

Could it be that God created both good and evil?

The other day someone, in dead earnest, asked me this very interesting question. Could it be that God created both good and evil? My immediate response was, NO! Absolutely not. However, an answer to a serious question from a genuine enquirer should never just be brushed off as silly. The question has been asked and one should out of respect answer the question appropriately.

Once, many years ago, while I was at Bible college, one of my fellow students asked a bold question about the validity of a certain doctrine which he had heard preached somewhere. The lecturer seemed shocked by the question and immediately brushed it off as ridiculous. So, the valid question was never answered properly.

Afterwards when the students were alone, this particular student said, "The lecturer is brushing this off because he does not know." It ended up that the brushing off of this question convinced that particular student that the particular doctrine that he had referred to was correct, and he ended up resigning as a pastor and became involved with a group who adhered to that doctrine. The result was that that student went completely off the rails into false teachings. I took note of that for myself and decided that I would never just brush off people's questions, as ridiculous as they may seem. If I don't know the answer, then I will research until I can give a decent answer of truth.

And so, in this case, the question might seem ridiculous, but let us take an honest look at the question and answer it with respect to the person who asked it.

Is it possible for God to have created both good and evil?

Light and darkness

Well, firstly, Good and evil are described in many ways. One of them is that it is like light and darkness. Jesus says of Himself that He is the *light of the world*. Evil is likened to darkness. So, starting here, we know that light can be measured.

The full spectrum of light in its various facets are all measurable sources of energy, each part including its own powerful life-giving power. On the other hand, darkness cannot be measured. You cannot make darkness less or more, dark. Darkness is simply the absence of light, and therefore it is a “nothing”.

No energy or life can proceed out of darkness. One therefore cannot create a “nothing”. As soon as an act of creation takes place, something is formed, whatever that something might be. But when there is a “nothing”, it means that no act of creation was performed. God cannot create a “nothing”.

The Scripture says that out of darkness (a nothing) He created light. (1Cor 4:6) Therefore as soon as God spoke, “**Let there be light**”, darkness disappeared. Darkness and light cannot exist in the same space together.

Truth and lies

Again, we find Jesus describing Himself as *TRUTH*. On the other hand, Jesus refers to the devil as a *liar and the father of lies*.

Now truth is something substantial. If I look at the beautiful creation around me, I see substance – beautiful substance – where the entire creation is a marvel of diversity of species – flowers and plants and animals and insects, minerals and chemicals – all put together in such a marvellous way that scientists have spent several thousands of years trying to discover all its secrets; yet are still a long way off knowing it all. Truth is substance. Truth tells me what things are like and how they work. Truth also describes spiritual foundations and principles, such as the power of love and kindness in the building of relationships in marriages and families and nations.

On the other hand, lies have no substance. It makes a statement that is not true – it has no substance. A lie might be coloured in with clever scientific words and made to look so right, yet, when the lie is put to the test, it is found to have no factual base.

In a court of law, the accused will be cross-examined from every side in order to find out if the accused is speaking the truth or if he is lying. Witnesses will be called in to confirm or disclaim any statements that the accused is making in his defence. This is done in the knowledge that a lie cannot stand up to the truth. It will always fall before a truth because a lie has no substance. A lie can therefore not be created. A lie is simply a false statement which has no substance. When truth is declared, the lie is shown for what it is – a lie with no substance. Like darkness falls away when light is shone, so the lie disappears when truth is spoken. Just as light has power over darkness, so truth has power over a lie.

Therefore God, who is the embodiment of truth, cannot lie, and therefore cannot create a lie. When God speaks, it is always truth, and it is powerful and everlasting. Truth never fades or becomes antiquated.

Humility and pride

Again, when God revealed Himself to Moses, He said, “I am who I am”. He does not exalt himself. The angels exalt Him. We exalt Him, but He does not exalt Himself. He cannot exalt Himself because there is nothing higher than God. He cannot become more holy because He is already the perfection of holiness, so holy, in fact, that He warned Moses that no man can see Him and live.

So any attempt at exaltation (pride) as the devil did in wanting to be equal to God is in effect a lie. It is stating something that is not true. The Scripture says clearly that God cannot lie. Therefore pride, like a lie, is a nothing. And a “nothing” cannot be created.

A free choice

The devil, angels and mankind were all made perfect and beautiful, but each was given a free choice. The devil and the fallen angels made choices to move away from the perfection of light and beauty in which they were created, just as man was created in the image of God but chose to disobey. God did not create disobedience because He is God and absolutely holy and perfect. In Him there is no darkness or shifting shadow or lying. His creative words flowed from the beauty and perfection that He is. If He had to “create” evil, it would make Him evil, and that He is not.

The answer

So, the answer is NO! God only created good. The devil and fallen angels and mankind through their own free choice of disobedience stepped out of the light into the darkness of nothingness, and in that darkness, there is no future except for

a faith response to God's perfect love and grace reaching out to us to lift us out of the darkness. Again, our response is our choice.

I hope that helps. There are many Scriptures which can be quoted here, but I felt that this brief answer should be sufficient as it describes the principles behind the answer. Darkness is a nothing and therefore cannot be created, and all Satan's deeds are described to be deeds of darkness. In Contrast, God is good and love and holy and perfect in ALL His ways.