

Human Nature

What is it?

Human Nature What is It?

By Robert G. Theophilus

THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

Did God create a being through which He purposed to reproduce Himself who was evil from the moment of its creation i.e., man. Or, did He rather create a being who was neither evil nor good but with the ability to choose between good and evil? Is human nature Satan's nature in men or the result of decisions freely and knowingly taken by men to do good or evil? Let's see what the Bible tells us on this matter.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression "Holy Ghost" used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 **[Christ]** Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but o to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [\[God’s Son\]](#) might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [\[the glorified Christ\]](#) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

NOTE: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (**bolded** and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

The Worldwide Church of God (WCG) whose Pastor General was Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) taught that what is called human nature is in reality, Satan's nature affecting the thoughts of men through his ability as the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:2) to influence men's minds, both converted and unconverted, through the spirit in man (Job 32:8; 1Co 2:11).

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, **the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**

Job 32:8 But there **is a spirit in man:** and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Many have concluded that man is evil from birth based on the following Scripture:

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

The carnal mind is the mind of all those who are blind to God's truth which is only knowable by revelation. They are those who have not been called.

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world [the unconverted] cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

As per these 2 verses, the Comforter is the Spirit of Truth and this spirit dwelt in human form with the disciples i.e., Christ who after His glorification (see John 7:38-39 quoted below) would be the holy spirit of the God family that would teach all things (John 14:26) to those called by the holy spirit God the Father.

Joh 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Christ first had to die on the stake as the perfect sacrifice for sin and be resurrected to the glory He had with the Father as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman before the holy spirit God the Father could start calling men and remove their spiritual blindness.

If those called accept their calling then the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman becomes responsible for teaching them all things.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

One has to be called by the holy spirit God the Father to begin to know and understand God's spiritual truth.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Since the fall of Adam and Eve most of mankind has yet to be called and therefore remains spiritually blind. This blindness makes it impossible for them to choose to be subject to the law of God as they don't even know it exists.

Another Scripture which is also often quoted to imply and even state outright that man is evil from the time of his birth is the following one:

Jer 17:9 The heart [human mind] is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

This was said by God through Jeremiah after having seen several thousand years of man's existence. God was taken aback by how men were using the mind power and free will given them to do evil. He just doesn't understand why they use their mind power that way.

This verse is not by any means saying or implying that men are inherently evil as this would mean God created a being for the express purpose of reproducing Himself that is in opposition to Him from the time of his birth. Before being called, individuals are spiritually blind and do what they think is right. Once called and chosen, men gradually learn the difference between their personally-devised standards of right and wrong and God's standards. Only then can they begin to use their freedom to choose to follow God's law or not.

And, even once called and chosen, men continue to have to resist the lusts of their flesh and of their mind. According to Christ, it is not the many of those called and chosen that succeed in doing so. The following verse bears this out fully:

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

This verse is talking about newly-converted people starting their new life as members of God's Church. According to this verse, the "many" of those called and converted take the broad way that leads to destruction. The broad way is compromising with the world's way and trying to please God while still maintaining a foot in the world not wanting to completely forsake its ways. As time goes by, this attitude leads them to go completely back into the world and they lose their salvation because one cannot serve two masters.

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Man is not essentially evil from birth. He is indeed subject to Satan's influence but Satan cannot force him to do evil. Until called, he cannot choose to submit to God's law as he is not aware of its existence. He bases his life on his own standards of right and wrong because it is the way that seems right to him.

Pro 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man,
but the end thereof are the ways of death.

This is why, until men are called they are not under judgment as they cannot be held responsible for following a law or obeying a God whose existence is not real to them.

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at
the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end
be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

God's judgment is on those who are in the house of God, the truly converted. Once called and chosen, failure to remain faithful leads to loss of salvation. That is the end of those who obey not the gospel of God.

Man's spiritual blindness is one of the main reason for the existence of this present evil world.

1Jn 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the
world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not
in him.

1Jn 2:16 For **all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and
the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**, is not of the Father,
but is of the world.

1Jn 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof:
but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Other factors are also contributors to the creation of the world we live in and these are mind power, free moral agency and lust.

Mind Power

Of all the animals created by God, only mankind has mind power. At birth, a human baby is incapable of taking care of himself while most animals, shortly after their birth, become able to do so. The physical development of animals is very fast and their brains already contain almost all the information they will need to live out their lives.

The process is quite different for human beings who need to physically grow for many years and acquire over a long period of time the knowledge and skills they will need to maintain themselves alive and live with other human beings. Despite this important shortcoming, human beings have a great advantage over all the other animals created by God and that is that their animal brains have mind power.

The human brain has mind power because of a spirit essence from God that gives it that power. No other animal created by God has it.

Job 32:8 But there is a **spirit in man**: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

1Co 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save **the spirit of man which is in him**? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and **the spirit shall return unto God who gave it**.

This “spirit essence” is in man but is not an integral part of him. It’s like a marble that one would have swallowed. And, it is not a spirit being which at death leaves the body and continues man’s existence and consciousness in another dimension. This spirit essence like the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who come to dwell in man at the time of their calling and conversion are not part of him.

The spirit in man is that intangible, and therefore unknowable to science, element that explains how the human brain though, in very many ways, similar to all other animal brains, is intelligent. It can acquire throughout its life and use vast amounts of information already in existence and originate new information on its own. How the human brain is intelligent will forever escape man’s science which is wholly based on what can be perceived by their physical senses.

Man has a mind similar to God’s mind and this is what makes it possible for God to call men which requires giving him spiritual information inaccessible by his physical senses.

Gen 1:26 And God said, **Let us make man in our image, [with mind power similar to our own]** after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

God also created man with absolute free moral agency and this ability is essential to God’s purpose of reproducing Himself through mankind.

Absolute Free Moral Agency

God gave mankind absolute free moral agency. This means that there is no power on earth or in heaven, including Satan, that can force a man to believe something that is contrary to what he has chosen to believe.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: **therefore choose** life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

In order for men to be able to choose there cannot be any power in existence that can force them to choose something against their will. If there were such a being in existence it would mean that it is more powerful than God. It would also mean that men could not be held responsible for the decisions that they make to do good or evil as their minds would be under the control of this more powerful being.

Without free will or free moral agency, men would be like all the other animals created by God whose existence is for the very greatest part, controlled by instinct.

Why was it essential that mankind have absolute free moral agency?

Because without it, mind power is unnecessary and useless. Animals don't have the ability to choose one course of action over another based on their doing an analysis of a given situation. Their reactions are almost wholly based on instinct with little ability to deviate from courses of action dictated by instinct even if doing so would save their lives.

Animal were not given mind power and free will because God is not reproducing Himself through them. It takes both mind power and free moral agency for humans to be able to acquire God's nature in the resurrection. Mankind was given mind power similar to God and the absolute freedom to choose so they could demonstrate their willingness to obey Him when they are called and to be faithful to their calling.

Luk 19:16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

Luk 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: **because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.**

Of course, it should be understood that the reward of the saved is not to rule over the cities of this world but over the new earth and the new heaven God will create at the end of His plan of salvation for mankind.

Heb 2:6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Heb 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

Heb 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

God will not rule by force over human beings (Rom 8:14). The cities in this parable is a figurative way of saying God's saints will be rewarded in accordance with their works. Christ spoke in parable to the crowds that followed him so they would not understand the spiritual content of what He was saying.

Mat 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Mat 13:11 He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

Mind power and the freedom to make decisions is what makes it possible for men to be individuals and have different and interesting personalities, ideas, points of view, etc. that can be shared, discussed, improved, invalidated, etc. with other human beings. Since, they all relate to the world in basically the same way they are able to fully relate to other men who have the very same abilities.

Upon their resurrection to glorified spirit being, God and the Word will be able to fully relate to their newly-created spirit beings who will have mind power and freedom to think and choose as They do.

Another very important consideration is that free moral agency makes men fully responsible for what they believe and the actions resulting from them. Without it, God would not be able to judge them for the evil that they do if they were controlled by a superior being.

The fact that men are free to choose and must choose is repeated in different words in the following New Testament Scripture:

Rom 8:14 For as many as are **led** by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

At the time of our calling, truth is given us which we must freely decide to believe or not. We have to accept, a knowingly and freely made decision, to be led by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who is the holy spirit being in the God family responsible for teaching all those who have accepted their calling by the holy spirit God the Father.

God will not force us to obey Him nor will He force us to remain faithful after having accepted our calling should we, at some time in the future, decide to go back into the world. Heb 6:4-6 quoted below, and Rom 8:14 we have just read, make that evident.

Heb 6:4 For **it is impossible** for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

Heb 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

Heb 6:6 **If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance**; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Salvation is a personal choice that must be freely, willfully, and knowingly made and this is why man was given to have absolute free moral agency. It is also why Paul says:

2Co 1:24 Not for that we **[apostles and teachers appointed by them]** have dominion **[can impose on you our beliefs]** over your faith **[what you have chosen to believe]**, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.**[You are saved or lost according to what you choose to believe and what you believe is your faith.]**

Those called and chosen remain part of God's Church by their initial and continuing decision to keep on believing, (what we believe is our faith) the truth revealed to them at the time of their calling and subsequently, other truths they learn as they study God's holy Bible.

First, men must make the decision to follow their calling when the holy spirit God the Father calls them and secondly, they must commit themselves to obey God for the rest of their lives by following the lead of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who once they accept their calling becomes responsible for teaching them all things.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

If you have read and understood the preamble to this study, you know and understand that the glorified Christ after His death on the stake, and His glorification and ascension to His father, is the holy spirit that works in the minds of the truly converted to teach them all things. If not, please now take the time to do so.

The Lusts of the Flesh and of the Mind

The Bible tells us that Satan is the power that now works in the children of disobedience.

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

But does that mean that Satan and his demons have the power to impose their will on men as opposed to merely having the power to influence them. If the former were true, then salvation would be impossible as Satan would then be more powerful than God by being able to overcome the absolute free moral agency given by God to man. If Satan could force men to sin against their will, then men could not be held responsible by God for the sins they commit under the overpowering influence of Satan.

Angels, like the men created by God, were given mind power and the freedom to choose so that they, like men, could be held responsible for any sinfulness on their part. Supposing for a moment that Satan is “the” reason why people sin then, why did Lucifer sin since there was no other spirit being or beings then in existence that could influence him to do so?

The Bible tells us that prior to the creation of the angels, only God and

the Word existed and that all things were created by the Word.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Would the temptation for the angels to sin then have come from God or from the Word who was also a God being?

Jas 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

So why did Lucifer and the angels sin and why do men sin?

Jas 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Jas 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Spirit beings like human beings have mind power and the freedom to choose. How do we know? The angels sinned and without mind power and freedom to choose, sin is not possible. The temptation to sin in a human being comes from “his own lust” not from the lust of Satan. Lucifer and the angels sinned because of the lust which mind power and the freedom to choose given them makes possible.

Another important point for us to understand how Lucifer and the angels on the earth with him sinned is that angels, like men, have the capacity to feel emotions and have them influence their decisions. The Bible tells us that spirit beings are capable of fear, wrath and joy which are all emotions.

Job 38:7 When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Mat 8:31 So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine.

Rev 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Lucifer lusted for power; he wanted to have power over God and His creation. God has perfect holy righteous character and cannot be tempted by sin but angels and men don't have this perfect character.

Man's lusting can be for the fulfillment of his physical appetites (food, drink, sex) and also for the satisfying of his non-physical or mental appetites such as the desire for power, prestige, fame, honor, recognition, etc. Of course, this is only a partial listing; there seems to be endless way in which physical and mental lusting can occur.

Lucifer and the angels with him on the earth sinned because of their own lust not because any other being was influencing them to sin. Men, also sin because of their own lust. Satan can influence them to sin but cannot compel or force them to sin against their will as that would mean he has the power to nullify the absolute free moral agency given man by God and would therefore be more powerful than God.

Basically, obedience and disobedience are always a personal choice as it was for Lucifer and the angels, and as it is presently for those called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father. .

Now returning to our examination of Lucifer. How did he come to see himself as capable of overthrowing God and becoming the ruler of His creation? Many attempts have been made to explain Lucifer's downfall and no matter how long and wordy the explanations given may have been, it still remained unclear to most of us, why it happened.

Creating beings with mind power and the absolute freedom to choose meant there was no certainty that these beings would make the right decision of choosing good over evil as defined by God. And so it is, that Lucifer and the angels placed on the earth with him, sinned by refusing to accept to remain under God's authority.

But, the mystery to be elucidated is how were they able to come to the decision that they could overthrow God? Lucifer was at the throne of God and before being placed on the earth, God would surely have told him of the consequences for disobeying Him and also of the reward for obedience. There was a very strong incentive for Lucifer to obey God given he knew his punishment would be for all eternity. Had he not

been given this information God could not have punished him for his disobedience.

As previously mentioned in this study, those who don't know the truth are not under judgment.

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: [who has been given to know the truth] and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them [who know the truth] that obey not the gospel of God?

The world is not now being judged as it does not know God's truth but once it is given to know it, it will come under judgment as those now called and chosen are under judgment.

Lucifer and the angels placed on the earth with him sinned and therefore, knew the truth but what caused them to ignore it?

The mind of God, Angels and Men

As we read through the Bible, we can see that God is not a being of pure logic incapable of emotion. We can also see that God is learning as time goes by. He first created angels, but they sinned and disqualified themselves from being given to rule over the universe under His authority. God created man and was taken by surprise to see how their thoughts became wicked continually and He decided to start over again with other human beings.

Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

God was disappointed with mankind and He destroyed it except Noah and his family with a great deluge. Then God worked with Israel and He became so unhappy with the Israelites that but for Moses' intervention, He would have destroyed them all except Moses.

Exo 32:7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

Exo 32:8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Exo 32:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

Exo 32:10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and **that I may consume them**: and **I will make of thee a great nation.**

God is learning and is capable of emotions which are not logical such as wrath.

God created man in His image (mind power, freedom to choose) and according to His likeness (physical appearance).

Joh 14:9 Jesus saith unto him, **Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father**; and how sayest thou then, **Shew us the Father?**

Men's minds created in the image of God, have a logical and an emotional component. Men, like God, are not creatures of pure logic nor of pure emotions. These two elements are always present and working together in different ways to affect the ultimate decisions we take on different matters as we live out our lives.

Emotions are very strongly felt and it is sometimes very hard to resist taking actions based on them. We have to resist the urge to act immediately and have the patience to wait until we are less emotionally worked up before making a final decision. Easy to say, very hard to do in practice.

Lucifer had a mind similar to that of God and men with the ability to make good and bad decisions and to feel strong emotions that are not logical and which can lead to making bad decisions.

Emotions allow our minds to appreciate/feel a quasi-infinite number of non-logical things such as joy, pride, anger, sadness, being in love, enjoying music, having a sense of humor, appreciating art, etc. Otherwise, our minds would be computer-like and wholly incapable of marveling over a spectacular sunrise, delighting in a great work of art, or simply enjoying the taste of food.

Emotions make our lives more interesting and enjoyable but have to be kept under control because of their ability to cause us to become deluded.

Emotions and Delusion

A delusion is a false belief that cannot be changed by logic as it comes from the emotional side of our minds.

Failing to acknowledge reality as it is i.e., becoming deluded comes from having a great desire to have or do something which the logical part of our mind tells us we cannot have or should not do. At first, the facts are clear but over time, the mind allows itself to ignore certain aspects which tell it, it cannot get what it wants. The mind can then begin to dwell on only those things that it thinks would make it possible for it to achieve what logic tells it can't be done. After a while, we become deluded; we have allowed our emotional mind to overcome the constraints of our logical mind. A practical, physical level example of this process at work is as follows.

A beautiful, late model car is highly desirable for some, especially young people but they are prohibitively expensive for a young man just starting off in life. A rational, clear-headed analysis of the situation leads to the conclusion that such a car is presently unaffordable but the craving for a new car persists. The person then starts to disregard those things which prevent him from getting what he wants and after a while, convinces himself that though buying the car of his dreams appears to be a financial impossibility that somehow things will work themselves out. He gets a loan which strains his financial abilities, purchases the car and after a while, he becomes unable to continue making the payments on it and the car is repossessed by the seller. He allowed his emotional mind to overcome the objections of his logical mind and the result was that he lost both the car and the money he had put into it.

We all have the ability to blind ourselves to certain realities we find unpleasant, or which prevent us from obtaining something we desperately want. This process is a willful one which requires initially, the knowing and willing assent of the mind to begin selectively disregarding certain factors, aspects, conditions, etc. of a situation which show that what is desired is unachievable. Once the process of willful self-deception is begun, the process takes on a life of its own and in time the mind becomes fully convinced it can achieve what it once knew to be impossible. The person has allowed himself to become deluded. He is responsible for having allowed it to happen and bears the consequences of the action taken. This is why we must guard our minds and not make decisions while in an emotional state or while being driven by emotions.

This was the case for Lucifer who allowed his emotions to overcome

the objections of his logical mind. Initially, he was not deluded but after having allowed his mind to falsely reason he became fully self-deceived and bears the responsibility for his actions. Had it not been a willfully taken decision God could not have held him responsible. Note that Satan nor any of the angels were created with a mind hostile to God. Everything God creates is very good. Lucifer and the angels had the freedom to think and make decisions which enabled them to choose to do evil or good. If this were not so, Lucifer nor the angels could have sinned or being held responsible for their sinfulness.

When God created angel beings and then mankind, they were perfect creations.

Gen 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, **it was very good**. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Angels and men were not created with minds hostile to God. Angels had, as the final part of their creation, to knowingly and freely choose whether to obey God or not. This is something they had to do and which God did not want to force on them as doing so would have made them simple extensions of His own mind. God would then have been alone like a man in a room surrounded by the computers he has programmed and whose functioning is fully under his control.

The free moral agency of angels had to be maintained for them to be separate and distinct beings from God able to think their own thoughts and have personality and individuality.

Why would God create beings for the purpose of reproducing Himself and make them hostile to Him from the moment of their creation (Adam and Eve) or from birth in the case of human beings that followed from Adam and Eve?

The answer is that He did not.

God's Test for Angels and Mankind

When Lucifer rose in opposition to God His spiritual creation was complete. His spirit character was forever set in opposition to God. Spirit creation once completed does not change while beings made of matter are constantly changing. Lucifer and 1/3 of the angels had been given the earth as their first estate over which to administer God's government as a test to determine their suitability to take on the bigger responsibility of administering God's government over the whole universe.

The principle is that if one can be faithful in a little, he can be trusted to be faithful when given greater responsibility.

Luk 19:16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

Luk 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: **because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.**

In this parable, Christ is represented by the nobleman who went to a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and return. He told his 10 servants to occupy till he comes i.e., make the pound I gave to each of you grow. At his return, each servant was rewarded according to how much they had made their pound grow. In the parable, their reward was to be given rulership over cities. Of course, the cities mentioned in the parable are a figurative way of saying that the faithful are rewarded according to their works of obedience i.e., in proportion to the efforts they have made in this life to obey God. Recall that Christ spoke in parables to hide the spiritual meaning of what He said to the crowds that followed Him.

Mat 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Mat 13:11 He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

The reward of the saved is not to rule over the cities of this world but over the new earth and the new heaven that will be created at the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

Heb 2:6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Heb 2:7 Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands:

Heb 2:8 Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

Lucifer and the angels that sinned failed God's test of obedience. God then created man and is now subjecting all those He calls and those that are chosen to a test of obedience. Man, to be able to participate in ruling over the new earth and the new heaven that will be created at the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind, has to demonstrate his willingness to obey God.

Now, keeping in mind all that has been examined so far in this study, we can come to an understanding of what is human nature.

Human Nature

All of mankind except those called and chosen are under Satanic deception.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called **the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world:** he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

What is it that Satan deceives them about?

They are deceived about the correct understanding of right and wrong which can only be known by revelation from God.

The present, evil world in which we live (1Jn 2:16) finds its origin in man's inability, on his own, to correctly define right and wrong (Pr 14:12; 16:25).

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Since men, unless called and chosen, are spiritually blind, they cannot "choose" between right and wrong as defined by God. Their definition of right and wrong leads to death.

Pro 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Pro 16:25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

God requires mankind to choose life or death; life for obedience and death for disobedience. All who have never been called will be given this choice during the Millennium and during the Last Great Day. For the

time being, most of mankind remains unconverted and spiritually blind not knowing the true difference between right and wrong.

Without God's revealed truth, men follow their physical lusts and those of their mind not knowing any better. With God's revealed truths, men who follow their calling will try to obey God as best they can and their best will always be imperfect because of the infirmity or limitations of their flesh i.e., the inability to perfectly fulfill a God level spiritual law while a physical being. Truly converted men continue to be sinners though not in willful rebellion against God. They are simply overcome because of their inability to always resist temptation despite their firm intention to obey God and their best efforts to do so.

Human nature is neither essentially evil nor good. It defines itself by the decisions that it makes. All human beings can be good or bad depending on the decisions they make but they can never achieve a God level of goodness nor is it necessary that they do so for salvation.

Men lose their salvation by freely and knowingly choosing not to obey God when called or after having been chosen. Many when called, prefer to stay in the world as for them the immediate gratifications of doing so outweigh the benefits of immortality in God's Kingdom. And, it is also the many who, after having become converted, drift back into the world and lose their salvation.

Human beings' minds have a logical and an emotional component and both are always in effect affecting every decision that are made. If emotions are allowed to rule over us, we can become delusional in our thinking.

And, to complicate matters, men have strong physical and psychological appetites that cry out to be satisfied but which need to be kept under the control of their logical minds not to become lust. Lust is being excessive in the satisfaction of our fleshly and mental appetites which breaks God's law and which is detrimental to others, ourselves or both.

The lusts of the flesh are powerful but the lusts of the mind are even more powerful. The desire for power to dominate others and bend them to our will either as individuals or as nations is perhaps the greatest mind lust of all. It is one of the root cause of conflict between human beings, and the nations of this world. Everyone wants to rule but no one wants to accept to be under the rulership of another.

The Conclusion of the Matter

Mankind was not created evil as everything God creates is very good but man was created with mind power and free moral agency which leaves him free to do good or evil. History has shown that men in their spiritual blindness have had limited success in restraining themselves and have been prone to being quite lustful.

Human nature is not basically, fundamentally or essentially evil and is not Satan's nature in men. Satan can influence men's minds but he cannot force them to do evil as this would take away the free moral agency given mankind by God. Satan would then be more powerful than God.

Human nature is neither essentially good nor bad. It is good or evil to the extent individuals decide or not to control the lusts of their flesh and of their mind.