

The Simple Argument for Human Immortality

I will try to make this presentation as transparent and uncluttered as possible. When viewed candidly, the concept of human immortality is beyond human comprehension; but there is, as a sort of favor from God, an elusive simplicity on which we mental peons can focus and get what spiritual nourishment is in it.

There are only three kinds of rational beings in the universe (that is, unless and until the space scientists discover that elusive life form they think is somewhere “out there”). God is the first and foremost class of rational beings. The angels are second and mankind is third. In our search for a logical reason for the concept of human immortality, let’s examine all three classes:

1. God

Everyone who believes there is a God assumes that God is immortal. But perhaps we need to shore up that belief. First off, what records do we have of God’s origins? What is His lineage; where is His place of birth? Who begot Him? In Gen. 1:1 we read:



“In the beginning God created the heaven

[heavens- RSV] and the earth.” This gives us a modicum of information about the beginning of creation, but reveals nothing about the origin of God. However, John 1:1 states: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

If we are discerning readers of the Bible we may get a clue to this puzzle in the fact that the Scriptures state only that God WAS. It is as though they were saying there was no starting place for the Being of God. He simply exists from forever to forever.

The same principle holds true for the phrase of Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning.” Admittedly, it is a vague phrase, but it is apparently pointing us back to as far as our minds can go. Because of the inability of finite minds to conceptualize fully the unscrolling of time and all that is before time back to forever, the Scriptures merely use the phrase, “In the beginning.” Paul gives us an assist in Col. 1:17 (RSV) in which he informs us that “he [Christ] is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”

If Christ is before all things, He is necessarily eternal as there could have been nothing and no one who could have created Him: He existed before any theoretical creator. But if Paul is indeed referring to Christ in this passage, and if Christ did exist before all things, then He must coexist from eternity with God who is said to have “been in the beginning.” This should tell us something about the co-identity of God and Christ.

At this point we are sure that not only is God immortal, but He alone is uniquely eternal or existing *from* forever *to* forever. You may get more data on the subject by reading the book, *One Believer's Thoughts on Various*

2. Angels

Angels are created beings. They are the messengers and the representations of God's Being and power. Like men, they all were originally pure and innocent and they will never cease to exist. Jude 6. Unlike men, however, they are spirits untrammelled by a body of flesh. They do not have physical bodies except as they assume them in dealing with humans. Also unlike men, they do not now have access to the freedom and perils of being free moral agents.

In the fourteenth chapter of Isaiah, we can get an idea of what the two choices were that God gave the angels. Consider this scriptural indictment of Lucifer:

"How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! ...You said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." Isa 14:12-14 NIV.

Later, when God presented Adam with the choice of serving God or not, God had said, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Gen 2:17. The choice was simple; the command was clear: You may eat or not eat. Adam failed his test and death immediately began its work in him.

In the choice given to Lucifer and the entire host of angels, we can assume from the scripture quoted above that God had said that they should not ascend the "sacred mountain." They should not try to be equal with God. The choice was simple; the command was clear (as we infer from the Scriptures): "You may attempt to ascend or not ascend the mountain [there has never been a time when anyone, man or angel, could actually become equal with or superior to God], but, if you do, you shall die."

The choice the angels made at that fateful

moment was irreversible. We do not know all of God's reasons for doing what He does, but it seems that their choice was made once for all because they had a much greater knowledge of God than Adam (man) had when he was created. The angels had seen firsthand the power and majesty of God in creation. They were closely associated with Him and were aware of the sacred mountain that God "inhabited," the place where He chose to focus His mighty Being. It was the place where the ineffable Godhead spoke from His almighty triune Self and said, "Let us make man..." Adam, in his time of decision, was granted grace to make mistakes and be forgiven because of his extremely limited knowledge of his Creator. The much fuller knowledge of God the angels had made their decision irrevocable. There was no reason nor room for error.

Out of this momentous time of decision came two separate camps consisting respectively of the host of good angels and the legion of fallen angels under the leadership of Satan who was known as Lucifer prior to his defection.

Lucifer and all the angels he rallied around him failed their test: they rebelled against God. The end result is eternal perdition for the fallen



GOTCHA!

This fellow is NOT Satan or Lucifer or anyone real. He is only the product of an artist's imagination.

angels and present chaos in the lives of individual men and women. This temporal result affects all men whether they have availed themselves of the salvation of God or not.

"It is not because of the grace of God that fallen angels are not immediately cast into the lake of fire, which is their final destination. Angels do not know grace. The horrible, evil creatures who

were formerly pure and upright, are allowed to operate with relative freedom because they serve a purpose. They perform a refining and purifying work in the children of God, and God will extract from these grudging demons all the glory and honor they have never intended to give Him.” (AJS)

Angels, good and bad, are eternal creatures even as humans are. Also, as it is with humans, their final destination depends on whether they are good or evil. Angels have already made that choice irrevocably. The good shall dwell in the blessed realms of heaven and the evil shall be cast into the lake of fire forever.

3. Man

God, through Christ, created man (male and female) in the person of Adam. Ephesians 3:9b; Col. 1:16. Man was created upright and pure, but he “sought out many inventions [devices]” (Ecc 7:29) that were contrary to the will of God. Adam made the first catastrophic move contrary to what God desired in the Garden of Eden. Thereafter



there has been a continuing estrangement of man from God. The only exceptions have been the instances in which individual men have received the salvation of God by faith in Jesus Christ who is “*God [Himself] uniquely begotten*” as Jesus the Son of God.

God had decreed at one point in time:

“Let us make man in our image, after our

likeness...” Gen. 1:26a.

Here began a long, arduous journey for man. It would stretch from the moment of his pure and ingenuous beginning through a mountain of sins that reached to heaven’s portals and it would finally culminate in man’s completed likeness to God. Only the love of God could endure such “contradiction” of sinners against His holy Self and still bear with him, *hoping against hope (a limited human term the better to express how God the Father waited and longed for His Son Jesus to be born)* for the final redemption of man.

If God extended such a love to mankind, it had to stretch back into perpetuity. That is how long God knew man in God’s “mind” and it is also how long God loved man. This was not a love that began with the making of man; it was a forever love. It is a love that has been extant for as long as there has been a God – from the eternal “past” to the eternal “future.”

There are two factors that confirm this assertion: 1) God is love, and 2) God is omniscient or all-knowing. I have noted in previous writings that God’s knowledge is static, unchanging. What He knows now in the year 2007 He has always known. It seems scripturally logical therefore that God has always known His love for man, before He ever sculpted man out of the clay of the earth.

A Logical Conclusion

Surely, surely, a God so omniscient and so loving did not create man on whom He lavished His infinite love, only to have man around for a few vaporous years and then see him go the way of the lower animals into oblivion. There has to be an eternity of living (not just existence; sinful men and fallen angels will exist forever) for this creature on whom God set His love ***FOREVERMORE.*** ∞