

Aim: Sin and Salvation and why God needed to teach the Israelites

The Bible says that God created the world perfect; we can't even imagine what the world would have been like if Adam and Eve had not chosen to sin. Roughly Two and a half thousand years later, the world had almost totally forgotten what God was like. Abraham, of course, had loved and obeyed God, although even he was not perfect. Now God had chosen Abrahams descendants, his great-great-grandchildren and their children and grandchildren and so on, to become His special people. But they really had no idea what God was like or how to live God's way, so He had to teach them; and that is what we will be learning about this term. God had to teach them about sin, and how bad it was, and about God and His plan of Salvation – His plan to save them.

So, today we are going to see what you know about sin and where it came from.

What is sin?

- Sin is anything that goes against God's way; it separates us from God. Isaiah 59:2, Romans 3:23
- Sin is breaking God's Commandments. 1 John 3:4
- We will die because of sin. Romans 6:23, (Exodus 33:20 – Seeing God would kill us)
- Jesus said that even thinking about breaking one of God's Commandments is sin. Matthew 5:21, 22^{NIV}

Where did sin start?

Sin started in Heaven. The angel Lucifer started feeling proud of him self and he coveted Jesus position as God's Son. Ezekiel 28:13-17; Isaiah 14:12-14

Why does Satan hate God so much?

Satan's feeling of pride, and his desire to be like Jesus grew, and turned into anger and hate for God. Sin is a bit like a rotten spot in a piece of fruit; the bad spot will quickly grow and then the whole fruit will be bad, and if that fruit is touching other pieces of fruit, it may also contaminate them and make them bad.

Why does Satan want to hurt people so much?

Satan has become the opposite of God – God is loving and caring (1 John 4:7, 8); so Satan is hateful and hurtful. Satan also knows that when God sees a person who is hurting it makes God sad; so this is one way that Satan can hurt God. (Optional: Review the parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25:31-46)

Who is stronger? God or Satan?

If God is stronger than Satan, why didn't He destroy Satan in Heaven?

God allowed Satan to come to this earth, so that the entire universe could see that Satan's way leads to death and unhappiness. Of course, if Adam and Eve had chosen not to sin, then this world would not have become sinful, and Satan would have had no power here.

(Hebrews 12:1 talks about a cloud of witnesses watching us, Ellen White also talked about other worlds many times and wrote. "Why was it that Satan's existence was not cut short at the outset of his rebellion? It was that the universe might be convinced of God's justice in His dealing with evil." White, Education, Pacific Press Publishing Assoc., p.308

Why did God allow Adam and Eve to sin?

Because God wanted them to obey and worship Him because they loved Him.

Have you noticed how good you feel when someone loves you or when you love someone? Like when your parents give you a hug, or do something special for you?

Times like that give us just a little bit of an idea of how God feels towards us, and how we are supposed to feel towards God.

Have you ever had a pet that loved you? Would you rather have a pet that loved you or one that was scared of you?

God wanted people to love Him, not to obey Him because they were scared of Him or had no choice.

This term as you learn about God's Commandments and the Sanctuary, hopefully you'll see just how bad Satan's way is, and how wonderful God is, and I pray that you all chose to go God's way.