

The Life and Teachings of Jesus 13

The Day God Created Freewill

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Did you know that freewill is something God created? You may have never thought of it that way, but the ability to choose is possessed by only a few in all of creation. I am talking about of all the things God created, very few of those things were created with a freewill. The title of this lesson is ***The Day God Created Freewill.***

Some think free will is not created. But the Ecclesiastes 1:9 says, “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.” Who invented walking, flying, and talking? These are ingenious creations designed by God. Some confuse limbs with function. But some have legs and cannot walk. Some have wings and cannot fly. Some limit God’s creation to only the material creation. But God created the spiritual, as well as kinetic and static energy. Everything, from things to behavior, are creations/inventions of God.

This series of lessons about the life and teachings of Jesus is a chronological overview of Jesus’ life through the Gospels. Up to this point, we have been focused on the identity of Christ prior to His birth as presented in the Gospel of John. We have also touched on several relevant topics related to who Jesus is. This lesson is a related topic. But I want to remind us of the context of our lesson for this evening by listing the topics covered so far in our series.

The fourteen main topics have been about:

1. Jesus the word of God
2. Jesus is the Creator and beginning of all things
3. Jesus is not the Creator of sin and suffering. He is the solution.
4. Jesus is the light of humanity and the source of truth. Nothing to hide. No reason to conceal. He is proud of His work. He loves His work. As He said every day of creation, it is good. Why would He want to hide it?
5. Jesus is the only choice for truth and the best in your life.
6. Jesus is the light that sets us free.
7. Jesus enlightens us with truth. Light makes information possible, and from information we gain understanding and make decisions. God uses light as a metaphor to compare the importance of knowledge gained from light with the importance of learning God’s message.
8. Jesus gives life with His light. The life in Christ is shown by the light of Christ in us. The truth shall set you free.
9. Jesus is God manifested in the flesh
10. Jesus must be God, or we are eternally doomed
11. Jesus’s light is rejected by most

12. Jesus is the Savior of the world today, and Judge tomorrow
13. Jesus came with witnesses proclaiming His identity
14. Jesus desires all to be saved.

Believing is a choice

Our previous lesson concluded with the question, Are you prepared to meet Jesus as your Savior? I discussed the importance of choosing to believe in Christ. Believing in Christ is a personal choice made possible by God-given faith to believe in His loving promise to save you and to believe His will is the only will that is right for your life. It is a choice to believe in the true Jesus, the way, the truth, and the life as God reveals and confirms to you. It is a choice you are free to make, a free will choice.

I emphasized that believing is a choice we must make. Believing is not a choice God makes for us. He desires for us to choose Him. He desires for us to choose life. He desires for us to receive His blessings. His will is that we be saved. But He will not force that decision on us. Rather, He has chosen to give us the choice. His will is that we choose.

During creation, He already created all things that had no choice. The earth does what God tells it to do. He created the laws that govern its behavior, and the earth has no choice. It does not possess the ability to choose. Rocks never sin. They always do God's will. They have no freewill, conscience, or sense of morality. The trees have no freewill to choose. Animals have no freewill. Bacteria have no freewill. It was not until the last day of creation that God created freewill. He called that creation, Adam. This set mankind apart from all other things created.

This freewill also made mankind accountable to choose truth or to choose the consequences. It is no secret that humanity chooses sin, and the consequences follow. Unfortunately for the rest of creation, the earth, the trees, the animals, and bacteria, they suffer because of the sin choices by humanity. But their suffering is temporary. Paul wrote in Romans 8:19–22, "For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected [the same] in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now."

Their suffering of creation is due to the introduction of sin into creation, which causes disruption of God's original design for order and bliss. Creation will be restored when God restores His children. Unlike the children of God, creation will not be restored by choice because it had no choice to sin. Creation does not possess the ability to choose. And so its restoration is beholden to the choices of humanity and of God.

Angels created in perfection

To be more accurate about sin in creation, we have to include another group of freewill beings. There are two distinguishable entities in creation with the ability to choose sin and to choose to do that which is contrary to the will of God. The first group consists of the angels. The second group consists of humanity.

As I develop the lesson on angels, I want to keep our context in mind. We are talking about belief, which is a freewill choice, which both man and angels are capable of.

Though angels have a freewill as does humanity, the angels are different from humanity. They began as did Adam. They were created perfect in every way, just like Adam.

Consider what the Lord prophetically said in Ezekiel 28:12–19 about Lucifer, now known as Satan. “Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone [was] thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou [art] the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee [so]: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou [wast] perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

Lucifer was the chief cherubim of the angels. He began in perfection, but then he chose sin.

Ezekiel 28:16–19 explain his downfall. “By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never [shalt] thou [be] any more.”

In contrast, humanity, other than Adam, is born in iniquity. King David wrote in Ps 51:5, “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.” We begin in sin. The angels began in perfection without sin, as did Adam.

When angels were created

When were the angels created? The Bible does not tell us specifically when God created the angels, but He does tell us He created heaven and earth on day one.

Genesis 1:1-5 say, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that [it was] good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.”

I believe that God created the angels sometime during the first six day of the creation week. I believe this because Exodus 20:11 says, “For [in] six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them [is], and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.” Everything was made in six days of the first week of creation.

Day one is a reasonable choice for the moment angels were created due to the creation of heaven. But this heaven is not the heaven of God’s dwelling. Spiritual heaven is the dwelling of God, and God has been dwelling in spiritual heaven forever. In other words, spiritual heaven has no beginning. It did not need to be created. The angels and mansions that are added into spiritual heaven were created.

If spiritual heaven was not created, then Genesis 1:1 is speaking of physical creation. Some might wonder about Paul’s reference to the third heaven in 2Co 12:2, “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.” According to Paul’s statement, spiritual heaven is the third

heaven. This is not referring to the spiritual heaven as the third in the creation order. This is referring to it as being one of three heavens. There are two physical heavens, and one spiritual.

In the beginning, God created heaven and earth. Heaven in this verse refers to the space surrounding earth. There was no atmosphere. There was just a ball of water, called earth, and space around it. That space surrounding earth is called heaven.

On day two, God made the physical heavens as we know them now by separating the waters of earth with a firmament. Genesis 1:6–8 say, “And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which [were] under the firmament from the waters which [were] above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.”

This heaven was divided into two parts. The first heaven is the atmosphere held to the surface of the earth by gravity, which supplied the oxygen for the trees created on day three. On day four, the second heaven, we call outer space, was filled with the sun, the moon, and the stars.

I am describing the creation of the three heavens to give us context for the creation of angels. It is possible they were created on day one because of reference to the creation of heaven. We associate angels with heaven. But they are associated more with the third heaven, spiritual heaven, than the physical heavens.

So is there another day that is better suited for the creation of angels? How about day six? Day six is the day God created the freewill agent named Adam. After having created everything that had no free will, it was a perfect time to create things that possessed freewill. That would be Adam and the angels. Day six would be the day God created freewill. It was freewill day.

Some might wonder whether God would create both the angels and man on the same day? Why not? He created all the land-dwelling animals on the same day as man. Why could He not create the angels too? It only took God a moment to say, Let there be, and it was done. It did not take God 24 hours to create Adam. It took less than 5 seconds to say the words.

Though Adam may have been created on the same day as the angels, he was different. Though angels possess freewill like man and appear in human form when seen, Adam was not an angel according to Heb 2:9, which says, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Jesus was made human, not angelic. Ps 8:5 says, “For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.” To be human is to be lower than the angels. Hebrews 10:5 quotes Jesus, saying, “Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me.”

Some may be thinking Jesus is also called the angel of the Lord. This is true because *angel* means messenger. Jesus was the angel of the Lord because He is the messenger from God. He is the message and the Word of God. But He is not as the created angels. Hebrews 1:4 says, “Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.” Hebrews 1:7–8 say, “And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. But unto the Son [he saith], Thy throne, O God, [is] for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness [is] the sceptre of thy kingdom.” and 1Ti 3:16 says, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

A couple more distinctions that separate Adam from angels are mentioned in Genesis 2:7 speaking of his creation, saying, “And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his

nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” Adam was made with the dust of the earth. He is physical as well as spiritual.

And unlike the angels, Adam was made in two versions: male and female. He could reproduce himself and make Adam copies. This is why Genesis 5:2 says, “Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.” Eve was made from Adam. Adam’s DNA code contained all the information necessary to make a female version of himself. God did not make Eve from scratch. He did not add new genetic information to her. He subtracted information, which is on the Y chromosome, and He gave her a double portion of the X chromosome.

Mt 22:30 says of the angels, “For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.” Angels are not reproductive, there are not male and female versions of angels, and they do not marry.

But they do have freewill, and for that reason, they are included in our lesson. Our sovereign God and Creator, Jesus Christ, created freewill along with all other things He created. He created humanity with the ability to make the choice to believe Him or not, to believe His way is the best way, or not. As our Creator, do you think He might know what is best for you? Do you think His will might be the most important thing you ever discover? If you believe who He really is, you will believe.

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