

**WHY GOD LEFT  
THE DOOR AJAR  
FOR EVIL**

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**July 2014**

**Twin Peaks Conference Center**

# KEY QUESTIONS

- 1. Why does evil have to exist only later to be overcome?**
- 2. What does God win by permitting and then overcoming evil that could not be won any other way?**
- 3. How can it be that God calls people infected by evil—*us*—to join with Him in His war against evil demonic forces?**

## **C. S. Lewis, in *Mere Christianity*:**

**“God created things which had free will. . . . And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having. A world of automata—of creatures that worked like machines—would hardly be worth creating.”**

**C. S. Lewis, in  
*The Screwtape Letters:***

**“The irresistible and the indisputable are two weapons which the very nature of his [God’s] scheme forbids him to use. Merely to override a human will . . . would be for him useless. He cannot ravish. He can only woo.”**

# KEY THOUGHT:

**The option *not* to love God is what makes our *choice* to love him so deeply meaningful to him and to us.**

# Why Does God WANT to Be Loved?

1 John 4:8: “God *is* love.”

God is self-existent, complete within himself, and doesn't *need* love in the sense of his intrinsically lacking anything. But because He IS love, receiving love aligns with His nature.

**We need a new “-omni” word to clarify what the Bible tells us about the nature of God.**

• **OMNISCIENT** =

Infinite *Intellect*

• **OMNIPOTENT** =

Infinite *Power, Will*

• **OMNISENTIENT** =

Infinite *Emotion,*

Infinite *Ability to Feel Pleasure  
or Repugnance*

# GOD'S OMNISENTIENCE

1. **Ephesians 1:5** speaks of God “**working all things,**” not only according to his will, but according to “**his *pleasure* and will.**”
2. **Ephesians 1:9**: Paul speaks of God’s “**good *pleasure*, which he purposed in Christ.**”
3. **Colossians 1:19**: “**For God was *pleased* to have all his fullness dwell in him [Christ].**”



# GOD'S OMNISENTIENCE (con't.)

4. **Hebrews 12:2** describes God the Son as One who “for the *joy* set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
5. **1 Corinthians 1:21**: ...God was *pleased* through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

# On the Other Side of Divine Emotion

1. **Matthew 23:37** records that Jesus *wept* because of Jerusalem's intransigence.
2. **Ephesians 4:30** -- God the Holy Spirit can be *grieved*
3. **Psalm 2:4-5** – God *derides*, *scoffs at* and rebukes in his *anger* Messiah's opponents

Dozens of other verses warn of deeds and attitudes that arouse God's *wrath*.

# TWO SCENARIOS

- “A”** -- Of the initial number of angels God creates, a minority rebel. God simply overcomes that rebellious minority and is satisfied to leave things as they are.
- “B”** -- Of the initial number of angels God creates, a minority rebel, not realizing that God's totally unexpected way of responding to their rebellion will discredit evil so ignominiously that 100% of any number of finite beings God creates thereafter will remain loyal to him forever!

# **CREATION: GOD'S FOUNDATIONAL PERSUASION**

## **REVELATION 4:11**

**“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”**

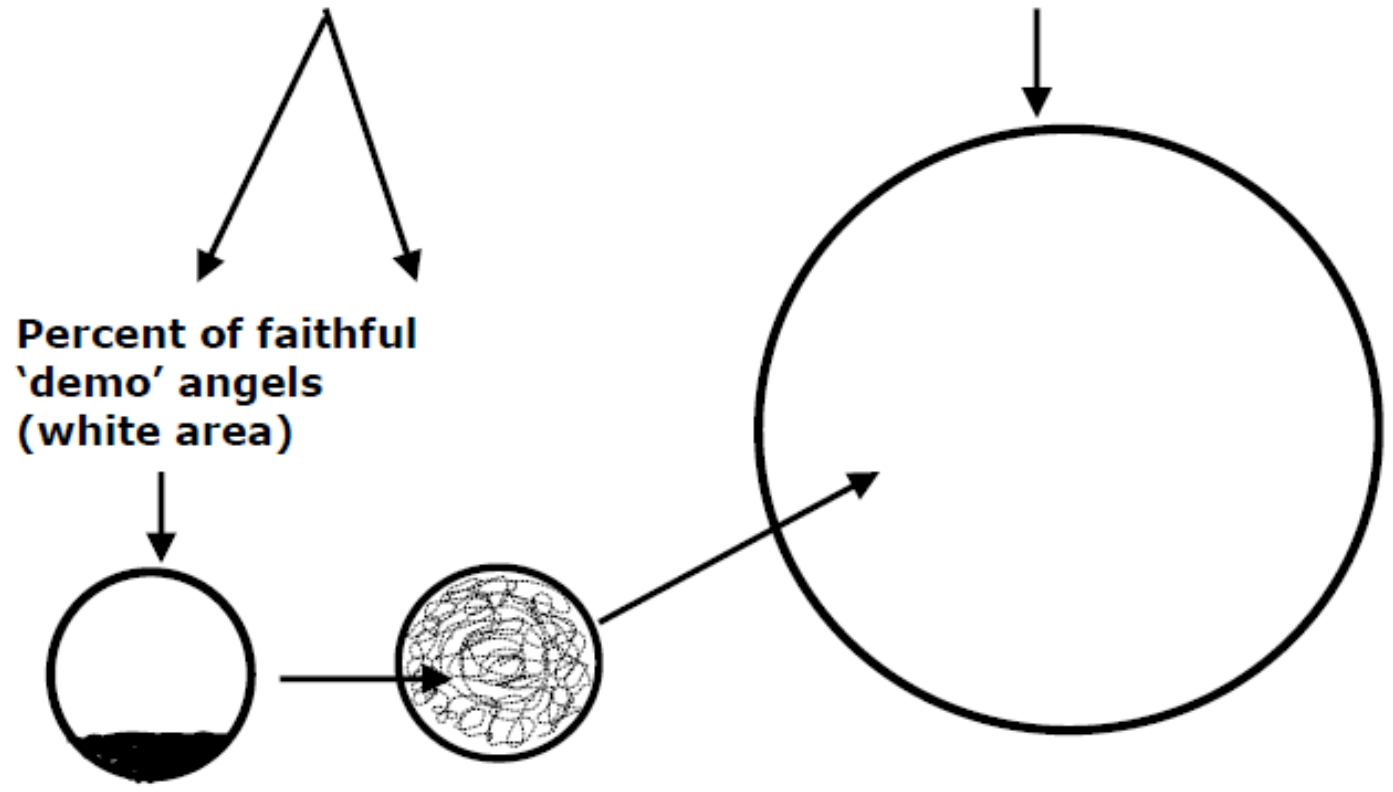
# **REDEMPTION: GOD'S *TRANSCENDENT PERSUASION***

## **REVELATION 5:11-12**

**“I ... heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand... in a loud voice they sang: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise.”**

*Single-poignancy persuasion via creation—  
a “demo run”*

*Double-poignancy persuasion via redemption added to creation  
elicits 100 percent response!*



**Percent of faithful  
'demo' angels  
(white area)**

**Percent of  
angels who  
rebelled in the  
“demo” phase  
(black area)**

**Mankind is infected  
by evil, moderated  
by God at work via  
redemption. Good  
and evil are  
intermixed.**

**The much larger host  
that Paul alludes to in  
Ephesians 3:10.  
RESULT: greater  
numbers with zero  
rebellion against God.**

# God's Long-Term Plan Unveiled

## Ephesians 1:9-10

**And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fullness [thus something new waits to be unveiled, a plan requiring ages to prepare]—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.**

# Why God Is At Work Now

## Ephesians 2:7

...In order that in the coming ages he might show [showcase!] the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

## Ephesians 3:10

[God's] intent was that now, through the church, the *manifold wisdom of God* should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms.



# God's Cosmos-Impacting Purpose

## Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

- Who is the “*man*”?
- What is the “*field*”?
- What is the “*treasure*”?
- What was the “*price*” he willingly paid?

# QUESTIONS for DISCUSSION

- 1. Why does evil have to exist only later to be overcome?**
- 2. What does God win by permitting and then overcoming evil that could not be his any other way?**
- 3. What advantage is it for God to enlist people infected by evil—*us*—to struggle against hidden demonic forces?**