

## Why Did God Create Hell? (Part 2) Ezekiel 28:1-19

### The origin of hell

1. We learned last week that Lucifer was created with magnificent beauty and wisdom. He was the anointed cherub - the chief prince of the heavenly host of angels.
2. Here was the problem: Lucifer got very impressed with himself. He thought, "There is nothing else in creation like me. I'm it! There is only one greater – God, Himself. I think I like His position. I think I should be the ultimate ruler of heaven and earth."
3. There is a word for this - PRIDE! Here we see the origin of evil. This is why Paul said that a spiritual leader in the church cannot be a novice. Why? Lest he have the same thing happen to him that happened to Lucifer. "...lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." 1 Timothy 3:6
4. Lucifer took his God-given wisdom and corrupted it, and he devised a plan of revolt against God. Isaiah 14:13-14 describes Lucifer's plan. It contains five "I wills."
  - ***"I will ascend into heaven."*** - I'm going to sit on the throne of heaven, not simply point others to it.
  - ***"I will exalt my throne above the stars of God."*** - When we study, we find that stars are angels (Revelation 1:20). So, Lucifer wanted some subjects to reign over. He wanted all the other angels - all those positions of rank and authority - to serve him.
  - ***"I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north."*** - There are definite geographic boundaries and locations in God's universe, and God is said to be located in the north. In that North place, there is a mountain (a planet if you will) called the Mount of the Congregation. This is a place where the angelic creatures congregate and gather to be reviewed and to give account of their activities. Satan said, "I will take over that throne of accountability. They will give account to me, and acknowledge me as their supreme one."
  - ***"I will ascend above the heights of the cloud."*** - God is described as being above the clouds, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. Satan wanted that exalted position for himself.
  - ***"I will be like the most High."*** - This sums up Satan's plan of revolt. God is called the "*most High God, possessor of heaven and earth.*" Satan coveted this and said, "I will be the one that possesses it all."
5. This was Lucifer's plan of revolt and rebellion. He took all his wisdom, power, and beauty, and devised this evil and treacherous scheme.
6. Of course, Lucifer could not accomplish this overthrow without help. So, Satan began to go out to the angelic host and market his plan of revolt. The words "*merchandise*" (Ezekiel 28:16), and "*traffick*" (Ezekiel 28:18) are the same Greek words, and they literally mean "to trade; to peddle." Satan was the first mass marketer.

7. Satan found a ready market among the angelic host (Ephesians 6:12). Satan is a master deceiver, and he convinced scores of angels that he would be the almighty one in the end, that he would overthrow God, and set himself up as God.
  - A massive revolt began to take place. The Bible seems to indicate that 1/3 of the angelic host believed Satan's lies, and one by one aligned themselves with him.
8. God responded to this revolt by pronouncing judgment on Satan, and by creating something so terrible and horrifying that the other angels would have nothing to do with Satan and his evil scheme. God created the judgment of hell.
  - The possibility of being consigned to hell forever stopped the rebellion dead in its tracks, and most of the angels followed God, knowing that He was a God of truth. The creation of hell stopped the angelic desertion.
9. Why did God create hell? God's original intention was for hell to be a place of punishment for Satan and the evil angels that followed Satan. Matthew 25:41
  - Hell is a place that clearly manifests a holy God's attitude about sin. It manifests God's righteous anger against sin and unrighteousness in a physical, visible way. Ezekiel 28:16-19; Isaiah 14:13-15
10. Hell was created most likely somewhere between Genesis 1:31 and Genesis 3:1.
  - In 1:31, after God's marvelous work of creation, God pronounced that everything in his creation, both earth and heavens, was "*very good*." God never calls anything "*very good*" again after this. At this point, God's creation (the earth and universe) was untainted by sin and evil. Had evil been present in God's creation, he could have never called it "*very good*."
  - Most likely, Satan got filled with jealousy and envy when man was given the governorship of God's new earth. Satan was determined to have control of it, and be the lord and ruler of it. He already had complete access and authority in the heavens (only God was higher).
11. Satan took his deceptive lies and carried them to earth, to the Garden of Eden. He was able to deceive Eve, but Adam knowingly rebelled against God's authority.
  - Through Adam, the judgment had now entered into humanity. Adam followed in the footsteps of Lucifer because he, too, became selfish.
  - Satan said to Adam, "You'll be like God, and you will know the difference between good and evil." Adam wanted the power and the glory of God. He wanted to be like God, and he followed after Satan's rebellion and brought mankind into the danger of hellfire judgment.
  - Mankind was created innocent (did not know evil), but was but one step away from being righteous (doing right) or unrighteous (disobeying God).
12. Why didn't God just immediately throw Satan and his angels into hell? Why did God allow Satan to tempt Adam and Eve?
  - Because, one of the themes of your Bible is the free will of God's creation to make choices and decisions. God is not in the robot business. God doesn't want robots serving and loving Him that have basically no choice in the matter. They are not forced and compelled to do it like slaves would be.

- God desires a people who believe His Word, and choose to love Him (Matthew 22:37-38). Adam was created in the image of God, and therefore was created with volition, with a mind to think and make choices (just as God does).
- There are consequences for the choices we make. Again, this is a recurring theme throughout the Bible.

**In Conclusion:**

1. God, in His incredible grace, has provided a way for us to be redeemed from our sins and to escape the judgment of hell.
2. This is why Christ had to enter humanity and go to the cross and die. It was necessary in order to purge and reconcile back the governments of heaven and earth that were corrupted by Lucifer, but also to redeem back man. Sin must be paid for.
3. There is a conflict going on right now that we can't even imagine, for the souls of men and women.
4. Satan wants to keep people in darkness and keep them under his control and authority. He still thinks he can overthrow God, but it's a lie, and if people believe Satan's lies rather than God's Word, they will ultimately end up in the same place as Satan and his angels.
5. But God lovingly extends an offer of grace and peace to every person on the earth on the basis of what Christ did on Calvary. Romans 10:12-13