

The Problem with Evil and God's Plan to End It – Part II

The Cost of Freedom – The Creation and Fall of Lucifer

Love desires to give

Genesis 1:1 KJV In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 1:26-28 KJV And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (28) And **God blessed them**, and God said unto them, **Be fruitful**, and multiply

Genesis 2:8-24 KJV And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. (9) And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow **every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food**; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. (10) And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted, and became into four heads. ... (12) And **the gold of that land is good: there is bdellium and the onyx stone.** ... (15) And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. (18) And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him. (21) And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; (22) And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, **he made a woman, and brought her unto the man.** (23) And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. (24) Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Genesis 2:2-3 KJV And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. (3) And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made. (a)

The rest of this story we will leave for the next study. We want to go back before man to the creation of the angels. Let's go back even before that, to the thoughts of God before the angels were created. Let's consider more of the principles of love.

Love requires freedom

So – the Godhead longed to create others to share this joy of giving with, but that means that these others must be capable of responding to that love.

Could loving responses, the giving of gifts, and acts of kindness not be programmed in?
--No, if this were the case, who would be loving whom? The programmer would be loving himself. We would be merely robots. Love requires the ability to choose.

Love cannot be forced. Behavior can be forced by a “strong arm”, or one in a position of authority. But can the use of such force draw out affection or appreciation toward the one who uses it?

What do we call people that are always telling everybody what they ought to do and pressuring them until they do it? Control Freaks. Do we consider this healthy? God does not want to control us; He wants to teach us. It is understanding that He wants. He wants us to understand the principles of love and the responsibility of freedom.

Is the micromanager going to grow a large business? No--in a successful business there needs to be instruction, trust and ownership given as well as the job to be done.

- What is the first thing you want to do when you experience something really good? You seek out someone to share your joy with.
- The love that flowed between the persons of the Godhead was so full of joy that they longed to create others to share it with.
- The clearest picture of this is the account of creation in the Garden of Eden, before sin came to mess it up.

- Why do married couples want to have children? To extend their love into a family and a home.

- **Matthew 7:11 KJV** If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

(a) It is interesting that after God had created all the things of Earth for man to enjoy, on the sixth day He created and placed man in the garden. The very next day God ended His work and spent the whole day with Adam and Eve sharing their joy in all that He had provided for their happiness.

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To have love there must be freedom: freedom to not love in return; freedom to seek my own interest above others; freedom not only to make my own selfish and destructive choices but the freedom to **carry them out**.

Do you see a problem developing here? God wants to have love abound throughout His creation, and love requires freedom. So, what if this freedom is abused, and His creatures make choices that damage themselves and others? How far will God allow this freedom to go?

God had a plan, and before He created the first free and intelligent being, He knew how He would handle the situation when it arose.

God creates Lucifer

Isaiah 14:12 KJV How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, **(a) son of the morning!** **(b)**

Job 38:4-7 KJV Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare, if thou hast understanding. (5) Who hath laid the measures thereof, if thou knowest? or who hath stretched the line upon it? (6) Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof; (7) When the morning stars sang together, **(c)** and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

(d) Revelation 5:11 KJV And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, **(e)** and thousands of thousands;

(a) Lucifer means “shining one, morning star, or light bearer.” - Brown-Driver-Briggs' *Hebrew Definitions*
(b) This seems to indicate that Lucifer was first in God's creation. Being first he was brightest in that his experience and knowledge preceded all the others.

(c) It is common for angels to be referred to in the Bible as stars.

(d) How many other angels did God create?
(e) This number signifies an innumerable multitude of angels whom God had created.

Lucifer falls from being the bright reflector of God's love

Luke 10:18 KJV And he [Jesus] said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

(f) Ezekiel 28:12-17 KJV 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. **(g)** (13) Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, (14) Thou 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. (15) Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. (16) By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, (17) Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: **(h)**

(i) Isaiah 14:12-14 KJV 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! (13) For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: (14) I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

(f) A comparison is made between the fall of the king of Tyrus and that of Lucifer:

(g) To “seal the sum” is to make up the whole measure of perfection. From the hand of God there was no flaw in him.

- Lucifer was the most respected and admired of all of God's intelligent creatures. Only the Son of God, who had existed from eternity with God stood above him.

(h) The Godhead often counseled together concerning the creation of yet other beings and how they would handle the risks involved.

- Lucifer wanted to be a part of the counsels but was not always asked to join. His thoughts turned toward his own greatness, and envy and pride was born into his thinking. (Toxic Thinking)

- Jesus said in John 8:44 “Ye are of your father the devil, ... for he is a liar, and the father of it.” He had convinced himself that God was not concerned for his best interest. A sense of rebellion swelled in his heart.

(i) Again -- In speaking of the king of Babylon, a comparison is made with the fall of Lucifer from Heaven. Notice the change from glorifying God, to pride and ambition to lift up himself. As is always the case, sin is the result of a change of focus from seeking the best interest of others to a concern for our own interests.

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(a) Philippians 2:5-9 KJV Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

(a) Notice the contrast between the attitude of Lucifer when he **thought** he had been slighted, and that of Christ when He **had** been slighted by man.
- Lucifer sought to lift himself up, and was brought down. – Christ came down and was lifted up.

(b) Revelation 12:3-9 KJV And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. (4) And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: ... (7) And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, (8) And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. (9) And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

(b) Now fallen from the perfect reflection of God's love, Satan, having convinced himself that God was self-centered and unfair, began to suggest the same to the other angels in Heaven.
- He was successful in turning the loyalties of one-third of the angels from God.

The cost of freedom

We now see that freedom had a cost. - There was rebellion in Heaven, spreading like an infection, spoiling the joy and happiness of the place. - We know that God already had His plan in place, but let's consider what His options might have been to handle the crisis.

- God could have destroyed Satan and all those who were convinced of his lies, but then the questions raised about God's character would not have been answered. rather, they would seem to have been confirmed. Those angels who had remained loyal to God would now both doubt God's goodness and fear Him. This was not an option for the God of Love.
- God could have destroyed them and then removed all memory of it in the minds of the remaining loyal angels. But eventually the problem would come up again since no lesson would have been learned. This was not an option for the God of Love. God's desire for us is that we should have understanding--that we could see things as they really are.
- The potential for self-centered thinking (sin) is inherent in the giving of freedom to intelligent beings who do not understand where such thinking will lead. God would have to allow the rebellion to run its course so that all could see where it would end.
 - God would pursue them--hoping to teach them and win their loyalties back from the darkness of deception into trusting in His love.
 - The cost of this demonstration would be high.
 - Some will be lost who by pride and a desire for independence have hardened their hearts against God's love.
 - Many innocent will suffer from the corruption caused by the reign of sin. God will feel the pain.
 - Christ will put himself into our place as one of us. He makes Himself responsible for the mess we have created. He will suffer for the forgiveness of sin.
 - As in our own lives, people are only willing to pay a high price when they know that the benefits will outweigh the cost.
 - All will see where selfish, sinful thinking ends.
 - Godly love will be seen to always win out in the end.
 - The boundaries of freedom will be understood and appreciated by all. Love will reign for eternity.
 - Sin will not rise again.

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Think of some implications of all this:

Freedom has boundaries. For freedom to work, all must respect the freedoms of others. Love seeks the happiness of all and willingly makes itself subject to the desires of others. What Satan desired was not so much freedom as independence. He wished not to be limited by the will or desires of others. Independence has no boundaries. Leaving the warmth of the circle of give and receive, he shot out on his own, desperately grasping, taking what he could to please himself.

If God has allowed sinners the freedom to have their way, should we be surprised that bad things happen to us? Is God the cause when bad things happen? It is not only the will of men being acted out on this earth but angels on both sides of the controversy are working their wills as well. And we to various degrees fall victim.

How far would God allow freedom to go? Does He always allow sin to hurt the innocent? Does God sometimes interfere on behalf of those suffering? Yes, some times He resorts to emergency measures such as with the flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt. So, when does He step in and when does He not? We may not be able to answer this while still on this earth. However, we know that He cannot stop ALL evil or freedom would not reign, and we would be mere robots. Eternity would not be truly secure, and love would never realize its full potential.

Not only are the end results of sin to be demonstrated, but it will also be shown that love, though it takes longer, will always win out in the end. Satan has lost his case, especially in the death of Christ. But the demonstration of love among God's people will be the last exhibition before God brings sin to its final end.