

“That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:5

DID GOD CREATE EVIL?

By Pastor Steve Owens



Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: **16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. Colossians 1:15-17**

According to this passage, Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things. Twice we are told in Colossians 1:16 that Jesus Christ created *all* things. In verse 17 we learn that Jesus Christ was in existence before all other things were in existence. When the verse says, “... he is before all things...” it means that Jesus was here before the earth, the stars, the sun, or the universe. He was here *before* all those things because He created those things!

The passage also teaches that Christ created everything that is visible **and** invisible. When people think of the Creation, they tend to think about the things they can see like grass, trees, oceans, animals, man, etc.

But the Bible also says that He created *invisible* things like thrones, dominions, principalities, powers, angels, cherubim, etc.

This brings us to the title question. Did God create evil? If Jesus is God (and He is), and He is all powerful and all-knowing, why would He create someone like Lucifer knowing in advance all the

evil he would do? Why would God create the angels knowing they would fall? Why would God create man knowing that he would sin? Why would God allow man to live in a world that is filled with depravity and wickedness and evil and pain?

If God knew all of this would happen, why did He create it anyway? If God knew that man was going to sin, why did He allow it? If God knew Lucifer would become Satan, why would He create him?

Those are fair questions. The answers are in Scripture. Go to Isaiah 45:5-7. **“I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. 7 I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.**

Did you see the shocking statement? Isaiah said, **“I create evil...”** Why would a perfect, holy, sin-hating God create evil knowing all the hurt and harm and destruction it would cause? Why would God create Adam and Eve knowing in advance they would sin and bring condemnation upon the whole human race? In order to answer these questions we need to establish some facts.

1. Everything that God created was good. “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.” (Gen 1:31)

Everything that God created was good. At the time God created Lucifer, he was good. God didn’t create the Devil who is the father of lies but He *did* create Lucifer. **Ezekiel 28:14-15 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. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.**

IF GOD KNEW LUCIFER WOULD BECOME SATAN, WHY WOULD HE CREATE HIM?

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Monthly Events

Phebe’s Fellowship
(Women’s Missionary Society)
 February 4 @ 7:00 PM

Spanish Bible Study
 February 11 @ 7:00 PM

College and Career Bible Study
 February 20 @ 6:30 PM

Street Preaching
 Last Sat of the month at noon.



February Memory Passage

“Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”
Psalm 119:129-130

DID GOD CREATE EVIL? *(Continued from page 1)*

Lucifer was a created being. He was the anointed cherub. In his position he would lead in the praises to God with his pipes and tabrets. Lucifer was created to hover over God's throne and shine in brilliance in order to magnify and glorify God. He was created with the ability to transform himself into any form necessary that would give praise and honor to God. Lucifer was not a fallen angel, he was the anointed cherub.

Everything that God created was perfect. Lucifer, the angels, the earth, man – all of creation was perfect. God never created anything that was not perfect. Everything God does is perfect!

2. God is righteous in all His ways. "The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." (Psalm 145:17)

God's motive in Creation was holy and right and good. God's motives were not evil, they were perfect. God's intentions were perfect. God's desires were perfect. Everything God did was righteous and holy!

Weekly Schedule of Church Services

Sunday School (All Ages).....	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Preaching Service.....	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Preaching Service.....	5:00 PM
Thursday	
Scripture Scouts (Ages 4-12).....	7:00 PM
Prayer and Bible Study (Adults and Teens).....	7:00 PM

3. God's work is perfect. "Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." Deuteronomy 32:3-4

Creation was part of God's work. His creation was perfect and without iniquity. His creation was just and right. Everything God made was just right!

Some have wondered why God doesn't just "wipe out" His creation and start over? Well, He already did that. Genesis 6:7 tells us, "I will destroy man whom I have created." But after He did that He promised that He would not do it again. And God can't go back on His promises. He promised not to smite every living thing again. "... the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done." Genesis 8:21.

With these facts established, let's go back to the question of Adam, Eve and sin. If God is good and His purpose is good, and He is righteous in everything He does, and all of His works are perfect, why did God create man knowing that he would sin?

The answer is that there must have been a good, righteous and holy purpose for it. Think of this. God created a tree in the garden of Eden called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He created something that had evil in it. He created a tree that had the potential to be evil. The fruit of this tree produced the knowledge of good and evil! But God created it for a good purpose, not for evil.

Here is an example. God created the tobacco plant for good. This plant has a reputation for evil because man has perverted God's creation. According to the Surgeon General, tobacco has been known to cause cancer. Cancer kills people. But tobacco leaves are not evil. God didn't create a plant to intentionally cause harm. Scientists have discovered that tobacco leaves are good for things like insect repellent, medical poultices for skin rashes, pain relievers for ear aches and toothaches, and help with rheumatism and insect bites. The tobacco plant is a good plant. Just because it has an evil reputation doesn't mean God created it for that purpose.

When God created the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, He had no desire for it to be used for evil. It was created as a test. The fruit produced the knowledge of good and the knowledge of evil. Adam and Eve didn't have a knowledge of good or evil. They were completely innocent. Their minds were innocent. God created them and told them what to do and they did it. But the tree was created for a good reason. It was created for a test.

God did something else. God gave Adam a free will and with it He gave Adam a choice. If there was no choice between good and evil, men would be robots. God was providing a way for man to prove His love to God and to prove his obedience. In essence, God was saying, "Here is a tree, but don't eat from it. If you eat from it there will be consequences and you will surely die."

So this brings us to the reasons why God created evil.

1. God created evil to prove man's love for Him.

God wants to be loved. God didn't create man just to watch him perform. God didn't create man for His personal entertainment. God created man to love Him - and that pleases God.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

A WORD ABOUT CHURCH ATTENDANCE



Central Baptist Church offers four important preaching and teaching services each week. Each service is different and each service is vital to your spiritual growth. The Bible is clear that believers are not to forsake the assembling of themselves together...

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
Hebrews 10:25

Watching services online may keep you informed, but it will never meet the command to physically assemble with other believers.

Modern technology is a blessing and a curse. It is a blessing to those with debilitating illnesses or those who are forced by necessity to be out of town. At the same time, it can be a curse to those who are tempted to forgo a service just because they can watch as easily online.

If circumstances beyond your control hinder your attendance, by all means do your best to watch online and stay informed. Services are recorded and streamed live on...



DID GOD CREATE EVIL? *(Continued from page 2)*

Did you ever see those ant farm kits? They have glass on each side and they are filled with dirt. You can put a bunch of ants in it and observe them while they work. But that was not God's intent for us. God created us for His pleasure. It pleases God when His creation loves Him back and talks to Him and believes Him and listens to Him and obeys Him. That's what God wants. The Bible tells us in **Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Exodus 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.**

There are at least forty-seven places in the Bible where we are told to "love Him," "love God," "love the Lord," and "love me." God wants to be loved, but God can't make you love Him. God can't force you to love Him. Love is something that must be given willingly. You love someone because you decide to.

And what is the result of man's love for God? **John 14:15** If ye love me, **keep my commandments.**

2. God created evil to give man a choice.

Listen to what Job said to his wife. **Job 2:10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.** Job knew that God gave good things, but Job also knew that God allowed evil things to happen to man for a reason.

If there was no choice between good and evil, man would be robots. The Bible tells us that man is a living soul (Genesis 2:7). God gave man the ability to choose between good or evil. God created man and put him in the garden. God provided for all of man's needs. God gave man a purpose. God said, "Have dominion over the earth, work in the garden, dress it and keep it." That was the purpose of man's existence.

God also gave man one rule: Don't eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat from it you will surely die. God, the Creator, set up a system. He made rules. God did nothing wrong when He created the tree. God did nothing wrong when He created Lucifer. God did nothing wrong when He gave man the ability to choose. God is not cruel, unkind, or unreasonable. As a matter of fact, God is incredibly generous. He provided man the most incredible existence he could ever imagine and He was giving man the authority to rule over it.

God had no obligation to tell Adam *why* He did anything He did. God put that tree in the garden and gave him a command. He also explained the consequences of what would happen if man chose to disobey. Adam didn't understand what death was. No one had ever died. Adam just had to believe God and love God enough to do what God said.

God gave Adam a free choice. "You can do what you want. You can choose to obey me because you love me or you can choose to disobey." There needed to be something there for Adam to make the choice. If evil was not created, there would be no choice to love. **"If ye love me, keep my commandments."** (John 14:15). If you love me, Adam, you will keep my command to stay away from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Here is a lesson. When you are presented with the temptation to do wrong and you refuse the evil, that pleases God. You were created for God's pleasure. **Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

When you resist evil, that pleases God. If God had not created evil, you would never have the opportunity to demonstrate your love for God.

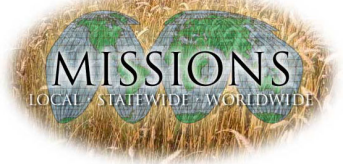
3. God created evil to accomplish His will.

God uses evil for His good and for His glory. **For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen. (Romans 11:36)** God uses evil to accomplish His will. In the end, everything that God created accomplishes His will. Ultimately God created all things to praise him. (Read Psalm 148). Heavens, angels, sun, moon and stars, beasts of the earth, flying things, things that creep, all people, (kings, princes, judges, young men, maidens, old men, children) were all created to praise God.

God created the earth and established it. God did not create it in vain. He wasn't wasting His time. He had a purpose for doing everything that He did. **Isaiah 45:18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else. Romans 14:11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

Even the evil that God created fulfills His will. It is used as a tool to bring us to God. God demonstrates that He is stronger than any evil the Devil can conjure up. Evil cannot defeat the child of God. **Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.**

Good is stronger than evil. Good will always overcome evil. But if there were no evil, we would never know that God is stronger and we would never truly understand the love of God. It was evil that crucified Christ. It was evil that wanted to destroy Jesus. But if there were no evil, we wouldn't know the depths of the love of the Father. God loved us so much that He was willing to become a man and die so that we could escape the evil of the Lake of Fire. We love God for dying for us on the cross. God was able to demonstrate that love because of evil. The love of God overcomes all evil. **Amen!**



A Word About Missions

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

Mark 16:15

CBCOC takes an active role in the support of missions. We have mission projects in the following countries:

**Belguim, Bolivia, Brazil
China, Cocopah Indians
Ecuador, Fiji, India
Japan, Mexico, Nepal
Papua, New Guinea
Philippines, Thailand
Trinidad/Tobago,
Urkriane, and Zambia**

**There are three things
you can do!**

1. Women can attend Phebe's Fellowship each month.



2. Financial Support. You can give to *Faith Promise Missions* online using this QR code:



3. Pray daily for our missionaries!

2026 Bible Conference Highlights



Pastor Bates, Andrus and Veach



Special Music



Spirited congregational singing!



Sunday lunch with Pastor Veach



Pastor Andrus preaching the word.

More comments from the Bible Conference...

"All the speakers from the conference were a blessing! Brother Veach's message on Psalm 48:1, "Great is the Lord," had some key points for my heart. This is the city of God, His home. Our homes need to be built on the Saviour. We should have the Lord as part of our everyday lives. Our children, the next generation to come, need towers of God as their examples in their homes. Our homes need to be right. Share the Lord. Be soul winners. Serve the Lord. Our churches and families need to know sound doctrine for God."
BR

"Pastor Veach, Andrus and Bates were all a huge blessing. ... I received some answers to prayer through (Pastor Veach's) messages that dealt with my walk and journey..."
Praise God." JV

Pastor Veach's story about the Lebanese lady in his church was a true blessing to me. The lady called him at 4 am every morning. It seemed very annoying to him, but he chose to be kind and patient with the lady. As a result of it, her two brothers and their family got saved. Her parents in Lebanon also got saved. It taught me that God might allow some discomfort in our lives, but He has a greater purpose. We should not give up on God just because of discomfort or discouragement. If we give up too soon we will miss out on God's blessings down the road.
MH

What Bible Conference attendees had to say:

"Pastor Veach's message helped me remember about God's love toward us and to be a great tower in the faith. Just keep pushing in the faith and ground myself in him."
DW

"...I was specifically challenged to do more for the Lord while I still can on this side of eternity."
SB

"... The preaching gave me the courage to keep going in my walk with the Lord and was an inoculation against the world, the flesh and the devil at a time when I really needed it."
SG

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY TOPICS

Every church service is unique from the others and emphasizes a different area of Bible knowledge. In order to receive a well-rounded diet from the Word of God, we encourage you to attend all four services.

- Survey of the Old Testament* Auditorium Sunday School (9:00 AM)
- Lessons from the Life of Christ* Sunday Morning Preaching (10:00 AM)
- Lessons on the Local Church* Sunday Evening Bible Study (5:00 PM)
- The Book of Revelation* Thursday Evening Bible Study (7:00 PM)