

IN THE WORLD

In the beginning God made the world and everything in it and He said that it was good. Genesis 1 gives us great detail on how God created everything from nothing. At the end of His creation, He tells us that it is very good!

Gen 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

God said that everything was very good. He doesn't make mistakes! Everything had been created to the utmost perfection of its nature. So what happened? Sin came into the world through Adam and Eve. Although they were created perfectly, their choice to disobey God expelled them from the Garden of Eden not allowing them to eat of the Tree of Life. Human death came about because both the man and the woman turned their backs on the voice of God.

Gen 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Gen 3:22-24 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: 23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. 24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

As Satan was a sinner from the beginning, he lied, telling Eve that she would not die and could become like God by disobeying what God had instructed them. Because Adam and Eve listened to the voice of the serpent in the garden, they chose to disobey God's command not to eat of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. They did not die immediately, but did become subject to death and unable to eat of the tree of Life with this sinful nature now passed down to taint all future generations of mankind.

Ge 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

2Pe 3:8 ¶ But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

Gen 3:4-6 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 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. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Rom 3:9-18 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; 10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their

throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Because we are all sinners, there is no possibility of being able to inherit God's Kingdom. Thus by not practicing righteousness by living a habitual lifestyle reflecting the divine nature of God, we oppose God and His plan of salvation. Satan and his demons pose as a united, malicious enemy who constantly looks for opportunities to overwhelm believers with temptations, persecution and discouragement, all employed to turn us away from fellowship with the Father and His Son. He lurks around every corner looking to see whom he may snatch away from God. We are certainly told that our struggle is not with men but with the forces beyond humanity – principalities, powers and rulers of the darkness of this age. Satan and his hosts resort to trickery and deception in order to lure us away from God just as he did with Adam and Eve. Satan is able to see the vulnerabilities that we have and uses that ability against us. But God is stronger than Satan and gives us ways to escape his hold on us.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Eph 6:12-13 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

1 John 3:7-9 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Often young children have fears of "monsters under the bed or in the closet." They call out to their parents to turn on the lights to keep away those monsters. Most spiritually aware adults accept that evil spirits, "monsters," are always at work around us. We can battle these fears by remaining faithful and always prayerful. When a restless feeling keeps you up at night, falling on your knees in prayer will become your new "turning-on-the-lights, an action to dispel the unpleasant feeling bothering you!

Life is a constant struggle for us to choose righteousness. We need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to lead us amid the spiritual warfare we face daily. We are instructed by Paul on the spiritual tactics needed to win this warfare. The Lord always provides His saints with sufficient armor to successfully combat and gain victory over the enemy.

Eph 6:14-18 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with

all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

This previous scripture is not referring to the physical world but the invisible spiritual system of evil that is dominated by Satan to oppose everything that is God's. Because the Father loves us so much, He sent His Son to this world to overcome the enemy for us. After all He created us perfectly and wants us to be with Him in His Kingdom. We must actively put our trust in Him by living our lives according to His truth. Yahshua came to the earth which He created to show us by example how to live righteously. He died to provide the sacrifice that paid the penalty required by law to have our sins forgiven through genuine repentance. This righteous state given to us conveys our spiritual eligibility for eternal fellowship with the Father and His Son. Yahshua has already been victorious in overcoming Satan's power over us!

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Rom 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Rom 5:18-19 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

Believers need to be alert, have keen awareness of the wiles of the devil while remaining unafraid of his influence. The Holy Spirit leads us to all truth through sound doctrine, thus we have nothing to fear! In this life on earth, we daily face battles of temptation, but with the power of the Lord, the strength of His Holy Spirit, and the truth of the Bible, we can overcome and be victorious! We all need to let the Spirit living inside of us be greater than the one living in the world.

1Jo 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Proverb to Ponder:

Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart; and lean not unto your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and He shall direct your paths.

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