The Origin Of Satan

Intro: This is a question the Bible does not speak directly concerning. We do not want to be dogmatic concerning any view that is taken. There are only two possibilities of the origin of Satan.

I. SATAN WAS (IS) ETERNAL.

A. Support for this view.
   1. Satan seems to be described as a being that is omnipresent, which would lend itself to one who is eternal.
   2. Without Satan there would be no temptation (even for an angel); thus no sin.

B. Problems with this view.
   1. If he is eternal, would he not also be omnipotent (all-powerful).
   2. How could God defeat him; and what assurance would we have that God and Christ would be victorious.
   3. How could Satan be subordinate to God.

II. SATAN WAS A CREATED BEING.

A. Created Evil.
   1. Isa. 45:7 “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.”
      a. This is a misapplication of this verse.
      b. The NKJV has create calamity.
      c. This discussion is concerning divine punishment, and that is the evil spoken of here.
   2. However, to say that God created Satan an evil being would be to make God the author of sin and reflect upon His holiness.

B. Created Good.
   1. God created all things.
   2. God created him good and he became bad, sinned and rebelled against God.
      a. Where did the temptation come from?
         (1) 1 Tim. 3:6 “Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.”
         (2) Depends on if the phrase “of the devil” is objective or subjective genitive.
            (a) Is it judgment coming from the devil.
            (b) Is it the same kind of judgment that came on the devil because of his pride (pride was the cause of the devil’s condemnation).
      b. If evil does not exist; then there is no way for it to come into existence.
III. SOME MISAPPLIED PASSAGES.

A. Isa. 14:12 “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!”
1. Some believe that Lucifer is Satan and that he fell from heaven.
2. Context shows that Lucifer is not Satan but the King of Babylon; Isa. 14:4 “That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased!”

B. Ezekiel 28:13-19 “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. 14Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. 15Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. 16By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. 17Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. 18Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thy iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. 19All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.”
1. Context shows this to be the King of Tyre, not Satan.
2. Ezekiel 28:12 “Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.”

C. Luke 10:18 “And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.”
1. “Beheld” in Greek is imperfect tense which shows repeated action. Did Satan continue to fall from heaven?
2. The discussion is not Satan and his fall.
3. Jesus had sent His disciples out to the lost of Israel, they had power to perform miracles, to cast out Satan, to heal the sick, etc.
4. They come back telling what great things God had done, that even the devils are subject to them through His name. It is then that Jesus says this.
5. Thus, the context shows that it is the power of Satan that is under consideration, not his origin and fall.

D. 2 Peter 2:4 “For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;” Jude 6 “And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.”
1. These passages deal with angels.
2. They are not concerned with Satan.

E. Rev. 12:7-9 “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. 9And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil,
Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

1. This, in harmony with the book and general context, is a symbolic description of the battle of the church and the forces of Satan of which the church will be victorious by the blood of the Lamb.

2. This has nothing to do with Satan’s origin.

Conclusion: We simply do not know how Satan originated. While we might lean to one view or another, we cannot say for certain and there are problems with any view one holds. We do know that Satan is alive, powerful and is trying to destroy us (1 Pet. 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”). We must ever be on guard not to fall into the snare of the Devil.