

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

Overarching Questions:

Why did God not want man to have a knowledge of good and evil? Did the “gods” have a knowledge of good and evil from their creation? Did the devil have a knowledge of good and evil? Does the knowledge of good and evil somehow play a part in man corrupting themselves? Did Adam and Eve know about the “gods?” Did Adam and Eve have eternal life?

The tree of knowledge of good and evil

Genesis 2:9, 15-17: Why did God not want man to have a knowledge of good and evil?
Genesis 2:25 Naked and not ashamed (connection between nakedness and shame)

Temptation and Fall

Genesis 3:1-5 The temptation of Eve by the serpent: (1) Ye shall not surely die, (2) eyes opened, (3) be as gods, knowing good and evil
Genesis 3:6 Good for food, pleasant to eyes, a tree to be desired to make one wise
Genesis 3:7 Eyes of them both were opened and they knew they were naked
Genesis 3:10-11 nakedness
Genesis 3:22-24 Man is become as the gods to know good and evil.
Did Adam and Eve know about the “gods?” Who are these gods? Most likely the heavenly host (both good and evil). Psalm 82:1-8, Psalm 97:7 and Hebrews 1:6, John 10:34-36, I Corinthians 8:4-6

Result of Fall

Genesis 6:5 The thoughts of man’s heart is only evil continually (see also Genesis 8:21). Does the knowledge of good and evil somehow play a part in man corrupting themselves?

Ezekiel 28

Angels

*Angels have a knowledge of good and evil: II Samuel 14:17, 20

Man made lower than the angels: Psalm 8:5

Evil angels: Psalm 78:49

Psalm 103:20 obeying the commandments of the LORD

Psalm 104:4 ministering spirits

Matthew 13:41, 49 separate the wicked from the just in the end of the world

*Hebrews 2:5 The world to come is not subject to angels

II Peter 2:4 God spared not the angels that sinned

II Peter 2:11 greater in power and might than men

Jude 1:6 Angels that sinned

*I Peter 3:22 Angels and authorities subject to Jesus

Satan (appears 49 times in the Holy Bible), means adversary

1st appearance: I Chronicles 21:1-8 Provokes David to number Israel

Psalm 109:6 Let Satan stand at the right hand of the wicked

*Matthew 16:23 he savours not the things that be of God but those that be of men (Savour-to like, delight in, to favor) What does Satan delight in that are things that be of men? Satan likes the fact that dominion was given unto men over all the earth and actually wants it for himself.

Luke 10:18 Jesus saw Satan as lightning fall from heaven

Acts 5:3 Satan causes one to lie to the Holy Ghost

Acts 26:18 Satan has power

Devils (appears 4 times in the OT)

Leviticus 17:7

Deuteronomy 32:17

II Chronicles 11:15

Psalm 106:37

Devil (appears 57 times, only in NT)

*Matthew 4:11 The Temptation of Christ (lust of flesh, eyes, and pride of life)

Matthew 25:41 Everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels

*Luke 4:5-7 The kingdoms of the world are given to the devil

John 8:44 Description of the devil

*I Timothy 3:6 Pride was the condemnation of the devil

Hebrews 2:14 the devil had power over death

I John 3:8 sinneth from the beginning

Ezekiel 28:12-19 and Isaiah 14:12-20 Descriptions of Satan?

Romans 7:5-25

I Timothy 1:8-11 The Law made for the ungodly

Does our knowledge of good and evil corrupt us, or does it give man the potential to corrupt themselves? Is it the pride of life that corrupts us? I John 2:15-17. The LORD hates a proud look (Proverbs 6:16-19).

Other passages that could be helpful

Tree of Life (exact phrase appears 11 times in the Bible)

Physical tree of life with fruit:

Genesis 2:9, 3:22, 3:24, Revelation 2:7

Revelation 22:2, 22:14 compare with Ezekiel 47: 7, 12

Wisdom a tree of life:

Proverbs 3:18 Wisdom a tree of life

Proverbs 11:30 fruit of the righteous is a tree of life

Proverbs 13:12 Desire fulfilled is a tree of life

Proverbs 15:4 Wholesome tongue a tree of life

References to the Garden of Eden

Ezekiel 28:13 been in Eden, the garden of God

Ezekiel 31:9, 16, 18 Trees in Eden

Overarching Questions Answered, kind of:

1. Why did God not want man to have a knowledge of good and evil?

SPECULATION: Because it is what corrupted the “gods” before man was ever created and that knowledge has the potential to corrupt.

It is clear from the Bible that the “gods” were created with a knowledge of good and evil. They were created with this because they had to be given a choice between God and something else, so the LORD put in them the knowledge of both. We know Satan one day on earth sinned in his heart wanting to be like the Most High and exalt his throne above the stars of God. So he eventually chose evil and some of the angels followed him. God recreates the heavens and the earth after judging the original creation by water and creates man without a knowledge of good and evil. The question is why. I think maybe because the LORD saw what that knowledge did to the “gods” and did not want that to happen to man. But the LORD still had to give man a choice between him and evil. So the LORD put the tree in there and told them not to eat it, he also put the tree of life there. The LORD allows Satan to come along and tempt Eve. Satan’s temptation was getting Eve to question God’s word. He got her to that. He got her to wonder why God made them lower than the gods (Psalm 8) and deprived them of wisdom that the gods had that they didn’t have. She then was convinced God was holding out on her, so she ate of the forbidden fruit. O I wish I didn’t have a knowledge of good and evil! It corrupts us doesn’t it?

2. Did the “gods” have a knowledge of good and evil from their creation?

Yes, See 1 Samuel 14:17, 20

3. Did the devil have a knowledge of good and evil?

Yes.

3. Does the knowledge of good and evil somehow play a part in man corrupting themselves?

It appears so, look at human history and read Genesis 6. After they “became wiser” knowing good and evil, they tended only to do evil according to God.

4. Did Adam and Eve know about the “gods?”

Yes. How could the temptation been effective if they didn’t know about the gods? The whole purpose of the temptation was why God was not letting them be like the gods and depriving them of wisdom that the gods had.

5. Did Adam and Eve have eternal life?

No. They had to eat of the tree of life to receive eternal life. Read Genesis 3.