

Today is Decision Time

We're in an era of unprecedented upheaval. Some ignore it. But observant people see a world filled with hate, greed, social strife, incessant war, abuses, hollow solutions, greed, loneliness, uncertainty about the future, and palpable fear—and it's getting worse. Even our planet seems on the brink of disaster. The world is unwinding.

In contrast, when we look at the less-corrupted stunning beauty of the earth, as well as the meticulous balance and complexity of life, we grasp a crucial truth: Our world isn't an accident. It was created. We can deduce that the original creation was even more awe-inspiring than it is today. It can teach us about our Creator's regal nature.

When the Creator made this majestic universe and earth, he also made living creatures. He made humans to be in relationship with him as part of his divine family. His intention was for us to enjoy an abundant, purpose-filled life. Unfortunately, that "Eden" came to an abrupt end.

What happened?

Since our Creator does not seek robot-like relationships, he gave us freedom. At the center of this freedom is our choice to accept or reject him.

Unfortunately, the first humans decided to reject a loyal relationship with their Creator. Instead, they elected to follow a deceit-inspired quest to become god-like themselves. This vain pursuit still plagues us. The result is pain, death, and evil.

Our compassionate Creator lives outside of time constraints. He knew we would betray him, so with his creation plan, he built-in a solution. Thankfully, he provided us with the way to be reinstated into his divine family.

Sadly, restoration into his family comes at an unbelievably high price; it required our Creator's own life. His sacrificial death demonstrates the depth of his love for us. If there had been another way, he would have taken it. This was the only way to remedy the problem we created.

Our Creator, Jesus Christ of the Bible, supernaturally became human, lived a perfect life, and died in our place. His act liberated us. It satisfied his commitment to honest justice, and it gives us the opportunity to rejoin his family.

Now, as with the first humans, we have a choice. We can choose to let our Creator begin the restoration process and enjoy the vibrant, creative, fearless life he intends for us. Or, we can reject his sacrificial gift, follow the old path, pretend we are gods and try to self-help our way out.

A review of world history shows us how well the 'self-help' method works. It has never succeeded for nations, nor individuals. Look at us. Humanity is not getting better. The human race is broken. We need to admit it; we can't fix ourselves.

Advances in genetic engineering, biotechnology, psychology, and social programs, will not restore the goodness lost when we turned our back on our Creator. It's gone.

We need to extricate ourselves from the swamps of utopian science and Darwinian macroevolution. Evil can't be 'engineered' out of us.

When we wear blinders and limit reality to the natural world, we fail to observe evidence of the spiritual realm. Evidence abounds; we were made by a Creator who loves us. We need to stop avoiding this truth.

Today, objective science confirms that there was an intelligence behind creation. Still, those who cling to old science, the deniers, are afraid to acknowledge a Creator. Why? It's because it suggests what they want to avoid. Accountability.

So, what can we do? The truth is, we can't *do* anything. We can't fix the problem. But thankfully, our Creator is willing to do that for us.

There is only one solution. Jesus is the only way out. If there had been another remedy, he would not have made the ultimate sacrifice of giving his life to fix our problem.

Today is Decision Time (continued)

Vital for us, Jesus didn't die a sacrificial death and stay in the grave. He did die a literal death, but his creative power is so great that he conquered both death and our problem. He brought himself back to life, visited with 500+ people, and then returned to heaven. Today, he gives us the way to be restored into a loving relationship with him.

Pride and rebellion have always been core issues. This is what severed our relationship, ruined our DNA, brought death, and damaged our planet.

Thankfully, there is a *good news* aspect to this story. But first, we need to clarify a common misconception. *Judgement Day* is not when our Creator puts our life on a cosmic scale to see if it tips more toward *good* rather than *bad*. Our problem is far deeper than that.

We can't fix our problem, but our Creator is willing to fix it for us – we just need to let him. Today, we have the choice to accept or reject his help. On Judgement Day, he will acknowledge our decision.

We can't avoid the choice. In this life, we make the yes/no decision to accept his free gift. Indecision or inaction is just another way to say "no."

Something else we can't ignore is that hell is real, and it's not just a place of fiery torment. It is separation from our Creator, a place of perpetual loneliness, where hope, goodness, and joy are forever lost. It's a place of unquenchable regret.

Occupants of hell understand that they could have had a vibrant life for eternity. They could have enjoyed the source of love, creativity and beauty, but their ego and pride blocked the path.

Today, we have a choice. But on Judgement Day, it will be too late.

Just as a responsible parent wants their child to have a good life, Jesus wants that for us. So today, he gives us the opportunity to live with him forever as a part of his divine family. It's our choice.

He wants to show us how to experience a fearless, vibrant life today. And, he offers us an eternity filled with purpose, hope, love, and faith in him as our trustworthy, caring Creator.

This isn't religion. It's an offer of relationship.

In the classic sci-fi movie, *The Matrix*, the choice was to take either a 'pill' that maintained delusion, or one that exposed the truth and real life. For us it's a similar decision. Which do you choose?

It may sound impossible, but once we accept his gift, he transforms our life into a new creation. We start a fresh new life and can enjoy a close relationship with our Creator. This new life includes forgiveness for our failures, no matter how great, and the opportunity to revel in a jubilant purpose-filled eternity.

We don't need to dread the day that our earthly body will die. We needn't fear death when it's a transition to life in the presence of our Creator. Does this sound too good to be true? It's not.

Consider this, too. We don't know if we will have another opportunity to accept our Creator's gift of eternal life with him. So, today is decision time. Today may be your last chance to decide.

Which will you choose? Red or blue?

Acceptance: Talk to your Creator. He's listening. Tell him you don't want to be rebellious toward him and acknowledge that you have failed to live up to his standards. Ask for forgiveness, and tell him you want to be restored into his family. When you do this, he will do the rest. You don't need to jump through additional hoops. You will immediately have a restored relationship with him.

If you are sincere, you will want to share your decision with others; it's the loving thing to do. And you will want to get to know your Creator. He gave us the Holy Bible to help us understand more. Divinely inspired, it teaches us about our Creator and his relationship with us. Start by reading the sections; "Luke" (a physician who lived in Jesus' era) and "John" (a disciple of Jesus).

Fact Check: Websites such as AllAboutGod.com, and Bible resources such as Biblia.com, are available to verify this information. Newer translations of the Bible, such as the "*New Living Translation*" (easy to read) and the "*English Standard Version*" (more precise), provide added clarity.