

Kids ask higher-power questions

Emily wants to know, "When did God and forever start?"

You are right in saying God has existed "forever" and have noticed something important — if God has existed forever, when did "forever" start?

Saying God has existed forever does not mean He has existed for a really, really, really long time. What we are saying is God has always existed. Have



KIDS
wanna know

David
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you ever heard the story of Moses and the burning bush? In Exodus chapter 3, God tells Moses he is going to be used to set God's people free from slavery in Egypt. God says, "Tell them, 'I am sent me.'" (verse 14)

Now being the smart girl you are, I know you noticed "I am" doesn't fit in that sentence. That's because God is using it to describe himself; it's his name. You see, God is the only one who has always existed. He doesn't say He "was" their God. He doesn't say He "will be" their God. He says he "is" their God, always has been and always will be.

See, just as God created the world, He also created time. Have you heard the story of creation? You can find it in Genesis chapter 1. What is the first thing God

HEY KIDS!

Do you have a question about God or the Bible?
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Look for David Zimmerman's column the second week of the month in the *Lake Wylie Pilot*.

created? Light and darkness. What did He call the light? Day. What did He call the darkness? Night. God created time. In a way, this is when "forever" started or when time began. Since time is something God created, He is not limited to it any more than He is limited to anything else He has created.

God can exist outside of time because He created time. He existed before time. He will exist after time. That's how He can exist forever. He is "I am."

Cole wants to know, "Why did God make the Devil?"

What a great question! You've noticed something important — that God made the Devil. Sometimes we think the world is in the middle of a fight between God and the Devil, like two classmates fighting on the playground. That is not the way the Bible describes the Devil.

Have you heard the stories about how Jesus dealt with demons while He was on earth? In one story (in Mark 1:21-28) Jesus was in the middle of teaching when a demon stood up to interrupt him. All Jesus

had to do was give this demon an order to leave and the demon did exactly that. Colossians 1:16 reminds us that God made everything, even the most powerful things like the Devil. Because God created everything, He is stronger than everything. That means God is stronger than the Devil. Even though the Devil might fight God, God is always in charge. Even the Devil has to do what God says.

This brings us to your question, like a question from one of God's prophets, Habakkuk (yes, it's a hard name to pronounce). He was living in a time when it seemed like everything bad was going on. He wanted to know why God would allow all these bad things to happen. God answered Habakkuk's question. God told him that He was going to punish them for the bad stuff they were doing. God was going to send some people who were even worse to punish those bad people.

That gave Habakkuk another question: How can God use bad people to punish other people? That didn't seem fair to

Habakkuk. In a way, this is like your question, just like God used bad people in Habakkuk's day, how can God use the Devil? God's answer: I will punish those people as well.

Even though God used them to punish other people, they will not escape punishment for their wrongs. You might not think it fair for God to punish people like this but just because they did something right doesn't make up for the other wrong things they have done. The same thing is true about the Devil. One day, God will finally defeat the Devil and punish him for all the evil he has done.

But why create the Devil in the first place? Honestly, I don't know. God doesn't tell us in the Bible. At the end of God's answer to Habakkuk, He doesn't give him a clear answer either. He simply asks us to trust Him (in chapter 2 verses 4 and 20).

I don't know why God created the Devil, but I do know God is still in charge, and the Devil will one day be punished for the evil he has done. Because God is so strong and fair, I think he deserves my trust. I hope you will trust him, too, even if I can't answer all your questions.

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