



**SAVED TO SERVE**  
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**THE ORIGIN OF EVIL**

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will study the origin of evil and reasons why many people backslide and turn away from Jesus and His truth today.
2. With whom did sin originate? 1 John 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did God create Satan sinful? Ezekiel 28:15 \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Note:** Ezekiel 28:15 and the statement in John 8:44, that he “abode not in the truth,” show that Satan was once perfect. Peter speaks of “the angels that sinned” (2 Peter 2:4); and Jude refers to “the angels which kept not their first estate” (Jude 6); both of which show that these angels were once in a state of sinlessness and innocence.
5. What led to Satan's sin, rebellion, and downfall? Ezekiel 28:17; Isaiah 14:13, 14

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**“Pride in his own glory nourished the desire for supremacy.** The high honors conferred upon Lucifer were not appreciated as the gift of God and called forth no gratitude to the Creator. **He gloried in his brightness and exaltation, and aspired to be equal with God.** He was beloved and revered by the heavenly host. Angels delighted to execute his commands, and he was clothed with wisdom and glory above them all. Yet the Son of God was the acknowledged Sovereign of heaven, one in power and authority with the Father. In all the counsels of God, Christ was a participant, while Lucifer was not permitted thus to enter into the divine purposes. “Why,” questioned this mighty angel, “should Christ have the supremacy? Why is He thus honored above Lucifer?” {GC 495.1}

6. **Note:** By manifesting pride and desiring worship which belongs to God, Lucifer broke the first commandment because he put his sinful desires above God's will.
7. Was Lucifer's fall sudden or progressive? See quotation.

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**“Little by little Lucifer came to indulge the desire for self-exaltation...**Not content with his position, though honored above the heavenly host, he ventured to covet homage due alone to the Creator. Instead of seeking to make God supreme in the affections and allegiance of all created beings, it was his endeavor to secure their service and loyalty to himself. And coveting the glory with which the infinite Father had invested His Son, this prince of angels aspired to power that was the prerogative of Christ alone.” {PP 35.2}

8. Was Lucifer arbitrarily kicked out of heaven or was he given chances to repent? See quotation.

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“Now the perfect harmony of heaven was broken. Lucifer's disposition to serve himself instead of his Creator aroused a feeling of apprehension when observed by those who considered that the glory of God should be supreme. **In heavenly council the angels pleaded with Lucifer.** The Son of God presented before him the greatness, the goodness, and the justice of the Creator, and the sacred, unchanging nature of His law. God Himself had established the order of heaven; and in departing from it, Lucifer would dishonor his Maker and bring ruin upon himself. But the warning, given in infinite love and mercy, only aroused a spirit of resistance. Lucifer allowed his jealousy of Christ to prevail, and became the more determined.” {PP 35.3}

9. **Note:** There are many today who, like Lucifer, were once walking with God but have now backslidden or departed from the faith. Many are unable to trace from cause to effect. Let us now analyze the account of King Joash to see some reasons why people fall from light into darkness.

10. What does the Bible say about Joash in 2 Chronicles 24:2?

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11. What was one of the crowing acts of Joash? 2 Chronicles 24:4

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12. What proclamation did Joash make? 2 Chronicles 24:8, 9

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13. **Note:** While converted, Joash repaired the house of the Lord and funded workers who were building the house. He represents individuals today who build up the work of God (Isaiah 58:12) and even fund the work of evangelism (Malachi 3:10). However, like Lucifer, Joash did not remain perfect but fell into sin.

14. What did Joash receive from the princes after Jehoiada the priest died? 2 Chronicles 24:17

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15. What does obeisance mean? **Answer: The Hebrew number in the Strong's Concordance is 7812. It means to prostrate, bow, worship.**

16. **Note:** Like Lucifer, Joash manifested pride in his heart and received worship which led him to go against God. He broke the first commandment. So today, one reason why people fall into sin and backslide is because of flattery and praise.

**"All flattery should be put away, for it is Satan's work to flatter.** Poor, weak, fallen men generally think enough of themselves and need no help in this direction. **Flattering your ministers is out of place. It perverts the mind and does not lead to meekness and humility; yet men and women love to be praised, and it is too frequently the case that ministers love it. Their vanity is gratified by it, but it has proved a curse to many. Reproof is more to be prized than flattery.**" {2T 338.1}

17. What is another thing which separates us from God? **Answer: Any cherished sin which takes the place of God. This is a violation of the first commandment because you are putting your sinful desires above God's will.**

"It is a perilous thing to allow an unchristian trait to live in the heart. **One cherished sin will, little by little, debase the character, bringing all its nobler powers into subjection to the evil desire. The removal of one safeguard from the conscience, the indulgence of one evil habit, one neglect of the high claims of duty, breaks down the defenses of the soul and opens the way for Satan to come in and lead us astray.** The only safe course is to let our prayers go forth daily from a sincere heart, as did David, "Hold up my goings in Thy paths, that my footsteps slip not." Psalm 17:5. {PP 452.2}

18. What was the next thing Joash did after receiving obeisance from the princes? 2 Chronicles 24:18

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19. **Note:** Joash grew tired of God's truth-filled messages and His system and standards of worship. Likewise, there are many individuals who are leaving faithful SDA churches because they have grown tired of God's pointed, truth-filled messages along with Bible standards of worship.

20. Compare the words of 2 Chronicles 24:18 with Ezekiel 8:16. Write down your thoughts.

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21. What else did Joash do after rejecting true worship? 2 Chronicles 24:19-21

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22. How do people treat the writings of the Spirit of Prophecy today? Matthew 23:34, 37

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"I know your danger. **If you lose confidence in the testimonies you will drift away from Bible truth.** I have been fearful that many would take a questioning, doubting position, and in my distress for your souls I would warn you. How many will heed the warning? As you now hold the testimonies, should one be given crossing your track, correcting your errors, would you feel at perfect liberty to accept or reject any part or the whole? **That which you will be least inclined to receive is the very part most needed.**" {5T 98.2}

23. What was another reason why Joash fell into sin? 2 Chronicles 24:22

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24. What is another reason why we fall into sin and backslide? Judges 8:34; Psalm 78:42; 106:7

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**"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history."** {9T 10.3}

25. In contrast with the pride and self-exaltation exhibited by Satan and Joash, what spirit did Christ manifest? Philippians 2:6-8

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26. What has God done to call the erring back to Him? Romans 2:4; Jeremiah 31:3

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27. **Note:** Satan is the originator of sin. Therefore, if we can identify what he does to lead us into sin, we can avoid it and remain in Christ.

28. What two things does Satan lead us to neglect so that we will be overcome by his temptations? See quotation.

"Satan well knows that all whom he can lead **to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures**, will be overcome by his attacks." {GC 519.2}

29. Meditate on these quotations as we close:

**"Satan is well aware that the weakest soul who abides in Christ is more than a match for the hosts of darkness**, and that, should he reveal himself openly, he would be met and resisted. Therefore he seeks to draw away the soldiers of the cross from their strong fortification, while he lies in ambush with his forces, ready to destroy all who venture upon his ground. **Only in humble reliance upon God, and obedience to all His commandments, can we be secure.**" {GC 530.1}

**"No man is safe for a day or an hour without prayer.** Especially should we entreat the Lord for wisdom to understand His word. Here are revealed the wiles of the tempter and the means by which he may be successfully resisted. Satan is an expert in quoting Scripture, placing his own interpretation upon passages, by which he hopes to cause us to stumble. We should study the Bible with humility of heart, never losing sight of our dependence upon God." {GC 530.2}