

## Free Will and the First Sin

We are in a study to give Biblical understanding to the phrase out of

### **Ephesians 1:4-5 in love He predestined us.**

This journey has brought us to a study concerning the existence and origin of ‘free-will.’ We noted the creation of higher creatures known as angels and the creation of lower creatures known as mankind. We are in the midst of looking at what happened to the higher creatures when God gave them free will. This takes us to a study of the the highest of God’s creatures, the ‘Morning Star’ who will become Satan. A good study of this creature and his rebellion against God requires that we look at two important passages: Isaiah chapter 14 and Ezekiel chapter 28. We are in the midst of looking at the Ezekiel passage.

**Ezekiel 28:11 Again the word of the Lord came to me saying,**

**Ezekiel 28:12 “Son of man, take up a lamentation over the king of Tyre and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God, (1)“You had the seal of perfection, (2) Full of wisdom and (3) perfect in beauty.**

**Ezekiel 28:13 “You were (4) in Eden, the garden of God; (5) Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx and the jasper;**

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**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.**

**Ezekiel 28:14 “You were (6) the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you *there*. You were (7) on the holy mountain of God; You (8) walked in the midst of the stones of fire.**

**Ezekiel 28:15 “You (9) were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you. (found by the Justice and perfect Righteousness of God)**

**Ezekiel 28:16 “By the abundance of your trade You were internally filled with violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you as profane From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.**

**You were internally filled.** Temporal and spatial. It took some time for this to occur. Again, this is another of the great problems with those who believe that Genesis 1:2 and following is speaking of original creation.

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There is not enough time for Isaiah chapter 14 and Ezekiel chapter 28 to occur in a six-day creation. Now we resume where we left off last hour.

**And you sinned; Therefore you sinned.** This is the first sin, ever! And the most fundamental point you must always remember about sin, is that sin is not only an act or thought of wrongdoing but a state of alienation from God. It causes a breach of personal relationship and fellowship with God! God is perfect righteousness and any sin is a violation of His perfect righteousness and therefore causes a breaking of fellowship with God. So many people today are obsessed with thinking about His Love, they forget or set aside His perfect Righteousness. Never forget this is the result of every sin: broken fellowship with God.

And before we go further, we must be restored with God. We must have our broken fellowship with God restored. Ultimately and positionally, this was secured for us by the work of Jesus Christ, His work on the cross. But experientially we must be restored to fellowship with God. Some teach that you have to promise God you will not do it again. Some say you have to yield, whatever that means. And others that you have to confess, some, you have to repent. And all these you have to do while you are alienated from God, in your flesh nature. We can do nothing in our flesh nature that God will respond to, except simply non-meritorious faith. Faith in the one He sent for eternal salvation, His son, Jesus the Christ. Faith in the one He sent for experiential salvation, His Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

The first place sin occurs, is in our souls. Sin has its origin in our souls. This is true of the first sin ever committed--and this by the Morning Star:

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Look at

**Ezekiel 28:15...until unrighteousness was found in you**

**Ezekiel 28:16 ...you were internally filled with violence**

**Ezekiel 28:17 your heart was lifted up because of your beauty (This is true of sin found in humans)**

**Genesis 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually;**

**Isaiah 29:13 Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, **But** they remove their hearts far from Me, And their reverence for Me consists of tradition learned *by rote*,**

**Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?**

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There are several words describing sin in the Hebrew and each one gives us an added understanding of sin from God's perspective:

1. **transgressions.** The Hebrew word *pesa* refers to a combination of acts starting with:
  - (1) stop trusting God, which leads to
  - (2) rebellion against God and all His Righteous codes which leads to
  - (3) sins – This word *transgression* opens up an interesting and a very deep and long study of the words in the Old Testament (and the New Testament) to describe rebellion against God.
2. **iniquities *awon*.** “Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament” where this one word is covered in some 5 columns. But let's see if we can simplify some revelation from it. The basic meaning of this word is to bend, twist, distort – to make crooked, to pervert. It is from this word that we find, that on the cross, Jesus Christ paid the penalty of guilt of perversions such as homosexuality and lesbianism. He was crushed for such twisting, perversion of His design. The Hebrew idea of being crushed is exactly that—His soul was crushed in the payment for sins. Another beautiful and graceful observation with this word *iniquities* is that this word is often associated with forgiveness or redemption:

**Job 33:27 “He will sing to men and say, ‘I have sinned and/even perverted what is right, (our word) And it is not proper for me.**

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But there is hope

**Job 33:28 ‘He has redeemed my soul from going to the pit, And my life shall see the light.’**

And people, please remember this goes back to Job—the first book given to us... and Job understood sin, iniquities—perversion and he understood that the Redeemer provides forgiveness and redemption.

So, in these two words we learn about sin: first to stop trusting and rebelling, then to distort or pervert the Word of God on what is right and what is wrong before God.

**Robert Baker Girdlestone** (1836–1923) was an Anglican cleric who ministered at Hampstead. He studied at Charterhouse, London, and Christ Church, Oxford, and was first principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. A Hebrew scholar and head of the translation department of the British and foreign Bible Society, he is best known for his reference work *Synonyms of the Old Testament*. I want to read just a little from his chapter on these words (not read all) “The pictorial power of the Hebrew language is seldom exhibited more clearly than in connection with the various aspects of evil. Every word is a piece of philosophy; nay, it is a revelation. ...even when man knows the will of God, there is something in his nature (ISN) which prompts him to rebel against it.”

We have examined transgressions and iniquities. Another word is

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3. **sin.** This comes from the Hebrew domain of *chetah* this is our word--where the fundamental revelation of this word is to miss the mark or fail at the perfect righteousness of God.
4. **Evil.** The Hebrew word is *ra* or *ra-ah* and has a variety of translations, depending on the context. Sometimes it is translated 'evil.' But there are other words used to translate this Hebrew word. Its first appearance in the Bible is in contrast with *good tree of the knowledge of good and evil* where evil encompasses anything, everything that is opposite God's Righteousness. Good and Evil are placed in an absolute state: Good = Righteousness of God; Evil to any degree of Un-Righteousness. We must understand there are different categories of sins: Mental Attitude Sins (MAS); Sins of the Tongue and Overt sins. These involve immoral sins; ethical sins cultural sins, etc. but the common revelation of every sin is a violation of the perfect righteousness of God. This Hebrew word more often combines 3 thoughts:

1<sup>st</sup> The depraved or evil or anti-God state of existence

2<sup>nd</sup> Moral state of existence

3<sup>rd</sup> Evil actions that flow from first two.

**Ecclesiastes 9:3 This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that there is one fate for all men.**

Once you grasp this point of final judgment, you get down on your knees and thank God for sending His son.

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And then when you consider the five things said in the Word of God about our Flesh nature:

1. Continually being corrupted. Ephesians 4:22.
2. Most deceitful. Jeremiah 17:9.
3. Incurably sick. Jeremiah 17:9. Remember God does not turn us into better people. He starts all over with a new birth.
4. And then: Full of Evil. Ecclesiastes 9:3.
5. Insane. Ecclesiastes 9:3.

Think about this:

We offer God our love from our flesh nature.

We offer God our works from our flesh nature.

We offer God our repentance, our confession from this flesh nature.

And we expect God to save us, restore us, bless us because of something from this evil cesspool of our flesh nature. No, this is why He gave us the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and demands nothing but simply non-meritorious faith.

Now, the point here is that first, we are full of evil. So, we start off in an evil state of existence. Then, secondly, this Hebrew word includes the production or that which comes from evil. And then, thirdly, it often includes the consequences of the evil sin. This is seen in

**Nehemiah 2:17** Then I said to them, “**You see the bad situation (this is our word *ra* referring to the evil) we are in, that Jerusalem is desolate**



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**and its gates burned by fire. (consequences of evil) Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem so that we will no longer be a reproach.”**

Another interesting revelation of this word is found right here in Nehemiah 2. Look at

**Nehemiah 2:2 So the king said to me, “Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart.” Then I was very much afraid.**

Ok, which of these words is our Hebrew *ra*? Remember we are looking here at the consequences of this word. It is the word **sad**. One of the dire consequences of Evil is Stress, Anxiety and Depression (SAD). What is interesting here, is that often, those who are in evil and experiencing the consequences of being in evil, their soul is in turmoil, they do not even know why they are in turmoil.

**Why is your face sad even though you are not sick! There is nothing but sickness of heart. Then I was very much afraid.** What is going on? I am not doing anything wrong, am I?? This is true of many unbelievers and many believers who are in evil. But this is not evil, they protest, evil is doing some horrible things. No, evil is doing things opposed to the righteousness of God.

To see the diversity of this word look at

**Nehemiah 2:10 When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite official heard *about***

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***it, it was very displeasing* (this is our word...it grieves them exceedingly) **to them that someone had come to seek the welfare of the sons of Israel.****

So, here, not only in the same book but in the same chapter we have the same Hebrew word translated three different ways:

verse 2 Sad

verse 10 Displeasing

verse 17 Bad situation

All three include the consequences of practicing un-Righteousness.

For yet another way in which this rich word is used look at

**1 Samuel 10:19 “But you have today rejected your God, who delivers you from all your calamities (this is our word *ra* and refers to all the calamities that occur when we practice evil) and your distresses; yet you have said, ‘No, but set a king over us!’ Now therefore, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your clans.”**

Now if you really want to break the study of evil down. I think one of the most profound ways in seeing the blindness of man, the arrogance of man, and the foolishness of man, is the way that man, throughout the whole world, worships nature, worships the earth, worships people as

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worshipping Mary. And then they blame man for what they see as dangerous, going on in nature. Well, they are partly right but for the wrong reasons. The earth suffers alright from the doing of man but not in the market system, capitalism, but in the Moral evil of mankind. Note the great change on the earth.

First: the evil (un-Righteous rebellion) of the angels in the pre-historic world caused the earth to become *tohu vav bohu vav hosek* without form, empty and dark as it is described in Genesis 1:2. God did not create the world in this fashion.

**Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, (tohu) but formed it to be inhabited), “I am the LORD, and there is none else.**

Question: how did it become *tohu va bohu va hosek*? Divine judgment against the evil of the fallen angels in the pre-historic Angelic Conflict.

Second: Then what did God do? He fixed it all up: six days of Restoration of Genesis chapter 1.

Then what did man do? Evil—moral evil—spiritual evil described in Genesis 6:5.

What did God do? Judgment again. This time, by the universal flood, Genesis 8:21. So, yes, man is the cause of disturbances of nature and earth, but not for the reasons man declares in his foolishness today. Man

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in his arrogance refuses to see the consequences of evil, of sin, of perversion...they say: let's encourage perversion – moral perversion, a perversion of God's design even in the makeup of difference in man and woman and the difference it makes...and the earth is experiencing some consequences, but man refuses to see the relation of his evil and what is going on so he decides...*oh, it must be things those greedy capitalists are doing, so let's start passing laws*—it is not the passing of laws but the returning to moral order.

**Romans 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.**

**Romans 8:19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.**

**Romans 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope**

**Romans 8:21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**

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**Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans (sounds of extreme sufferings) and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, celestial malfunctions)**

**Romans 8:23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.**

**24 For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he *already* sees?**

**Romans 8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it.**

**2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.**

And:

**2 Peter 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. (This promise is recorded in Isaiah 65:17).**

Natural evil—to the earth, to nature, is a result or the consequence of moral or spiritual evil.

1. Transgressions
2. Iniquities
3. Sin
4. Evil

5. Wicked *rasa rasha*. Now, none of us like to think of ourselves as wicked. Sinners...ok, but not wicked. But what we learn from a study of this word is that this is the way God sees us every time we violate or go against His righteousness. The Hebrew word means wicked, guilty of unrighteousness; in the wrong. One Hebrew Lexicon says this word is an antonym to the Hebrew word meaning **righteous or in the right**.

The believer who practices Righteousness! By the way how do we practice Righteousness? By walking in the power and leading of the Holy Spirit; following the Holy Spirit by keeping in step with the Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5). But the believer who practices Righteousness is to disassociate himself from one who practices unrighteousness.

The point that sets this Hebrew word translated wicked from other words for sin is that this word emphasizes the activity of unrighteousness.

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Therefore, the believer is warned to stay away from a wicked person. For this reason, Isaiah describes the wicked.

**Isaiah 57:20 But the wicked are like the tossing sea, For it cannot be quiet, And its waters toss up refuse and mud.**

**Isaiah 57:21 “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the wicked.”**

Due to the damage of the Wicked, believers are warned to avoid them.

**2 Thessalonians 3:6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the teaching which you received from us.**

And

**Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.**

Is this any different from what wise, caring parents teach their own children?

Now for our word:

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**Ezekiel 3:19 “Yet if you have warned the wicked and he does not turn from his wickedness or from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered yourself.”**

There is an entire Psalm devoted to the wicked. In your own quiet time read Psalm 10:1-18.