O Lord, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

God allows it all.

Amos 3:6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?

Satan is a tool of God to create evil. This is not a popular thought for those who have an unrealistic and un-Biblical view of God the Creator.

Isaiah 54:16 Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

There is teaching in some religions that Satan was a spirit being who was created righteous, but somehow turned bad. Satan was never the 'anointed cherub! There are some misunderstandings by religious people about Satan, or Lucifer, because they do not realize that the references in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 26 are referring to men, not to Satan at all.

These misinterpretations give rise to the notion that Satan was once a beautiful, good being, who fell from Grace. This is not supported by the teachings of Jesus Christ, and He should know because He created Satan. Yes, that is right! We need to get to know the **real** Christ Jesus! We will see that what Christ actually said to the Pharisees about Satan makes this is a nonsense.

Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Jesus Christ Created ALL things, visible and invisible, principalities and powers, including Satan.

Luke 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

When did this happen? When Christ overcame the Devil's temptations, and in that sense took away his power.

Matthew 4: 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

Christ said to the Pharisees:

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Make no mistake, Christ tells us plainly that Satan was created evil, a murderer and a liar from the beginning of his existence. This fact is repeated for emphasis in 1 John 3:8

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

So Christ when God, created Satan; Christ was also willing to sacrifice Himself; to relinquish being God; to become a man, and die for us in the process of destroying the works of the Devil; and caused him to 'fall' when he failed to tempt Christ after His forty day fast.

Satan was created to destroy, murder, lie as part of the Plan of God, who is Almighty, and who uses evil to forward His purpose and bring about good.

1 Kings 22:19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left. 20 And the Lord said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramothgilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. 21 And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. 22 And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so. 23 Now therefore,

behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of all these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil concerning thee.

The spirit says, "I will be a lying spirit" and God says, "go ahead and do it!"

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a **(the)** lie:

Ezekiel 14: 9 And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the Lord have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.

Be clear, God cannot sin, He is in charge of everything, and He can do as He pleases to achieve His purposes. Nothing, absolutely nothing can occur in the Universe without God allowing it to happen. God uses different agencies to achieve His ends.

Revelation 17: 12 And the ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast. 13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. 14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

When Satan came before God in the time of Job, God put distinct limits on what Satan could and could not do to Job, and Satan had to obey God to the letter. Job 1:6 God said you can hurt his things and his family but leave Job alone. So that is exactly what Satan did, but when this did not achieve what Satan wanted, he said to God, just let me have a go at Job's person, and you will see that he will curse you. God said, all right, go ahead, but you may not kill him. Again Satan had to abide by God's instructions to the letter.

God used Satan to teach Job and important lesson. God is totally in control of Satan and all his activities, and he can do nothing without God's permission.

Revelation 17:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born. 5 And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.

Satan's tail drew a third part of the stars (angels), and did cast them to the earth. These were not Satan's demons, these were angels, who are here on earth. This was a past event.

Revelation 17:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. 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.

This is a prophecy of an event which has yet to occur in the future. This time, it is Satan and his demons who are cast out. Interestingly, there is a coming war in heaven. All is not sweetness and light in God's heaven!! Nor has it always been. Certain of the created sons of God have not always behaved as God would want them to. Perhaps this is why God wants us to learn to recognize an evil attitude and strive against it.

We need to look at the Plan of God from His point of view, not the human point of view. This very important principle bears repeating:

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

We cannot even begin to think like God does, except in a very rudimentary manner. We need to appreciate that what seems to mankind an endless horrid period while Satan holds sway over the planet is actually a very brief moment, a blip on the screen of Eternity!

2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

So the six thousand years of human's history on this earth is like six short days to God, especially when we set such a very brief period against the eternity of Eternity! We are going to spend an Eternity with God and with Jesus Christ His Firstborn Son, ruling the vast extent of the Universes with them. This seemingly long period we are finding so hard now, we will realize is less than a gnat bite when set against the Great Big Scheme of Things God has Planned for us.

Opposition is an essential to strive against. Some years ago, scientists set up an experiment in America. They created a 'biosphere' in Arizona, a kind of enormous plastic dome, and they equipped it with all the things they could think of to provide a suitable environment for people to live in. Then a team of scientists moved in intending to live in the dome for several years without going outside.

Unfortunately, the scientists had not calculated carefully enough the amount of space that would be needed to grow sufficient food for the team, and so on the point of extreme hunger close to starving the experiment had to be brought to a close. It was only then that they realized that all the trees that had been planted within the dome were drooping and looking very sick indeed. They examined them, and found the reason – they had not allowed for any wind in the dome.

Because the trees had not had to stand up for themselves against breezes and winds, their boughs and branches had not developed the strength to be able to hold up even their own weight against gravity.

So it is with us. If we did not have to undergo this period of pushing against our own nature, and against the wiles of the Devil, we would not be able to develop the strength of character as humans we will need to be like God the Father and Jesus Christ as we serve them through Eternity.