

## A Few Comments on the Problem of Evil.

As you probably know this is one of the most serious questions the human race has to answer. Most of the answers that are given are wrong.

**God is good and what He does is goodness.** God did not create evil. The King James Version did say (Isaiah 45:7) that God created evil – but the context shows it means disaster or judgment or war.

So – the question people ask is “If God didn’t create it – where did it come from?”

The answer is that God wanted to share His love with angels and humans. He created the angels and the humans to receive His love (which would include every good thing) and love Him in return (which would enable them to experience Him (what could be greater) and every good thing.

**Love is always a choice.** For God to be able to share His greatness and goodness and love He had to create angels and humans with free will – the ability not only to love Him but the ability to not love Him.

When God created the angels He gave them that ability to choose – free will. By doing that they had the **potential** of doing what never had been done before – making the **potential actual**. We do not know how long the angels lived before they did that.

It would seem the greatest angel, made and trained to lead all the other angels in the worship of God – wanted to have that place of worship – he wanted to have the same status as Jesus Christ (See Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28). How could he do this when he was a completely good angel? Where did the desire come from?

It would seem that the angels, as well as Adam and Eve, were created with an unlimited ability – and desire – to love God – grow – and experience more and more of God. That great desire – because of free-will – could be satisfied **in the wrong way**.

Satan, before he became Satan, seemingly tried to satisfy the consuming hunger he had for God – by wanting to be like God – **in the wrong way**. When he did that **he actualized the potential that had never been done before. He did not “create” sin – angels and humans cannot “create” anything. But what is potential can be actualized.**

The effects of that act – caused Satan to become Satan (evil personified) and to be cast out of Heaven (cast out of his office and presence of God).

When God created Adam and Eve – He also wanted to give them His love and everything good – forever. They too were created with an ability and desire to grow more and more – without ever reaching a state of satisfaction. That ability and desire would enable them to continually receive and by that to grow in the ability to love God in return.

Satan knew exactly how to approach Eve – he knew how he fell. **He appealed to her desire for more of God.** When he did this he suggested a wrong way of receiving the satisfaction she longed for – and could have received – since God came to Adam and Eve and walked in the Garden with them. Along with the temptation came **deception. It was a suggestion of “satisfaction based on deception.”**

Notice – that is what sin is all about. That desire for God, resident in all of us, is the basis for every evil activity, false religions, all idolatry (money, sports, sex, etc.) – as the temptation is presented to us in the cloak of deception (“This sin will satisfy you – it’s what you’re looking for”.) Every Christian has been and will be caught in that web of deception over and over – because of our fallen nature, and ignorance and weakness.

When we ask, “How could it happen?” we overlook the power of the **potential.**

When we sin today we are agreeing with – cooperating with – acting in harmony with – the kingdom of Satan and at rock bottom – the character of Satan. And, that is what the “world” is all about (Eph 2:1-3, 1 John 5:19).

Does this explanation satisfy most people? “NO.” Most people want to blame God and be irresponsible. Because we are sinners we still want to blame God for not giving us everything we want (That is what Satan implied to Eve – “God has withheld something from you – a good thing – it’s what you really deserve – exert yourself and claim what is rightfully yours.”) Does that sound and feel familiar? We face it every day!

God did not and cannot create evil.