

The Root Of All Evil

By Pastor Norm Franz

The essence of original sin is hotly contested throughout religious circles today, and greater theologians than I have generated a host of convincing studies to prove their theses. However, if we hold to the biblical truth that *“the love of money is the root of all evil”* (1 Tim. 6:10), then the first and original sin ever committed in God’s Kingdom had to have been associated in some way to the lustful quest for riches.

The love of money is simply the lust for material possessions, which money is used to obtain. It lives and breeds in the business arena and has been the root source of evil from the first time unrighteousness was found among the heavenly host.

This takes us back to when and why sin was first found in Lucifer. The prophet Isaiah describes Lucifer as being so filled with pride that he attempted to raise himself above the stars of heaven and become like (equal with) God (Is. 14:12-14). This produced his violent attempt to overthrow God’s throne, which cost him his position as the covering cherub (guardian angel) of the garden and resulted in his fall.

This act of lustful pride is what established the biblical principle that *“...pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall”* (Pr. 16:18) and has become what some consider to be Satan’s original sin.

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Military and Financial Supercycles Converging

In the July/August 2017 edition of *The Elijah Report (TER)*, we put forth a *Special War Alert* surmising that there are three major war cycles scheduled to converge into a period of unprecedented global conflict between now and 2024. This is important to understand in light of the end time wars Yeshua and the prophets spoke about in Bible prophecy.

MILITARY SUPERCYCLES

That report outlined how 12 different conflicts, spread throughout

six theaters of war, were currently manifesting throughout the nations. It also identified three major biblical wars scheduled for the last days just ahead of Messiah’s return:

1. The Arab conspiracy to destroy Israel in the 1948, ‘67, and ‘73 Arab wars against Israel ([Ps. 83](#)). Today, the stage is being set for another round of conflict over who the Land of Israel and the city of Jerusalem belong to.
2. The ongoing war in Iraq that began in 1991 and fired back up again in 2003 continues today as the war against ISIS, and will culminate in a

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However, I submit to you that if “*the love of money is the root of all evil,*” then there had to be an earlier root sin in Satan, more vile than his pride, that manifested as an unrighteous desire to accumulate riches.

Lucifer’s Original Sin

The Prophet Ezekiel tells us how Lucifer’s abundance of trade caused iniquity to be found in him, which led him to commit the first sin:

“You [Lucifer] were in Eden, the garden of God... You were the anointed cherub [archangel] who covers, and I [God] placed you there.... You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade [merchandising], you were internally filled with violence and you sinned...” (Ez. 28:14-16)

There are a lot of things happening in this passage of Scripture. First, it would appear that before his attempted coup against the LORD (YAHWEH), Lucifer was involved in an abundance of business and trade that was being transacted in the Kingdom of Heaven. It would also appear that *original sin* was birthed in Lucifer while he was in the midst of those business activities.

This abundant volume of trade filled Lucifer with so much violence that he actually launched a frontal assault against the LORD to get more. Can you imagine anyone trying anything so foolish? This appears to be the first example of how the lust for money and material possession drives people into believing they don’t have to follow God’s word. It also reveals the spiritual origin of violent men and why they “*devise evil things in their hearts [and] continually stir up wars*” ([Ps. 140:1-2](#)).

Vanity and Pride Enter Lucifer

Ezekiel goes on to point out how Lucifer’s lust for financial abundance, combined with his physical beauty, produced a vanity that corrupted his God-given wisdom:

“Your heart was lifted up [*in pride*] because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor...” (vs. 17)

Lucifer’s financial prowess caused him to spotlight his own beauty instead of the beauty of the Lord. This produced a vanity in him that “*corrupted his wisdom*” and seduced him into believing he was even more beautiful than God. The maxim that refers to the wicked rich as “the beautiful people” was birthed out of Lucifer’s material lust and passed on throughout the generations of man down to this very day.

This satanic combination of disobedience to God, love for riches, and pride has buffeted mankind every since it was imparted to Adam and Eve in the Garden. Moses warns us that an abundance of money and wealth can cause pride to rise up in people to the point where they forget about keeping God’s commandments and start trusting in their wealth:

“Beware lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinance and His statutes which I am commanding you today; least, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and built good houses and lived in them and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold

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“By the abundance of your trade, you were internally filled with violence and you sinned...”

— Ez. 28:16

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multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart becomes proud, and you forget the Lord your God who brought [saved] you out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. (Deut. 8:10-14, emphasis added)

In the Gospel, Yeshua echoes the Law/Torah of Moses, when He tells us how the lust for riches can play a major role in deceiving a person into turning away from God even after they receive the word:

“And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.” (Mark 4:19)

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul connects love for riches followed by pride when says, “Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth...” and how that in the last days “people will be self-centered and lovers of money, proud, haughty...” (1 Tim. 6:17; 2 Tim. 3:1-3).

Lucifer’s love and accumulation of material possessions caused vanity and pride to rise up in him. That toxic combination of sin deceived him into believing he was “like [equal with] God.” This delusion seduced him into using unrighteous trade in his business model that ran contrary to God’s laws.

Unrighteous Trade

Once Lucifer came to believe that he was YAHWEH’s equal, he lost his submission to God and began to make up his own rules. It was here that Ezekiel says he began to operate according to his own unrighteous standards when conducting his business in heavens marketplace:

“By the multitude of your iniquity, in the unrighteousness of your trade, you profaned your sanctuaries.” (Ez. 28:18)

Lucifer’s abundant trade produced the root sin of lust to obtain wealth faster than righteous trading would allow. So he began to implement unrighteous (dishonest) business practices that he used to cheat his trading partners. This ended his ministry as the “covering Cherub,” and God expelled him from heaven’s business affairs. In doing so, the Most High clearly established that dishonest trade was a sin and would not be tolerated on His Holy Mountain.

At this point, Lucifer transformed into Satan and became his own god. He also became “the god of this [fallen] world” (2 Cor. 4:4; Matt. 4:8-9), who followed his own spirit which is “the spirit of the world” (1 Cor. 2:12), and began building “the kingdom of this world” which Yeshua destroys at His coming (Rev. 11:15; 18:1-24).

Man’s First Wealth Producing Enterprise

Since *wealth is created when man applies labor to natural resources*, Adam’s work in the garden was actually man’s first wealth producing enterprise on the earth. In that sense, the garden became man’s first marketplace, which God created to operate according to the righteous standards of His kingdom. And those standards reflected His image and character.

God’s character, in this pure and undefiled marketplace, was one of servanthood. It was a place where true service to one another was the only motivation for being in business. This produced a continuous flow of wealth, because it required wealth to serve in the marketplace.

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“Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth...”

— 1 Tim.6:17

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As Adam worked the garden, God gave him *“the power to create wealth that He might confirm His covenant”* ([Deut. 8:18](#)). The work of Adam’s hands prospered to the Lord’s delight, because *“God delights in the prosperity of His servants”* ([Ps. 35:27](#)). It was heaven on earth, especially as it related to business and marketplace ministry.

God’s Marketplace On Earth Before The Fall

To some, the thought that there were business activities in God’s kingdom before the fall of man is unsettling. However, it’s important for us to understand that God’s very nature is about creating wealth through enterprise. The best example of this is the creation itself, where God built His greatest enterprise ever. Within that labor, God made man in His own image and likeness. It was here that God imparted to man His own work ethic of honesty, integrity and righteousness.

In that light, *“God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and to take care of it”* (Gen. 2:15). The Hebrew word for *“work”* is ‘abad’ which means; *“to work (in any sense); by implication, to serve, to till, etc.”* The Hebrew word for *“take care of it”* is ‘shamar’ which means; *“to hedge about, i.e. guard; generally, to protect, attend to, etc.”*

He even put [gold in the land of Havilah](#) and called it ‘good gold, which I believe was to be used as the medium of exchange (money) in the Garden economy. In other words, God commanded Adam to conduct righteous business/trade in the Garden before the fall, just as it was conducted in heaven ([Matt. 6:10](#)). That work included the use of precious metals as currency and protection from anything harmful invading it, which is where he failed.

It is also important to note that YAHWEH gave Adam the heavenly pattern of working six days with one day of rest that the world generally follows today in one way or another.

“God took man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and to take care of it.”

— Gen. 2:15

Man’s Original Sin

Tragically, Adam and Eve allowed themselves to be seduced by the god of this world. It was clear that Satan’s plan was to tempt Adam and Eve with the same sin that had so easily beset him. After all, if it worked on him, it was sure to work on them:

“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and the tree desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.” (Gen. 3:6)

Here we see the same three lusts that seduced Lucifer also seduced Adam and Eve:

1. **The Lust of the Flesh:** They saw that the abundant fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was good for food; i.e., it produced a lust in their flesh for more than God’s provision which was the entire garden except that one tree.
2. **The Lust of the Eyes:** It was pleasant to their eyes, which produced a lust in their eyes that only having more of its fruit would satisfy. This is known in the God’s kingdom as having an “evil eye” ([Pr. 28:22](#)).
3. **The Pride of Life:** This lust caused them to become wise in their own eyes, which produced a pride that led them to believe they could become like (equal with) God.

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When this happened, there was an infusion of the root of all evil that replaced man's love for God with a love for the things of the world. This produced a painful change in man's very nature, where he went from being an uncorrupted and imperishable man filled with God's glory to a corrupt and perishable sinner who lost the glory of God. He went from being filled with God's Holy Spirit, to being filled with "spirit of the world."

This began the war between the kingdom of heaven led by God, and the kingdom of this world led by Satan. One conducts its business affairs according to God's nature of righteousness, while the other conducts its business affairs according to Satan's nature of unrighteousness. It's the age-old war between good and evil, and the largest battlefield is money and trade. And just like in the garden, man is right in the middle of it trying to decide which tree to eat from.

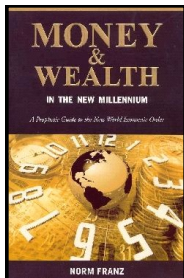
The Apostle John puts it all together, when he warns us not to love the world or follow the lusts that are in the world:

"Do not love the world, nor the things of this of the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the father is not in him, for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world." (1 John 2:15-16)

Unfortunately, this warning has gone largely unheeded by Adam's descendants, and unregenerate man continues to be seduced by the same love of money and riches that Lucifer seduced him with in the Garden. As a result, Satan has been able to systematically lead modern man into establishing an international financial network that conducts his brand of unrighteous trade through a worldwide system of dishonest scales.

From Chapter One of *Money and Wealth in the New Millennium*; 2001
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RECOMMENDED RESOURCE



Money and Wealth in the New Millennium is an easy to understand, biblical expose' on the problems plaguing the world financial system and why that system is in the final stages of collapse. It serves as a one-of-a-kind prophetic guide that explains where this occurs in Bible prophecy and what to expect in the future. It outlines how money and investments react during financial crises and how to overcome the great end time financial shaking. [More](#)

[Norm Franz](#) is founder and senior pastor of Ascension Ministries Int'l. He is a Christian author, international Bible teacher, and respected biblical futurist who ministers God's Word from a Hebraic perspective. As a former monetary economist and investment company president, Pastor Norm is also a recognized authority on the world's financial system. His highly acclaimed book, *Money & Wealth in the New Millennium*, is a prophetic guide to the approaching global financial crises that gives rise to a New World Economic Order.

"The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever."

— 1 Jn. 2:17