

Tuesday

April 2

Planet Earth Becomes Involved

When God created the earth, He created it perfect. The Bible says that He "saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good" (*Gen. 1:31, NKJV*). There was no stain of sin or evil anywhere.

PERFECTION WOULD MEAN THAT THIS EARTH WAS CREATED BY GOD AND NOT BY ANY PROCESS OF EVOLUTION - BECAUSE THE PROCESS OF EVOLUTION REQUIRES DEATH AND A DIMINISHING OF THE PERFECT IN PLACE OF THE IMPERFECT.

AGAIN SINCE SIN RESULTS IN DEATH, DEATH ITSELF HAD NO PART IN GODS ORIGINAL CREATION-Death is in fact an enemy of GOD - IT IS DESCRIBED IN THE BIBLE AS THE LAST ENEMY THAT GOD WILL DESTROY. (ROMANS 6:23; 1 Cor. 15:26).

But He gave Adam and Eve the same freedom of choice He had given to Lucifer. He didn't want robots on earth any more than He wanted robots in heaven.

In fact, He went out of his way to make this freedom clear. He planted a tree in the Garden and called it the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. He made a point of telling them about it, because He wanted to make sure they *knew* they had a choice.

GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS IMAGE, THE IMAGE OF LOVE. GOD DIDN'T JUST GIVE MANKIND FREEDOM AS THOUGH FREEDOM IS SOME EXTERNAL APP DOWNLOADED INTO OUR INTERNAL HARD DRIVE TO BE ACCESSED WHEN WE RUN CERTAIN PROGRAMS. FREEDOM, LIBERTY, FREE CHOICE IS HOW OUR HUMAN HARD DRIVES OPERATE. LIBERTY IS PART OF OUR DNA. REMOVE IT AND HUMANS DIE EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY STILL BREATHE THEY DO NOT LIVE. THE BIBLE SAYS IN GENESIS THAT GOD BREATHED HIS BREATH OF LIFE, HIS SPIRIT INTO US AND WE BECAME LIVING SOULS.

THE BIBLE SAYS THAT WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS THERE IS LIBERTY. IN US IN THE HUMAN RACE. BUILT INTO EVERY MOLECULE, EVERY CELL, EVERY FIBER AND ATOM OF OUR BEING IS THE SPIRIT OR BREATH OF LIFE AND WITH IT IS THE SPIRIT OF LIBERTY. IT IS IN OUR DNA. THAT IS WHY MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE AT THEIR VERY BEST IN A FREE SOCIETY.

WE WERE BIRTHED IN FREEDOM! WE WERE CREATED WITH THE SPIRITUAL ENERGY, THE VERY BREATH OF GOD TO BE FREE. GOD IS LOVE AND THEREFORE WHERE GOD IS THERE IS LIBERTY FOR LOVE NECESSITATES FREEDOM TO CHOOSE. YET CHOICE BRINGS WITH IT RISK. AND RISK SUGGESTS AN OPTION FOR EVIL, SIN, AND WHATEVER IS THE OPPOSITE OF GOD, OF LOVE.

THE GODHEAD KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING WHEN THEY CREATED US IN THEIR IMAGE. THEY KNEW THE RISK AND THEY THOUGHT IT VERY MUCH WORTH WHILE. FOR- AS PATRICK HENRY SO PASSIONATELY SAID AS THIS NEW LAND OF AMERICAN FREEDOM WAS BEING BIRTHED- GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH! AND HE MEANT IT TO THE VERY CORE OF HIS BEING.

THE FOUNDING FATHER OF THE GREAT NATION OF AMERICA ALL KNEW THE VALUE OF FREEDOM. IT WAS EVERYTHING TO THEM BECAUSE THEY KNEW FIRST HAND WHAT ADAM AND EVE ARE ABOUT TO EXPERIENCE-THE CRUEL TYRANT OF CONTROL OF SLAVERY AND THE DARK MASTERS OF THIS PRESENT WORLD THAT WOULD CRUSH OUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD.

HOW WOULD THE MASTER OF THE FORCES OF EVIL CAPTURE THE BEINGS WHO WERE SO HAPPY LIVING AS GOD CREATED THEM IN THE SPIRIT OF LIBERTY AND LOVE? THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY. THE ACCUSER MUST ACCUSE, HE MUST LIE. THIS IS WHY WHEN JESUS CAME AS OUR DELIVERER TO SET US FREE, FREE TO LOVE, TO LIVE, TO BE HAPPY AGAIN IN HIS KINGDOM OF GRACE HE HAD TO CLEARLY UNVEIL THE ACCUSER WHOM FALLEN MAN NOW WORSHIPS BY BEARING HIS IMAGE INSTEAD OF GODS - JESUS PLAINLY SAID OF THE DEVIL AND THOSE WHO FOLLOW HIM:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." John 8:44 KJV

LIES ARE THE MAIN COURSE OF THE ACCUSERS DIET. HE USED THEM TO TURN US FROM GODS IMAGE INTO HIS IMAGE AND HE USES THEM STILL TO KEEP US IN HIS IMAGE AND TO KEEP US IN BONDAGE TO FEAR AND VICTIMS OF HIS CONTROL.

"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the

serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."Genesis 3:1-5 NKJV

THERE ARE THREE LIES THAT THE ACCUSER BRINGS AGAINST GOD HERE IN THE DIVINE RECORD:

1. GOD IS A WITHHOLDER HE DOESN'T WANT TO GIVE YOU ALL HE IS HOLDING SOMETHING BACK FOM YOU.

2. GOD IS A CONTROLLER - HE DOESN'T WANT YOU BE FREE TO KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS AND TO BE LIKE HIM.

3. GOD IS A LIAR - HE TOLD YOU THAT YOU WOULD DIE IF YOU ATE OF THIS TREE OF GOOD AND EVIL BIT YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE.

AND WE BIT INTO THE LIE. AND JUST SO WE DON'T MAKE THE MISTAKE OF BLAMING OUR ANCIENT FOREFATHERS FOR THEIR TERRIBLE JUDGMENT - LETS BE CLEAR THAT WE ALL HAVE BEEN BITING INTO THE LIE EVER SINCE.

THE MAJOR ISSUE AT THE HEART OF ALL OUR PAIN, ALL OUR SORROR AND ALL OUR SIN AND ACTING OUT IS OUR FAILURE TO BELIEVE THAT GOD MADE US FREE AND THE DEVIL IS ALL ABOUT BONDAGE. IF WE COULD GRASP THIS ONE REALITY - FREEDOM IN CHRIST - FREEDOM TO LOVE, TO LIVE, TO FORGIVE, TO MOVE ON, FREEDOM WHEREVER WE ARE WHATEVER WE'VE DONE HOWEVER DIFFICULT OUR LOT IN LIFE. WE ARE IN CHRIST JESUS FREE TO BE - TO THINK - TO HOPE. RESTORED INTO GODS IMAGE FREE. IF WE WOULD BELIEVE THIS WE WOULD THEN BECOME SERVANTS FOR CHRIST TO LIVE AND DIE THAT OTHERS TOO MAY BE SET FREE - RESTORED TO THE IMAME OF GOD.

Satan came to the tree, and as Eve lingered there, he told her: "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil"'(Gen. 3:4, 5, NKJV). If you eat of this tree, you will enter a new sphere of existence. You will have excitement. You will have a thrill that you've never known before. Eve, God is keeping something from you. Here, take the forbidden fruit and eat it.

When Eve, and later Adam, made that choice, they opened a door that God wanted to keep forever closed. It was the doorway to sin, the doorway to suffering, heartache, sickness, and death.

Read Genesis 3:1-3 with Romans 3:23 and Romans 5:12. What do these texts have in common? Describe the ultimate results of sin that plague the entire human race.

At its very core sin is rebellion against God. It leads to separation from God. Since God is the source of life, separation from God leads to death. It also leads to worry, anxiety, sickness, and disease. The suffering in our world is ultimately the result of living on a sin-ravaged planet. This certainly does not mean that every time we suffer or get sick, we have sinned. It does mean that every one of us is affected by living on a sin-ravaged planet.

Read Genesis 3:15; Leviticus 5:5, 6; and John 1:29. What promise did God give Adam and Eve in the Garden after they sinned that would give them hope in their guilt and despair? What service did He initiate in Eden that would point them forward through the centuries to the solution to the sin problem?