

# The Doctrine of Sin

## I. Introduction & Definition

### A. English Definition

1. an offense against religious or moral law.
2. transgression of the law of God.

### B. Hebrew Terms

1. חָטָא chata' #2398: *to miss, go wrong, sin*. Used 252x221vv. (Jdg. 20:16).
2. חַטָּאת chatta'th #2403: *sin, sin offering*. Used 414x269vv.

### C. Greek Terms

1. ἁμαρτάνω #264: *to miss the mark, do wrong, sin*. Used 45x37vv.
2. ἁμαρτία #266: *sin, failure*. Used 174x150vv.

## II. Development & Application

### A. Original Sin

#### 1. Angelic

- a. The first recorded expression of sin was that of Satan (Ezek. 28:16).
- b. The overt activity followed the mental attitude of negative volition (Isa. 14:13,14).

#### 2. Human

- a. The first expression of human sin was that of Eve (Gen. 3:6a).
- b. Eve's sin was immediately followed by Adam's original sin (Gen. 3:6b).
- c. The woman's sin was accomplished under the mitigating circumstance of deception, whereas the man's sin was accomplished under full awareness and accountability (1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 2:14).

#### 3. Cause

- a. Sin was a *consequential generation* of God's perfect plan.
  - 1) God designed angelic and human beings with the capacity for the independent expression of volition.
  - 2) As a consequence, the existence of sin became a part of God's perfect Divine Decree.
- b. Sin was ultimately caused by the creatures (angelic & human) who volitionally determined to defy the will of God.
- c. This is how God created all things (Jn. 1:3; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:16), and yet did not create sin & evil (Jms. 1:13; 1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 14:33).

### B. Nature and Effects of Sin

#### 1. The nature of sin is observed in the terms which describe it.

- a. Sin (Rom. 5:12ff.).
- b. Transgression (Rom. 5:15,16,17,18,20).
- c. Disobedience (Rom. 5:19).
- d. Offense (Rom. 5:14).
- e. Fall (1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 2:14; Isa. 14:12; Lk. 10:18).

#### 2. The effects of sin were seen immediately in Adam & Eve.

- a. Unrighteousness (Rev. 19:8; Ps. 104:1,2).
- b. Guilt (Gen. 3:8,10; Rev. 6:15-17).
- c. Lack of knowledge & understanding (Rom. 3:11; Ps. 14:2,3; Jer. 4:22).
- d. Cursed (Gen. 3:14,17; Rom. 8:19-23).
- e. Ejection (Gen. 3:22,24; Prov. 15:29; Isa. 59:2).

### C. Of the Corruption of the Human Nature

1. The unanimous testimony of God's Word is that the human race is corrupt (Job 5:7; 14:1; 15:14; Rom. 3:9,10; 11:32; Gen. 6:5; Psa. 51:5; Jer. 17:9; Matt. 15:19).
2. Since Adam & Eve were corrupted, their posterity would also be corrupted (Matt. 7:17,18; Lk. 6:33,34; Job 14:4).

3. The corrupt human nature is passed from the father to the child. The accountability of the man, as the responsible steward, results in the consequences of his sin being passed on to those within his responsibility (Ex. 20:5; Num. 14:18; Dt. 5:9).
4. Its names
  - a. Sin (Rom. 7:8,11,13; 1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 1:8,10).
  - b. Indwelling Sin (Rom. 7:17,20).
  - c. Old Man (Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9).
  - d. Body of Sin (Rom. 6:6).
  - e. The Flesh (Jn. 3:6; Gal. 5:17; Rom. 7:18,25).

#### D. Personal Sin

1. The Gestation of sin (Jms. 1:14,15; Heb. 4:15).
2. Mental Attitude Sins (Mt. 5:22,28; Mk. 7:20-23).
3. Sins of the Tongue (Ps. 34:13; Eph. 4:25,29,31; Jms. 3:5,6,8).
4. Overt Sins (Gal. 5:19-21).
5. Sins of Omission (Jms. 4:17).

#### E. The Punishment of Sin (Gen. 2:16,17; Rom. 6:23).

1. God promised Adam & Eve that eating the forbidden fruit would result in death (Gen. 2:16,17). כִּי בַיּוֹם אֲכָלְךָ מִמֶּנּוּ מוֹת תָּמוּת
  - a. This punishment was to be immediate—*on the day you eat of it*.
  - b. Dying, you shall die.
2. The wages of sin is (eternal/spiritual) death, but the gift of God is (eternal/spiritual) life (Rom. 6:23).

### III. The Answer to Sin

#### A. The eternal answer to sin is salvation.

1. God provided an animal substitute to cover Adam & Eve's nakedness (Gen. 3:21).
2. God provided for animal sacrifices to atone for sin in the Old Testament (Lev. 16:3ff.; Heb. 10:1-4).
3. God provided the Once For All sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for the sins of the whole world (Jn. 1:29; 1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 2:2; 3:5; Heb. 7:27; 9:11-14; 10:10; Ps. 103:10,12; Isa. 38:17; 43:25; Jer. 31:34; Mic. 7:19).

#### B. The temporal answer to sin is confession.

1. Although freed from the slavery to sin, believers continue to practice the activity of sin (1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 1:10; Rom. 7:19).
2. Such activity of sin separates us from fellowship with God (Isa. 59:2).
3. Confession of sin is necessary to restore a believer to fellowship with God (1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 1:9; Ps. 32:5; 38:18; Prov. 28:13).
4. Confession is to salvation what foot washing is to a bath (Jn. 13:5-10).