

## Chapter 6: Is This the World that God Created?

Many people blame God for all the trouble they see in this world. That suits Satan's purposes just fine. However, it is Satan who is the "prince of the power of the air" (Ephesians 2:2) and the "god of this age" (2Corinthians 4:4) according to the Bible.

The world that God originally created was "very good" (Genesis 1:31). The Garden of Eden, the first home of humanity, had everything Adam and Eve needed – even the "tree of life" which imparted eternal life to the human race (Genesis 2:8-9). At that time there was no pain, suffering or death. And no sin.

- Whether you take the Biblical story of creation literally or figuratively, the Genesis account provides principles that are true either way

Adam and Eve had only one stipulation: they must not eat of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" or else they "shall surely die" (Genesis 2:17). Unfortunately for their descendents (including us), they did so eat and now we do truly die. As a result, they were kicked out of the Garden and into a world dominated by the devil – a world of death (Genesis 3). In addition to imposing the forewarned sentence of death, God further cursed the devil, humanity, and this world (Genesis 3:14-19)

*So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*

*To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."*

*Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return."*

These Scriptures explain all the problems we see in this world – a world that represents the prison to which Adam and Eve and their descendents (us) were sentenced and where the devil, Satan, is the warden. The warning was given, the sin was committed, and the sentence carried out. Justice was served. However, in God's great love and mercy, He sacrificed His own Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for all humanity so they can receive a free ticket out of jail if they so choose (see Chapter 4).

In this prison, the worst of all the curses is that we are separated from God (Isaiah 59:2). A pure, holy, righteous God cannot inhabit a place of sin without destroying it entirely. So we are fortunate that the human race was not totally destroyed and that we all have been given a second chance.

In addition to being separated from God, the above account in Genesis shows us why the world is the way it is:

- There will be ongoing, perpetual strife (enmity) between Satan and humanity. The Bible tells us that he comes only to "steal, kill and destroy" (John 10:10). Fortunately that verse also tells us that Jesus came so that we "*may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*"
- Women are cursed to be more emotional (i.e. "*greatly multiply your sorrow*") and to experience pain in delivering their babies (God's original design was for childbirth to be a painless procedure). And, whereas God created women as "*comparable,*" co-equals (Genesis 2:18), now they are cursed to have their husbands rule over them.
- Men are cursed to toil ground that is now covered with "*thorns and thistles*" whereas in the Garden of Eden there were no weeds and things grew naturally. Men now have to labor hard to put food on the table.

Jesus not only came the first time to pay the penalty for our sins to give us a free ticket to heaven, but He is also coming a second time to fully reclaim the world from the devil and to “make all things new” (Revelation 21:5) – that is, to restore the earth to God’s original design, as described in Isaiah 11:6-9:

*“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. the cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, and the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD.”*

Isaiah 65:25 further adds:

*The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent’s food. they shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain,” says the LORD.*

What does all this mean? First and foremost, that there is no pain, suffering and death. Species will not kill and eat one another. So there will be no fear as well. All that we need will be provided by God the Father through Jesus, who will rule and reign over the restored earth:

*And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” (Revelation 21:3-4)*

*And he (an angel) showed me (the Apostle John) a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb (Jesus). In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. (Revelation 22:1-4)*

It is hard to imagine a world where there is no evil, no crime, no “dog eat dog” competition, no strife, no worries, no disease, no death, no suffering, no “survival of the fittest.” But that’s what awaits those who accept Jesus’ offer of forgiveness and eternal life with Him.

For example:

- We will all become vegetarians. While it is okay to eat meat in this world (Genesis 9:3), God originally created all living creatures to dine on the fruit of the plants and trees, not on each other
- Germs will become extinct – they are part of the curse used by Satan to afflict us
- Poisonous snakes and insects will either be modified to become harmless
- There will be no “handicapped” or homosexual people – God never intended for anyone to be born this way
- Everyone will joyfully adhere to the Ten Commandments

What happens to those who refuse Jesus’ free offer?

*He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” (Revelation 21:7-8)*

*And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:13)*

*And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night” (Rev. 14:11)*