



The Essential Nature Of The Beginning

A study of Genesis 1-11



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Session 6

The Beginning of Sin

A. Sin Began in Heaven

1. Satan's fall: symbolically described in **Isaiah 14:12-14** and **Ezekiel 28:12-18**. These passages refer specifically to the kings of Babylon and Tyre, but they also reference the spiritual power behind those kings: Satan. These passages tell us *why* Satan fell, but they do not specifically say *when* he fell. Isaiah notes the substance of Satan's sin:

a. *I will ascend into heaven...*

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...

I will sit upon the mount of the congregation...

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds...

I will be like the Most High...

b. Satan fell because of his pride. He wanted to be God rather than God's servant.

2. The book of Job tells us that, for a time at least, Satan still had access to heaven and to the throne of God. *"One day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them. The LORD said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?' Satan answered the LORD, 'From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it'" (Job 1:6-7)*. At this time, it seems Satan was free to move between heaven and earth, speaking to God directly and answering for his activities. We are not told at what point God discontinued Satan's access to heaven.

3. Satan was cast out of heaven

4. Sin entered Creation 'fully formed'

B. The Temptation of Man

1. The serpent – this creature was the conduit for sin, not the cause.

a. The serpent was more subtle. The Hebrew *aruwm* is translated as subtle. It means *prudent* or *wise*.

2. **The woman**: She did not receive the command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil directly from God but through Adam (**Genesis 2:15-17**).

3. **The Doubt** - *Has God indeed said*: Satan's first attack is leveled against the Word of God. Confusing Eve about what God said and bringing doubt about His Word is a major step in his plan of temptation.



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4. The Reply - And the woman said to the serpent, “*We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but 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.'*”

a. Discussion: *And the woman said to the serpent* - It is always a mistake to have a discussion with Satan.

b. We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: Eve's knowledge of what she should not do is partially correct.

c. God has said: Eve's ignorance of exactly what God said was Adam's responsibility. He did a poor job communicating to his wife the word God gave him.

d. Lest you die: This may seem like a small thing to hinge the destiny of the human race and all creation on. But the tree was nothing more than a restraint on Adam and Eve. It reminded them *they* were not God, that God had a legitimate claim on their obedience, and that they were responsible to Him.

4. Denial of God's Word

Then the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. For 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.’

a. Discussion

b. Distract and Forget

c. Your eyes will be opened: Satan's temptation was more powerful because there was *truth* in it. Their eyes *would* be opened. This was fulfilled (Genesis 3:7).

d. Desire: *You will be like God, knowing good and evil* - The final enticement is the most powerful, because it was how Satan himself fell, wanting to be equal with God. Eve tried to become a god herself by her rebellion against God.

5. Temptation is **not** sin – Jesus was tempted in all the ways we are tempted, yet He did not sin, (**Hebrews 4:15**).

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