

Problem—Solution

God took a huge risk when creating man and angels with free will. He knew this but wanted to create beings to love and who would love Him in return. Genuine love cannot be forced or programmed.

Lucifer, the father of all lies, accused God of being a tyrant and so God set out to prove otherwise. He had to show everyone who had believed Satan's lies what the consequences of sin are.

When God made this world He put laws in place (the Ten Commandments) because there cannot be freedom without law but people have rejected God's laws in favour of their own agendas and this is why the world is so far from the perfect place God meant it to be.

But all is not lost....God has always had a plan in place should things go wrong.

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

God, Whose love knows no bounds, sent us Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son, to take our place and die on the cross for all our sins in order that whoever believes in Him can have eternal life.

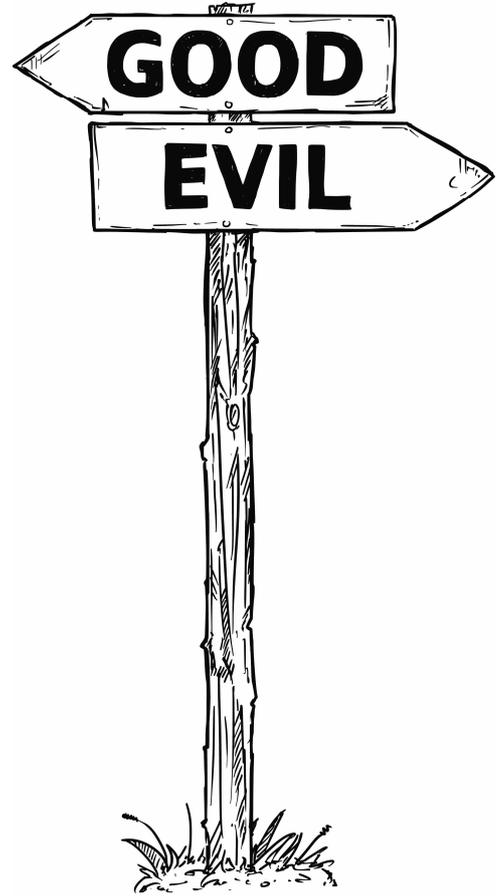
The Bible contains the testimony of Jesus. The four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are witness statements testifying of Jesus' life and ministry while He was with us in this world. He came to teach us and show us the right way to live. Jesus was God's word (character) made manifest in the flesh.

Although tempted by the devil, Jesus never sinned and gives us the power to withstand all temptation today.

If we love God and keep His commandments (or earnestly try to) because we love Him, we have nothing to fear. God is good.

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.” (Revelation 21:4)

“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.” (Revelation 22:14-15)



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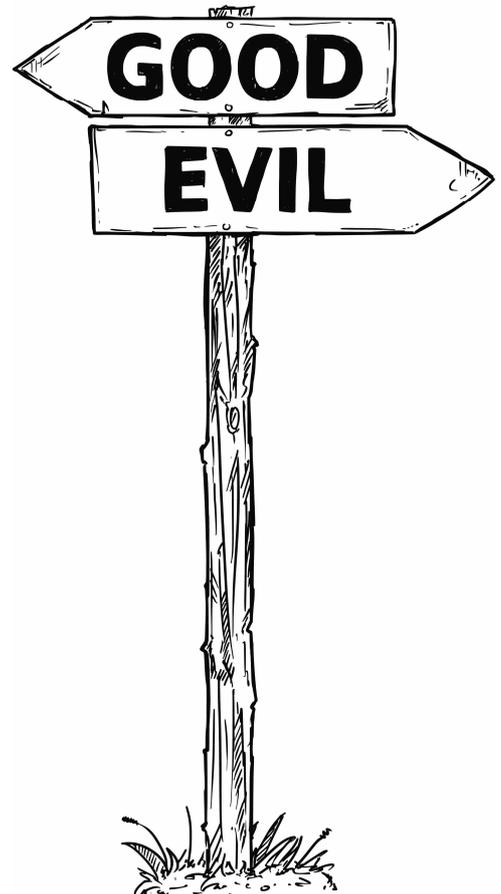
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Did God create evil?

At first it might seem that if God created all things, then evil must have been created by God. However, evil is not a 'thing' like a rock or electricity. You cannot have a jar of evil. Evil has no existence of its own; it is really the absence of good. For example, holes are real but they only exist in something else. We call the absence of dirt a hole, but it cannot be separated from the dirt. So when God created, it is true that all He created was good. One of the good things God made was creatures who had the freedom to choose good, but in order to have a real choice, God had to allow there to be something besides good to choose. So, God allowed these free angels and humans to choose good or reject good (evil). When a bad relationship exists between two good things we call that evil, but it does not become a 'thing' that required God to create it.

To explain further.....One could ask, "Does cold exist?" the answer would likely be "yes". However, this is incorrect. Cold does not exist. Cold is the absence of heat. Similarly, darkness does not exist; it is the absence of light. Evil is the absence of good, or better still, evil is the absence of God. God did not have to create evil, but rather only allow for the absence of good.

God did not create evil, but He does allow evil. If God had not allowed for the possibility of evil, both mankind and angels would be serving God out of obligation, not choice. He did not want robots that simply did what He wanted them to do because of their programming. God allowed for the possibility of evil so that we could genuinely have a free will and choose whether or not we wanted to serve Him.

Who or what is Satan?

People's beliefs concerning Satan range from the silly to the abstract – from a little red guy with horns who sits on your shoulder urging you to sin, to an expression used to describe the personification of evil. The Bible, however, gives us a clear portrait of who Satan is and how he affects our lives. Put simply, the Bible defines Satan as an angelic being who fell from his position in heaven due to sin and is now completely opposed to God, doing all in his power to thwart God's purposes.

The Bible describes Satan as a cherub, the highest created angel. He became arrogant in his beauty and status and decided he wanted to sit on a throne above that of God and, because of this, God had to permanently remove him from his exalted position and role.

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Satan became the ruler of this world and the prince of the power of the air. He is an accuser, a tempter and a deceiver. His very name means "adversary" or "one who opposes". Another of his titles, the devil, means "slanderer". It is because of him that we have death, disease, illness, fear and worry in this world.

In Genesis chapter 3, Satan (coming in the form of a snake) tempted Eve in the Garden of Eden by making her first doubt God's word: "**Hath God said...?**"

Satan never changes, he still causes people to doubt God's word.

And when Eve told him what God said would happen if they ate from the tree that He had told them not to eat from, Satan told her: "**Ye shall not surely die**"

Another lie that he is still telling people. Sadly, the vast majority of people these days believe in reincarnation and think that if they get things wrong the first time round they can keep coming back. Or they believe that when we die we either go to heaven or hell straight away, but the Bible teaches that those who do not repent of their sinful ways will eventually perish (die).

Satan then goes on to say: "**For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.**"

As with a lot of things the devil has his hand in, there is some truth in what he says but he mixes in a fatal amount of lies. Adam and Eve's eyes were opened but they did not become like God. In fact, they lost authority, rather than gaining it. A human being cannot be God, but they did have their eyes opened. God never meant His creation to know evil, but this is what disobedience to God results in.

Even though he was cast out of heaven, Satan still seeks to elevate his throne above God. He counterfeits all that God does, hoping to gain the worship of the world and encourage opposition to God's kingdom. He is the ultimate source behind every false cult and world religion and he will do anything and everything in his power to oppose God and those who follow God. However, Satan's power is not eternal – he will meet his doom. He began his evil work in mankind at the beginning and continues it today, but he will be destroyed when he is thrown into the lake of fire - the ultimate destination of everything wicked. He will never be a threat to anyone again.

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