

Why Did God Create Hell? - Part 1 Ezekiel 28:1-19

Introduction:

1. There was a time when Christians and non-Christians alike believed in a literal hell.
2. We live in a day and age, today, in which Satan has convinced people that hell is a fairy tale - a myth that religious fanatics have come up with to try to scare people.
3. It isn't "politically correct" to believe in a literal hell, today. As a result, not only do scores of non-Christians reject the idea of hell, scores of supposed believers also deny the reality of hell.
4. Most pastors in America have also decided to drop the subject. It may be contained in their church doctrinal statements, buried somewhere on their Web sites, or in filing cabinets somewhere, but it is never mentioned publicly from the platform of their churches.
5. Remember this: When you don't preach or teach on something, it is just as bad as not believing it. Our silence speaks volumes about what we **really** believe.
6. Jesus believed in hell. How do we know? Because He talked about it so much!
 - Example: Mark 9:43-49
 - Jesus used the terms "*everlasting fire*," "*everlasting punishment*," "*hell fire*," "*unquenchable fire*," "*furnace of fire*." I didn't think of these terms, Jesus did.
7. What does God's Word really teach about hell, and the subject of eternal judgment? Over the next few weeks, we will explore what God's Word says.
8. Tonight, we will consider this subject: why did God create hell? Why would God create such a terrible and gruesome place? In order to understand this, we will need to examine the origin of Lucifer, the origin of evil, and finally, the origin of hell.

The origin of Lucifer

1. In Ezekiel 28, God addressed the **prince** of Tyrus (vs. 1-5). This man got lifted up with pride because of his intelligence, wealth, power, and authority. He exalted himself as God (vs. 6). He set his heart as the heart of God.
2. In verses 7-8, God pronounces judgment on this man. But who was it that was behind him, and energized him in his rebellion against God? Where did this spirit come from?
3. Notice in verses 11-12, the text transitions to the **king** of Tyrus. This has to be one of the titles of Satan, if you read this text. Job 41:34 tells us that Satan is king over all the children of pride.
4. This text is one of the few in the Bible that give us insight into the origin of Lucifer, and details as to his appearance, position, and nature before his fall.
5. Lucifer was created as the anointed cherub of God. vs. 14

- Cherubs were the highest ranking creatures in the angelic realm. There were none higher, and there were only five of them created. Under them came the seraphim, the archangels, the seven spirits (angels) which stood before God's throne, and an innumerable host of angels with varying ranks of authority.
 - The cherubs spread their wings over God's throne, and were the protectors of God's holiness. Yes, God could do this Himself, but He always chooses to work through His creation.
 - Lucifer is called the “*anointed cherub.*” It appears that Satan was the highest ranking angelic being. He had complete access to God (vs. 14), and nobody approached God without first approaching Lucifer.
6. Lucifer was created with great beauty and splendor.
- The name “Lucifer” means “morning star.” It indicates brightness, beauty, and splendor.
 - In verse 13, he is covered with every precious stone. These jewels are only seen two other times - on the vest of the high priest of Israel, and in the New Jerusalem.
 - Lucifer was not created with horns, a long tail, and a pitchfork. He was created with great beauty. vs. 17
7. Lucifer was created to lead creation in the worship of God.
- He was created with tabrets and pipes (vs. 13). These are musical instruments. He was created with a built-in orchestra! Why? So that he could lead creation in the worship, praise, and adoration of Almighty God.
 - He was the head of protocol, the head of the honor guard, and the leader of the band. He was to be an instrument of praise to God and point the other angels to God.
8. Lucifer was a perfect creation from the hand of God and was given an exalted position by God. vs. 15a

The origin of evil

1. God did not create evil in the beginning. He did not create Lucifer as an evil one, and a deceiver. Notice in verse 15 that it declares that iniquity was found **in Lucifer.**
2. God did not create evil, because a good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit. God is good and righteous and holy, and will have nothing to do with evil, and would have never originated it or decreed it.
 - Any religious system that says that God decreed evil is a blasphemous system from the pit of hell. James 1:13-15 tells us very clearly where evil comes from, and it matches our text in Ezekiel perfectly. Evil originated in Lucifer.
3. God created the angelic host as free moral agents. That is, they had the power of choice, just as Adam was created with volition (the ability to choose).
4. Their choice was not between good and evil (because there was no evil). Their choice was between God's will and their own will. They could choose to follow God's commands, or follow their own desires.

5. If they parted from God's will, it would be the origin of evil in God's universe. That is exactly what happened.
6. Satan saw his own beauty and splendor, and saw that when he gave a command, the other angelic creatures immediately obeyed. Have you ever heard of power going to somebody's head? That is what happened.
7. Satan looked to the throne of God and decided he wanted **that** position, and all of the glory.
8. As he submitted to his **own** will, it produced iniquity in him, and the origin of evil in God's universe. Notice verse 16, "...*thou hast sinned...*" He sinned the moment he coveted God's power and glory. We read of Satan's five "I wills" in Isaiah 14:12-13.
9. Lucifer made a personal choice, and when he did, he sinned against God and evil came into being. He desired what was rightfully God's.
10. But what did he do at this point? Next week, we will continue this lesson and learn that because of what Satan did next, God - in response - created the place called hell.