

MAKING THE RIGHT DECISION!

Genesis 1:1

The first verse of the Bible informs us that God created the heavens and the earth.

Have you ever wondered what God was doing before He created the universe?

Although the Bible does not give us detailed information on all of God's mysteries, there are some clues on this subject that we will be exploring this morning.

Deuteronomy 29:29 says: "The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, (...)"

What was there before the creation of the Universe?

1. God was there.

Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning, and the End, the First and the Last."

Isaiah 40:28 "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable."

a) God is Spirit

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

b) God is three in one.

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

2. God created heavenly beings before He created humans

The Bible talks about the existence of heavenly beings, who are part of God's creation.

God spoke to Job saying:

Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. . . when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy? (Job 38: 4,7).

The term "sons of God" is one of the many designations for angels, as the Book of Job earlier states in **chapter 1:6** "One day the "sons of God" came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them."

Let's have a look at a few passages where angelic beings are mentioned starting in Genesis:

Genesis 3:1

As we can clearly see, the serpent was not a serpent as we know it, it did not belong in the animal kingdom, it was a supernatural being.

There are different types of heavenly beings mentioned throughout the entire Bible.

a) Angels:

Psalm 91:11

For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.

Psalm 103:20

Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word.

b) Seraphim:

Isaiah 6:2-3

2 Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

c) Archangels or chief Angels:

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.

Jude 9

9 Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

d) Cherubim:

Ezekiel 10:5 "And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard even in the outer court, like the voice of Almighty God when He speaks."

e) The four living creatures:

Revelation 4:6-9; Ezekiel 1:12-20

f) Fallen Angels:

Revelation 12:9

So, the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness for the judgment of the great day;

Ephesians 6:12 "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

g) Demons or unclean spirits:

Mark 3:11

11 And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God."

Luke 11:14 And He was casting out a demon, and it was mute. So it was, when the demon had gone out, that the mute spoke; and the multitudes marvelled.

By now, it is obvious that some of these supernatural beings are with God, and at His service, but others are evil and in opposition to God.

Did God create evil beings?

No, He did not create evil beings. God created all the heavenly beings, but He did not create them evil. They were given free will like all of us. If they are evil, it's because they have chosen to become evil.

How did these heavenly beings become evil?

To answer that question, I will have to talk about the original sin.

The original transgression was pride, not murder, not immorality, but pride.

There are spiritual principles given by the Lord God which are universal. They apply in every realm, in any area of the universe at any given time.

Proverbs 16:5 Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; (...)

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

This spiritual principle is stated by Jesus Himself.

Matthew 23:12

And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Humility is a decision of the will, it's not an emotion. It originates in the will, it's a decision expressed in action.

The first occasion that we see this principle at work is when the original sin was committed, and it happened before humans were created.

Ezekiel 28:12-15

(...)

"You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold.

The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.

14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers;

I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God;

You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

15 You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

This first transgression took place in Heaven, not on earth. It was committed by a Cherubim, not a human being.

Isaiah 14:12-14

12 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!

How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations!

13 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'

This Cherubim, Lucifer was not satisfied with his position as a created being under the authority of God Almighty. He thought that he had the right to equality with God. And so, he was lifted in pride, and he began to promote rebellion amongst other angels against God.

Jesus referred to this moment in time when he said to his disciples:

Luke 10:18

18 And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.

Notice that when Satan came to deceive Eve, he tried to awaken the same twisted desire in her heart. **Genesis 3:4-5 Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. 5 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."**

Unfortunately, his deceptive strategy worked for both Adam and Eve.

They could have made a different decision. They were free to choose. It's like today, people are free to make their own decisions.

The Bible mentions two kings who were singled out by their pride. **King Nebuchadnezzar and King Herod.**

King Nebuchadnezzar experienced first-hand the fact that those who walk in pride face opposition from God. When he came to his senses he said:

Daniel 4:37

37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

Another very proud ruler, King Herod, experienced similar radical consequences in the days of the early church. **Acts 12:21-23**

The Apostle Paul gave us a little glimpse of the culture that would be prevalent in the last days.

2 Timothy 3:1-5

At times we all tend to think higher of ourselves than we should.

Romans 12:3

The apostle Paul knew very well the dangers of pride. He wrote:

Ephesians 2:8-9, Galatians 6:14

Jesus gave us the perfect example of self-humbling.

Philippians 2:8-11

How can we protect our hearts from the dangers of pride? We need to make 3 important decisions:

1. The decision to choose humility.

Micah 6:8, Psalm 25:9, Proverbs 22:4, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6

2. The decision to guard our mind.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

3. The decision to submit to God.

James 4:7 "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you"