

WHAT  
WENT  
WRONG?

# WHAT WENT WRONG?

## ACT TWO OF THE BIG STORY: THE FALL

*"Sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned." — Romans 5:12*

The beautiful act of creation seems to move quickly into a much more sinister and dark section as the reality of Act Two in the story of God unfolds. The beauty of creation is radically marred by the coming of the destructive reality the Bible calls sin. Genesis 3 tells the story of the beginning of sin in the world. Adam and Eve intentionally and purposefully decided to reject the word of God and eat of what was forbidden in the garden.

The freedom in the garden was huge, and there was only one prohibition. The main problem that their action exposed was not merely eating fruit, but rejecting the word of their Creator, who loved them. They wanted to be autonomous and live above God. The result was devastating. Humans were left to be autonomous, without the full care of their Creator. All of creation was plunged into the darkness of sin, and the horrific result was that death came into the living world. All would die.

## WHAT IS SIN?

Everyone knows that everything is not exactly the way it ought to be. We all know that the history of humans has been filled with wars, killings, rapes, stealing, and many other bad things. We have a problem. There is often some debate as to what is the cause of that problem. Some think people are basically good, and if we can just fix their environment and educate them well, we can solve the problems of the world.

That theory may sound enticing, but reality argues against it, as you see the best and brightest show some of the most evil actions. Look at the rulers of history, such as Hitler, Stalin, and others, and you can see the evil of those in clear form; they were well-educated and people of privilege. Look at the rich and famous, such as sports figures, music artists, and entertainers. It is difficult to see them as models for overcoming the problems of the world. In reality, they seem to be the worst examples of overcoming evil.

▶▶ Read Romans 1: 21 and briefly summarize what is the problem with the world.

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Mankind does not want God to be God, and we all rebel against Him, some in more obvious ways than others. In Romans 3:23, Paul says “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” No exceptions: we are all incriminated. I think everyone intuitively knows that things are wrong, and the biggest problem is in us. We need help. Sin, therefore, is our violation of the glory of God and our transgression of His will.

## **WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF THE FALL?**

I remember as a child, I would do things wrong and hope I would not ever get caught. My reasoning was that if I did not get caught, there would be no ramifications of my deeds. One of my kids was five years old when we moved from an apartment, and this child decided to write her/his (trying not to incriminate her/him) name in crayon on the wall. When confronted with it, there was absolute denial of the evil deed, despite the fact his/her siblings could not write that name. The effects of sin are very real and difficult.

Here are some of the results of sin in the world:

### **1) *Death comes to all.***

Death is both physical (our bodies will die) and spiritual (we are separated from God who is the source of life). No exceptions. See Romans 5:12.

### **2) *Judgment comes to all.***

Judgment will result in life to those who are saved and death to those who are not saved. See Hebrews 9:27 and Revelation 20:15.

### **3) *Life is hard in relationships and in vocations necessary for life.***

See Gen. 3 and the curses on Adam and Eve and all of us.

### **4) *All the universe struggles.***

We see natural disasters and troubles as a result of sin. See Romans 8:20-22.

### **5) *Adam's sin has affected all of humanity.***

Romans 5:12 says that "just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, so death spread to all men because all sinned." This tells us that we have inherited a sin nature. Adam did what we would have done; he represented us well, in a sinful way. We are born in sin and need the second Adam to bring a resolution.

More implications of the fall could be added, but these suffice to show that we are all in desperate need of help to solve the problem of sin. It is the biggest problem of all.

## **WHAT IS THE DEAL WITH TEMPTATION AND HOW WHY DO PEOPLE FALL INTO SIN?**

Don't we wish that we could get away from the problem of sin and evil? The promise of God is that the true Christians will eventually be relieved of the sin problem, but that is for the fourth act of God's story. For now, the struggle with sin continues. Paul addresses it in Romans 6, where he is very honest in the treatment of sin.

▶▶▶ Read Romans 6:1-14 and list at least 3 actions Paul tells us to do to deal with sin in our lives

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1 John 2:16 speaks of the "lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of possessions" as sources of evil temptation in life. Satan is obviously active to lure people away from God. Before salvation, there is no strength to overcome evil. But upon salvation, the Holy Spirit gives us strength to overcome evil as born again children of God. The temptation to sin is knocking at our doors all the time. The world is full of it, and it will be so until the world is restored and our bodies are resurrected. Therefore, be ready to deal with sin at every corner.



**IT DOES NOT SEEM LIKE I AM AS BAD  
AS MANY OTHERS. CAN THE BETTER PEOPLE  
GET RIGHT WITH GOD BY THEMSELVES?**

As we saw above, the Bible is real clear that all have sinned. The reality is that the best of us are “totally depraved.” Our inherited sin nature is the reason for our sin. That strange concept does not mean that we are all as bad as we could be. It means that we cannot save ourselves. I have heard it illustrated that if you offer \$20 million for someone to jump from one building to another, you may be able to get a group of 20 people to try. The first could miss by ten feet and the twentieth by one inch. Yet all fall and do not receive the prize. Whether by a long way or a short way, the fact is we are all sinners and fall short of God’s glory. Even if we think we are close, we really are not, since we all want our own way.

We are not sinners just because we sin (which we do); we are sinners by nature as inherited from Adam. We need help. Sin is our problem. It is the universal problem that transcends culture and time. It even extends to nature, which is why we witness starvation, tsunamis, babies dying, and more. Those natural problems are a result of the chaos caused by sin in the universe. We need to recognize sin for what it is and seek the solution outside of ourselves.

## **BRIEF QUIZ**

Answer the following questions to be sure you understand this section. Try to answer without looking back, but if you need to look, go for it.

**1)** Give a definition of sin.

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**2)** List two results that came from sin.

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**3)** What are sources of temptation in life?

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**4)** What does it mean that man is totally depraved?

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