

## VI. THE ORIGIN OF SIN AND THE FALL OF MANKIND

### A. The Origin of Sin

#### 1. The Origin of Sin In the Angelic World

a. Satan and the fallen angels appear to have originated sin in the angelic world

John 8:44 -- "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies."

I John 3:8 -- "the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning."

b. Basically, the sin of Satan and the fallen angels seems to have been pride -- the desire to be like God in power and authority

I Timothy 3:6 -- ". . .and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil."

Jude 6 -- "And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day."

II Peter 2:4 -- "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to pits of darkness, reserved for judgment;"

c. Since Satan was already a sinner before he tempted Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, we can say that Satan and the fallen angels originated sin in the universe.

#### 2. The Origin of Sin in the Human Race

Adam originated sin in the human race at his Fall. William G. T. Shedd speaks to this point with force and clarity.

This kind of rebellious, disobedient desire required to be originated by Adam himself, as something not previously existing in his submissive heart and obedient will. God had not implanted any such wrong desire as this. This proud and selfish lust for a false and forbidden knowledge had to be started by Adam himself, as something entirely new and aboriginal. It was not a primary God-created desire of the finite will, but a secondary self-originated one. It was not the product of the creative act, but of a voluntary self-determination . . . . The sinful self-determination of Adam's will was both the cause of the first sin and the first sin itself. Sin is self-caused, . . .

(*Dogmatic Theology* Vol.2, pp 155-157)