

LESSON # 32
HARD QUESTIONS SERIES
“WHAT ABOUT EVIL?”

If God is good, why is there evil in the world?

The key to understanding the problem of evil is to understand that things are not the way that God initially created them or intended for them to be. Without a proper understanding of the “Fall of Humanity” we cannot fully understand the plan of salvation.

(I) MAN BEFORE THE FALL

- A. People were created in innocence and upright.
 - 1. Ecc. 7:29; Gen 3:8-13

- B. People had unseparated fellowship with God.
 - 1. Gen 2:15-17, 3:8-13
 - 2. The separation we see testifies to our sinfulness.

- C. People were given the earth to rule.
 - 1. Gen. 2:19-20 (denotes ownership)

- D. People were created in the image of God.
 - 1. Gen. 1:26, 6:9
 - 2. I Cor. 11:7; Ja. 3:9

- E. What is the image of God?
 - 1. Moral resemblance and sharing of the unique divine attributes.
 - a. In so much as man surpasses animals.
 - b. Capacity for justice and compassion, for love and hate.
 - c. Ability to relate to the past, present and future.
 - d. Ability to need to establish long meaningful relationships.
 - e. Ability to communicate and "philosophize."
 - f. Ability to choose, ability to create.

(II) THE FALL AND ORIGINAL SIN

The “fall” is the term used for when Adam and Eve our ancestors, who sinned and rebelled against God

Question: Why do we suffer the sin they committed?

- A. Eve listened to Satan rather than God.
 - 1. She set her will against God.
 - a. The will is a "free" thing affected by the mind, the soul, and the spirit.
 - 2. "Aspiration" is a key word to understanding the fall.
 - 3. We should notice the Scripture twisting going on.

- B. Total **Depravity**.
 - 1. Everything in us fell; mind, body, emotions, spiritual capacity.
 - 2. The appetites of the flesh became lust.
 - 3. The will is now in bondage to Satan.
(Rom. 6:6)
 - 4. Man ceases to become upright and became a sinner.
 - 5. Inability to do good (spiritually).
 - 6. Gen. 6:5; Job 14:4, 15:14-15; Isa. 1:5-6; Jer. 3:33, 17:9; Rom. 3:10-18;

(III) DEATH AND FALL

- A. Death did not exist before the fall.
- B. What did Adam and Eve see when their eyes were "opened?" (Gen. 3:7)
- C. A drastic change occurred in man's relationship with animals.
- D. Sickness enters into the scene.
- E. Hate, suspicion, murder, extended through ALL creation.
- F. “Cursed” is the ground (Genesis 3:17. There was a fundamental change in the ‘nature’ order and beauty of the Creation.

Mark Heard calls it “the pain that plagues creation.” We await for the redemption of heaven and earth, with the joy of eternal joys. Someday everything will be restored!

(IV) THE “FALL” BROUGHT SIN INTO THE WORLD AND EFFECTED ALL OF CREATION

A) Don Stewart gives eight responses to the question of evil in the world.

1) We Live In A Fallen World / Paradise Lost

The Bible recognizes that evil does exist. We live in a world that has fallen into sin.

2) God Is Not Responsible For Evil

Evil came as a result from the choice of humanity - not God. By giving humans choice there was the possibility to choose evil. You cannot give people free choice and then prevent them from choosing.

3) God Allows Evil To Exist By His Permission

Although we do not understand why He permits evil in every instance, we know that it only exists because He allows it. Evil cannot ultimately overcome.

4) God Can Overrule Evil For Good

We find that God overrules wickedness for the good. In the account of Joseph in the Book of Genesis, we are told that his brothers sold him into slavery - thinking they would never see him again. By God's grace, Joseph became a ruler of all Egypt

5) Evil Is Not Logical

Evil by definition, is not logical. It is random. Therefore we should not expect it to operate in a righteous way

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6) When People Break God's Laws, It Will Have Consequences

“Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow” Galatians 6:7

We cannot break the law of God without suffering the consequences

7) God's Is Involved in Solving The Problem Of Evil

God is directly involved in the problem of evil. Jesus, God's Son, came to die to deal with the problem of evil. He died on Calvary's cross to free humanity from pain and suffering, sin and death. Someday there will be a world when all these things will be non-existent.

Luke 18:7-8

And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

8) There Is An Age To Come When Evil Will Be Done Away With

Evil will not win in the end

Revelation 21:4-5 (He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

SUMMARY:

Sin, rebellion against God resulted in a universe that felt all of the effects. Sin will be done away with and God will rule in peace for ever and ever!

Even so Come Quickly Lord Jesus!

