



Are God and Evil Meant to Coexist?

**Isaiah 5:20:(NASB) *Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness;
Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!***



For most of us, it is simple. God is good; Satan is evil. They fight. God wins. God destroys Satan and all evil with him. It is simple and reassuring until we think a little more deeply about it. Where did evil actually come from? If God created all things then He must have created evil - why would He do that? If God wins the battle between good and evil and then destroys evil, would He be destroying one of His own creations? If God truly is stronger than evil, then we need to ask if God is even paying attention because one look around our world and it is obvious that evil is handily winning. Are God and evil really a compatible pair - opposites that need each other to exist? Could God ever truly destroy evil, or is the destiny of our world and our universe to be subject to both?

 **The big question, *Can God and Evil Coexist?* *OneMinuteApologist***

- *Andrew, can God and evil coexist?*
- *That's a very tough question. For some, it can. You have a loving Creator, and you have all this evil and suffering. How could they coexist together? And so it is a very tough question. I think we have to look at that God did create us, and He does love us and love is mutual. And so, you have the Creator of the Universe who created love and goodness, but love is mutual and so we do have free will to choose to love Him and others, meaning we can choose not to. And I think that's where you see evil and a loving Creator.*

Did this answer the question? Not really...

We answer the question, "Are God and evil meant to coexist?" as "yes," but maybe not in the way you think. We believe the principles of good and evil are inherent in the creative genius of God. The existence of evil *as a principle* makes righteousness valuable and life sacred.

Lucifer (Satan) was the first being to take that principle of evil and convert it into action and therefore consequence:

Isaiah 14:13-14: (NASB) ¹³*But you said in your heart, I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God... I will make myself like the Most High.*

The door now opens for sin. He did not say, "I would LIKE to be like the Most High." He said *I will make myself like the Most High*. There was more than the thought; the principle became action. This is where it all started.

We will review six "woes" given to Israel in Isaiah and use their principles to define God and evil. There were literal punishments given to Israel for each woe, but there is a future application for us. These are models for how God deals with evil and will eventually put it in its proper place.



WOE #1: The Sin of Covetousness

Isaiah 5:8-10: (NASB) ⁸*Woe to those who add house to house and join field to field, until there is no more room, so that you have to live alone in the midst of the land!*

This is to those seeking to knock out the competition, becoming a land baron at the expense of others. What about Job being blessed with abundance? Was he in error? No, there is a difference between God

blessing you with abundance in Old Testament times and what this describes. This woe is about overriding and overpowering others to get more, which is wrong.

In a lot of church systems, the abundance many preachers have reminds us of this woe in Isaiah. Prosperity is gained on the backs of the poor who are told to give and give until they have no more to give.

The consequence:

⁹*In my ears the LORD of hosts has sworn, Surely, many houses shall become desolate, even great and fine ones, without occupants. ¹⁰For ten acres of vineyard will yield only one bath of wine, and a homer of seed will yield but an ephah of grain.*

WOE

RESULT



For man, evil was a powerful and unused principle:

Genesis 2:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶*The LORD God commanded the man, saying, From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; ¹⁷but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.*

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil - the principle of evil was created before man got to the Garden. God said do not use it, do not touch it. God planted the principle of evil in the Garden of Eden.



Quora

(Source: Quoting Quora.com - Are God and Evil Meant to Coexist?) Paul: In his lectures on the Philosophy of Religion...Hegel gave his unique perspective on the Garden of Eden myth. Hegel compared Genesis 3:4-5 (the word of the serpent) with Genesis 3:22 (the word of God), and he notes that they said THE SAME THING. Why, then, call the serpent the "Deceiver"? How could he be, if God says exactly the same thing, word for word? So, there is an underground story going on there. In Hegel's view, God tricked Adam and Eve - in order to get FREE WILL working in the world. Like a jump start.

Were God and the serpent working together? No.

Genesis 3:4-5: (NASB) *⁴The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, **knowing good and evil.***



Compare to:

Genesis 3:22: (NASB) *Then the LORD God said, Behold, the man has become like one of Us, **knowing good and evil**; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.*

Lucifer was granted oversight of the Garden. (**Ezekiel 28:14**) He subverted the will of God with that responsibility; he was now against God. He used the truth of God as a way to sell Adam and Eve a lie. Satan plagiarized the word of God and slandered His will - they were not working together. God knew it would happen and allowed it. *Evil now becomes more than just a principle; it is now in practice.*

As an example of this sin of covetousness, Lucifer wanted control to take over what God had created.

WOE

RESULT

SOLUTION!



The solution is taught here:

Micah 4:4: (NASB) *Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

This is a prophecy of the future of a contented world where evil is not being practiced *but yet it will still be a principle.*



The principle of evil became the practice of evil. Does God just let it run wild and rule the earth?

Because God is the God of eternity, He acts in accordance with eternal good. The experience of sin and evil would be allowed to develop on many levels and in many ways, but in each and every case God would govern it, and when appropriate, stop it when any form of evil comes to full maturity.

If we do not understand the idea of God stopping things at appropriate times, we do not understand the relationship between God and evil.

Quora (Source: Quoting from Quora.com - Are God and Evil Meant to Coexist?)
Dick: God did not create evil. Evil exists as a consequence of God's existence. Since God is absolute good, the opposite attribute to good also exists, but only conceptually. The concept does not have power until it is personified by beings (whether angels or humans). It is at that point that evil becomes a problem. So the only way for God to destroy evil would be to destroy Himself. Since He can't do that He will do the next best thing. He will ultimately isolate evil in hell (created for Satan and his angels).

On that last sentence, note the idea of hellfire and eternal torment is not taught in Scripture; it is a created myth in many cultures. (Please go to ChristianQuestions.com and search "hell" for many previous podcast episodes on this topic.)

"The concept does not have power until it is personified by beings..." - we would challenge that. The concept of evil had power in the Garden as "Here is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, so do not touch it." There is power in the fact that the knowledge of good and evil was supposed to be out of humankind's reach at that time. It is important to see how God uses evil as a tool to bring it to an end eventually.



Woe #2: The Sin of Shamelessness

Isaiah 5:11-14: (NASB) ¹¹Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink, who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them! ¹²Their banquets are accompanied by lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute, and by wine; but they do not pay attention to the deeds of the LORD, nor do they consider the work of His hands.

There is nothing wrong with celebrating, but when life's sole objective is to party instead of paying attention to the deeds of the Lord, these are considered shameless acts before God. Remember, these woes were given to the nation of Israel. They had God's laws and prophets yet still did these things. They knew better.



WOE



RESULT



The consequence:

¹³Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge; and their honorable men are famished, and their multitude is parched with thirst. ¹⁴Therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat and opened its mouth without measure; and Jerusalem's splendor, her multitude, her din of revelry and the jubilant within her, descend into it.

Their honorable men are famished, and their multitude is parched with thirst - We get the sense of economic disaster. Sheol has enlarged its throat - Sheol is the Hebrew word for “hell,” meaning death, being buried or covered over. In other words, “You know better; death will follow you.” These acts are not profitable.

Some people say, “God must not mind evil so much because He lets it reign in the world.” It is not yet time for God to rule with an iron rod. He gives evil a chance to be witnessed and experienced. Now that it is in practice and no longer just a principle, it is as if He says, “Now see where that gets you.” These are eternal lessons and His plans take time.

Other worldviews, *Did God Create Evil?* Southern Seminary

- *I like to point out at this point, other worldviews have much worse problems with the very same question. Put it this way: why is there any evil in the world? Or maybe we could even say it this way: other worldviews can't even make a distinction between evil and good, because their worldview really doesn't permit it. So for instance, many Eastern worldviews refer to evil as an illusion. And in a way what this does is belittles people who are suffering mightily, or indeed, it doesn't make a good thing any different from an evil thing. Atheists face the same problem; they may be able to say, “I don't believe that is a good thing,” or “That's a bad thing,” but their worldview doesn't give them a way to fundamentally ground that other than a mystery.*

Again, no clear solution is provided in this audio clip either.



Let's go back to the trajectory of evil in the human experience and God's mastery over it. This will show us a pattern and hint as to how to understand how God deals with evil.

Right from the entrance of sin into human experience a promise of God's favor was established:

Genesis 3:15: (NASB) *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.*

This was a veiled promise that Satan would meet with destruction because of the deception he executed. Satan was responsible for giving evil the opportunity to become a practice and not just a principle.

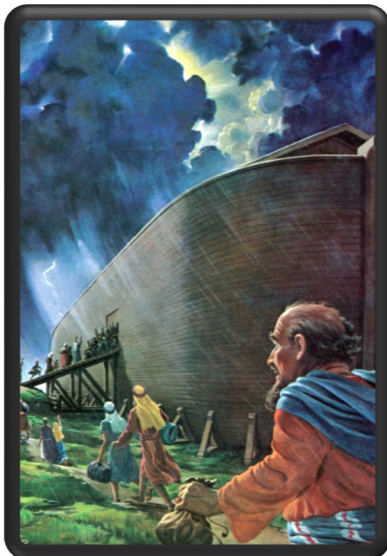
Evil as a principle being practiced was allowed to grow after Adam's sin and it took a terrible turn:

Genesis 6:1-2: (NASB) *¹Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, ²that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose.*

1600 years have passed since Genesis 3. Fallen angels, those who followed Lucifer, materialized and mated with women. Angels breeding with humans apparently created giant mutants that were not creations of God. This was a hybrid that did not belong and evil increased exponentially. This was the reason for the Flood. Satan tried to hijack our race!

God acted to preserve the integrity of humanity by finding the one man who could deliver the race:

Genesis 6:7-9: (NASB) *⁷The LORD said, I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them. ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD. ⁹These are the records of the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.*



God found Noah, a very righteous man in an unrighteous time, to preserve the integrity of His original creation. God took drastic measures to wipe out that co-mingling and creation that did not belong. This is proof that God overrides evil. He wiped out all evidence of that hybrid race that did not belong. This was necessary to give the human race opportunity to still navigate through evil with an eventual end.

God's garden promise of favor restored from Genesis 3:15 was first fulfilled prophetically by Noah, one faithful man. He saved the world by being righteous, a picture or foreshadowing of Jesus delivering the human race, the ultimate deliverance.

God overrides evil but does not interfere with it altogether. God's kingdom is a future event; we must be patient and wait for it to unfold.



WOE

RESULT

SOLUTION!



Psalms 2:7-9: (NASB) ⁷I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, You are My son, today I have begotten you. ⁸Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as your inheritance, and the very ends of the earth as your possession. ⁹You shall break them with a rod of iron, you shall shatter them like earthenware.

I will surely give the nations as your inheritance - but the nations are sinful! Evil will have to be taken out. Governmental systems will have to be taken down to be replaced by something righteous and godly. The Psalm assures us that God will ultimately and forever override evil as a practice.



If we are going to talk about good and evil and God and evil, you have to put on your "prophecy binoculars" to see way out into the future.

**Years have passed from the Flood to today.
How else did God's plan subvert evil along the way?**

There are a myriad of details involved when you are putting an eternal plan into place. Each step must be specific, dynamic and permanent so the end result of God's mastery over evil will be unmistakably seen as specific, dynamic and permanent. There will be no room for doubt!

Quora (Source: Quoting Quora.com - Are God and Evil Meant to Coexist?) Isaac: But you asked my opinion. Well, I'd think that any god that did exist must be rather comfortable with what we humans call evil, since there is so very much of it in the world. Or maybe the god just doesn't give a **** either way; there is no guarantee that we aren't the cosmic equivalent of mold, growing on a planet that was left to sit for too long.



It is a common thought that either God must be comfortable with evil or He is not strong enough to do anything about it.

Parenting

EXAMPLE

We cannot fathom the concept of eternity. Look at the times your kids may be going off track a little bit and you have to deal with things you do not necessarily like but are willing to tolerate in order to get through the lessons of those things. Those things take time. It is the same with the human race. God is parenting the human race, allowing the rebellion to take its time and go through what it needs to go through.



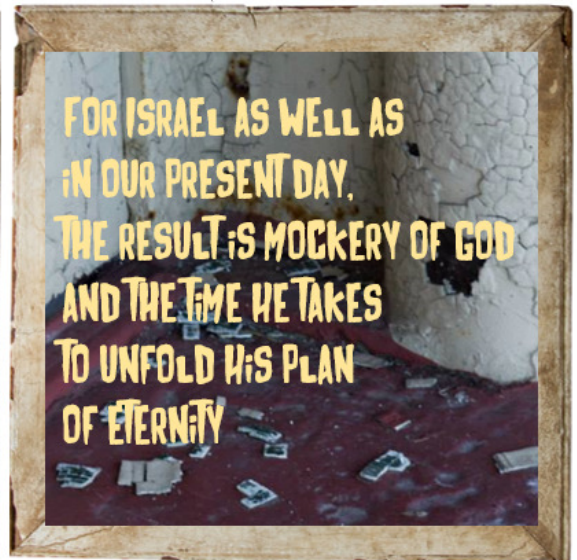
Woe #3: The Sin of Godless Irresponsibility.

Isaiah 5:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸Woe to those who drag iniquity (perversity, depravity) with the cords of falsehood, and sin as if with cart ropes;

Dragging perversity along with you has the idea of being wrong, hypocritical, sinful. You put in the cart what you want to keep with you, dragging sin along as with ropes. Look around in our godless world to see this Scripture coming true!

WOE

RESULT



¹⁹Who say, Let Him make speed, let Him hasten His work, that we may see it; and let the purpose of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come to pass, that we may know it!

These individuals who drag depravity with these cords of falsehood say sarcastically, "Let God show Himself and we will follow His will." This is different from sincere individuals who are looking for how to know God. People say, "If He could just tell me what I am supposed to do, it would be so much easier." That is different; a sincere looking but not knowing how to find. The woe is about mockery said to make Christians look foolish and God a target for sarcasm.



 Conflict of goodness and power, *Greg Koukl, Did God Create Evil?*
STRvideos

- It appears that there is a conflict between God’s goodness and God’s power. If He was good He’d want to get rid of all evil in the world, and if He is powerful He’d be able to, but evil exists and, therefore, He’s either not good or He’s not powerful. And I think there is a misunderstanding here. I actually don’t think it has anything to do with power, and it has something to do with goodness but in a different type of fashion. God created a certain kind of world. He created a world in which there were morally free creatures. Now I think that’s a good thing. I think this reflects that God is an all-wise God. It is a good thing in the world to have creatures that are morally free, as opposed to animals for whom morality doesn’t apply at all. Creatures can’t be bad, but they can’t be good either. So, it’s kind of a push there. Nothing good comes of this. Human beings can be bad, and they can be good. There is a possibility for great evil, but there’s a potential for great good when you have moral freedom. Now, here’s the catch: power has nothing to do with the problem of evil, given that scenario.*

“Power has nothing to do with the problem of evil...” This is an important point. God *does* have the power to wipe it all out but chooses not to *because of the morality learning experience*. It is the same principle as parenting. If you helicopter over your children, doing everything for them, not letting them fall, learn how to lose, learn how to make an effort, they will never grow up. God is not a helicopter parent. He is giving humanity ample time and effort to understand evil once and for all eternity. That is creative genius!

Thus far we have a pattern of a promise which will defeat evil as a principle being practiced. This pattern continued and God chose the next individual after Noah to be the father of the lineage that would ultimately fulfill the plan.

Notice the requirements for being a conduit for the subduing of evil:

Genesis 12:1-3: (NASB) *Now the LORD said to Abram, Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you;*

Leave all that is familiar and follow strict guidance, and what you are given will become generational. Abram was given a monumental task - leave everything you know and follow God.

²*And I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great;*

“...And you will receive personal and family blessings by following My guidance.” Blessings required obedience. The blessed nation would be necessary to subdue evil. God had to put a process in place.

And so you shall be a blessing;

“You and your posterity will pass that blessing on to others.”

³*And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.*



This promise includes everyone - every man, woman and child who ever lived! That includes the humanity wiped out in the Flood and those that died while God was dealing with His chosen people who did not even know about Him.

By staying focused on following God’s will the whole of humanity will benefit. *This blessing ends up being the subduing of evil in every form of its practice.* This is what the plan of God is all about - subduing evil once and for all for every generation.

What about the concept of a museum? For example, the Holocaust was a world-changing experience and there was great wisdom for future generations in setting up a Memorial such as the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland. There are many lessons to be learned from this dark experience. People can remember what evils and atrocities took place; the darkness of the time is embedded in visitors’ minds so it will not be forgotten. We believe the principle of evil will be memorialized in a similar way. God will take the *practice* out but the *principle* will remain. “Remember the pain and suffering? That was evil.”



Care must be taken in following as there are examples of “Christianity” that are really not:

Philippians 3:17-20: (NASB) ¹⁷*Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.* ¹⁸*For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,* ¹⁹*whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.* ²⁰*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;*



In our battle against evil individually, we have to be aware there are those who claim to be following after Christ but their end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. Be aware and walk away from such examples. We need to follow godly righteousness and nothing else.

Speaker icon) Paperclip and power, Greg Koukl, Did God Create Evil? STRvideos

- *I was in the Ukraine earlier this year, and I was teaching a bunch of Christians on some of these issues. We were talking about the problem of evil. And there's a big burly guy in the front of the room, his name is Vitale. I said, "Vitale, come on up here. I've got a paperclip. You're a big strong guy, bend this paperclip into a square." So, he grabbed the paperclip and of course he did a good job of bending it into a square. I said, "Okay, now bend this paperclip into a circle." That was a little more difficult, but he worked with it for a little while and we got kind of the resemblance of a circle. I said, "Fine you did it. Okay, now I want you to bend it into a square circle." Of course he couldn't do that. He paused and said, "This is silly." I said, "Why not? You're a big strong guy, aren't you?" The point is here there are some problems or some issues or some things that we're confronted with that are not susceptible to power to solve, because they're a different kind of problem.*

God is not now exerting His power to solve the problem of evil in the world; He is working in a different way.

WOE

RESULT

SOLUTION!



Daniel 12:2: (Rotherham) *And many of the sleepers in the dusty ground shall awake these (shall be) to age-abiding life, but those, to reproach and age-abiding abhorrence;*

Zechariah 8:23: (NASB) *Thus says the LORD of hosts, In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.*

This gives a sense of accountability.



The subversion of evil is a growing process - from people to a family to a nation. What's next?

If the average person could only grasp two things, they would be able to see hope much more clearly. First, the plan of God is eternal. It, by definition, needs ample time to develop. Be patient. Second, subverting evil as a practice is a process that needs to be tested and proven at every level - the heights of government to the dark alleys of the world. Be hopeful! God is building the “subversion of evil” machinery starting with individuals (Noah), to a family (Abraham and descendants) to a nation (Israel).

Quora (Source: Quoting Quora.com - Are God and Evil Meant to Coexist?) Tim: God gives you free will. Evil exists because mankind fails to choose good over evil. Life is the endless opportunity to choose: good over evil; right over wrong; kindness and patience over anger; goodwill over envy; temperance over gluttony; generosity over greed; love over lust; humility over pride; and activity over sloth. In doing so, you show God your true measure.

God’s sense of free will is being used for a time within the context of evil temporarily reigning. Once the lesson is learned, it can be applied forever.



Woe #4: The Sin of Godless Morality

Isaiah 5:20: (NASB) Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

WOE

RESULT





Galatians 6:8: (NASB) *For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

If we sow to human desire, thought, opinion and feeling, we will reap those things. These are born in sin, so the result will not be good.

The promise of God's favor which will defeat evil as a principle being practiced now develops into a written Law given to the chosen lineage in Israel. They are blessed collectively.

Psalms 1:1-2: (NASB) *How blessed is the man... (whose) ²...delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night.*

In a world that loves to do evil, we find our solace by delighting in God.

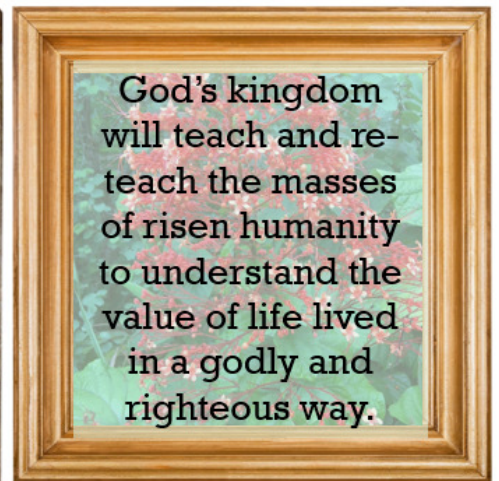
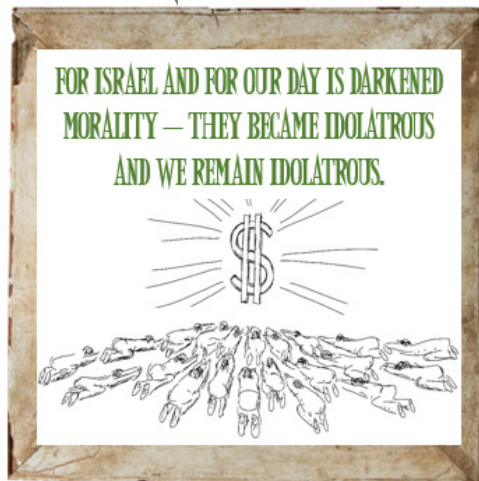
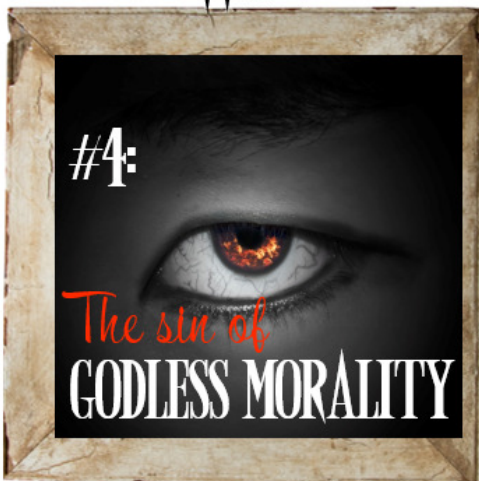
Paperclip conclusion, Greg Koukl, Did God Create Evil? STRvideos

- *God is all powerful. That means He has all the power He needs to do anything that power can do, but there are some problems that power can't solve, and this is one of them. Could God, through power, remove all evil from the world today? Sure, that would be easy, but what He'd have to do is He'd have to destroy something good, and that means He'd have to destroy morally-free creatures. Because moral freedom just is the possibility to do evil or good. You cannot create a morally-free creature that has no possibility of going south on you. This is not possible. It's like a square circle. Power has nothing to do with it.*

WOE

RESULT

SOLUTION!



Isaiah 11:9: (NASB) *They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

In the Bible, *mountains* are often used symbolically to picture governments. When God's government is put in place, *They will not hurt or destroy*, implying morality will be put in place. The knowledge of God will be everywhere, therefore morality will be able to exist. The experience of evil now will provide the contrast between God's way of goodness and Satan's way of pain.



Quora

(Source: Quoting Quora.com - Are God and Evil Meant to Coexist?)
Chris: If you are speaking about God, as in the God of the Bible, then one could argue He created evil, and if that's too much to handle, then He let evil grow and flourish without cutting it down like a weed which He could have easily done and, by the way, could still do. Yet, He doesn't. So, I would argue that God and Evil not only can co-exist, but that God is quite comfortable with His old friend, the Devil.

This is a classic judgment where because we do not physically see God overcoming evil, we assume He just does not care about it. What makes me the barometer for judging God based on my personal experience rather than His eternal plan?

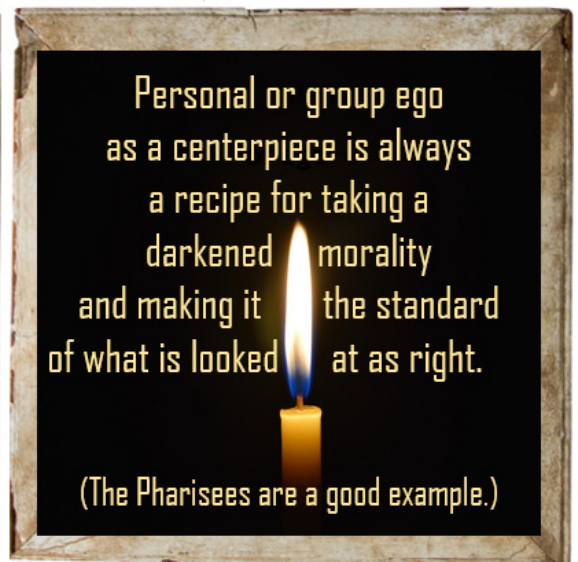


Woe #5: The Sin of the Idolatry of Ego

Isaiah 5:21: (NASB) *Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!*

WOE

RESULT



This sin of the idolatry of ego is not necessarily only personal ego; it can be the ego of a group as well. "Me, my friends and everyone who agrees with me is right and everyone else is wrong. Too bad for them!"

The Pharisees had Jesus in front of them and could not get past their own group ego, "We are the ones in charge. Who does he think he is?"



You can miss big things when you are stuck in pride:

Proverbs 16:18: (NASB) *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before stumbling.*

Pride is part of evil.

The promise of God’s favor and His defeating evil as a principle being practiced was completely displayed in the sacrifice of Jesus. He FULFILLED the Law and earned the right to ransom Adam.

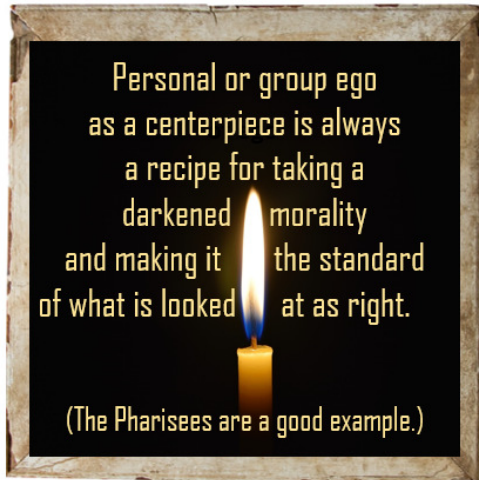
Hebrews 12:2: (NASB) *Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Jesus had enlightened morality and selfless discipline without ego.

WOE

RESULT

SOLUTION!



Zechariah 8:21-22: (NASB) ²¹*The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go.* ²²*So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.*

The end result is everyone nationwide wanting to go together to be blessed by God.

SIN IN PRACTICE **to be** ERADICATED

Veiled promise of hope to Eve

Human race saved through Noah

Promise given to Abraham and his posterity

Law given to Israel as a nation

Jesus pays the ransom price for Adam



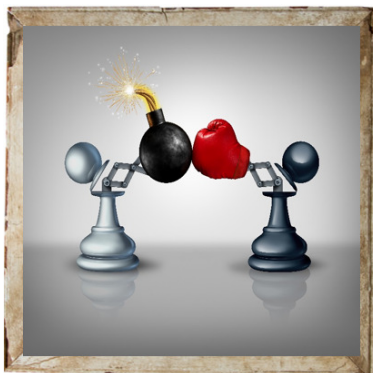


**With Jesus as the final puzzle piece
in the subverting of evil as a practice, how does it all end?**

The ending to this story appropriately picks up the lost threads of the beginning when God created man in His image. That creative process was used to give the human race life - eternal life - within the earthly realm under the powerful, guiding, just, wise and loving hand of God. It will be so! Evil will cease to be practiced and will be just a principle. Why? Because God promised it.

Quora (Source: Quoting Quora.com - Are God and Evil Meant to Coexist?)
Kelly: God did not create evil. James 1:17 says that "Every good gift and every perfect present is from above, coming down from the Father of the celestial lights..." There is inherited sin, but evil is a different ball of wax.

The *principle* of evil existed with Adam in the Garden. Satan took that principle and put it into *practice* and we can see the results.



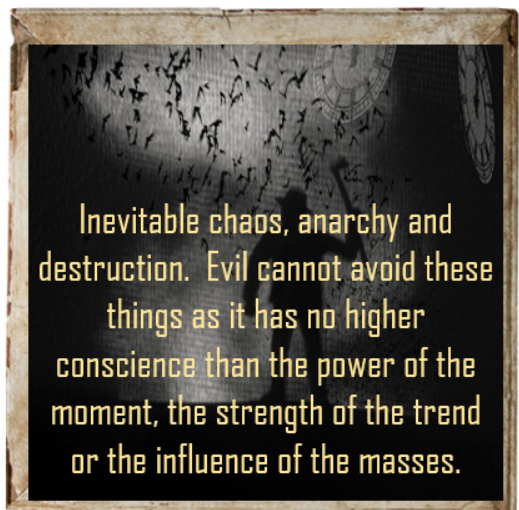
Woe #6: The Sin of Lawlessness

Isaiah 5:22-23: (NASB) *Woe* to those who are heroes in drinking wine and valiant men in mixing strong drink, ²³who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away the rights of the ones who are in the right!

The wantonness of excessive behavior will breed the justification of bullying others with evil "winning."

WOE

RESULT



There is no godly compass in such an environment.



The consequence:

Isaiah 5:24-25: (NASB) *²⁴Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes stubble and dry grass collapses into the flame, so their root will become like rot and their blossom blow away as dust; for they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. ²⁵On this account the anger of the LORD has burned against His people, and He has stretched out His hand against them and struck them down. And the mountains quaked, and their corpses lay like refuse in the middle of the streets. For all this His anger is not spent, but His hand is still stretched out.*

...their root will become like rot and their blossom blow away as dust - Nothing good was left. That is what evil produces. We live in a time when we see the biggest evidence of evil. Where is God in all of this? Right here. He has control over the situation and it will run its course. It is a scriptural concept for evil to come to its full measure, taking multiple generations for it to happen. We are witnessing evil run its full course, because it has to become so despicable in the minds of man that when they are raised from the dead, they will look back upon it with a sick feeling in their stomachs and say, “We never want to go back to that world.”

 **Can't feel pain, How Could an All-Powerful God Allow Evil? Dr. Ravi Zacharias**

- There's a young gal in Georgia where I live. I live in Atlanta, and her first name is Ashlyn. One day her mother was on a television program discussing a strange problem that she has which is called CIPA: Congenital Insensitivity to Pain with Anhidrosis. She cannot feel pain, and her sweat glands don't work. The problem may sound good, you don't feel any pain, but the reality is, if she steps on a nail while she's on the sports field it could puncture the skin, create an infection and nobody could be even aware of it. The mother said the problems it has created in her life for what this malady brings into her body! She says I pray one prayer every night, “God, please let my daughter help to feel pain.”*

We want our children to not experience pain, but without the ability to experience the pain, we are left without protection. The experience of evil is the pain that needs to be felt and understood so it can be further avoided.

The promise of God's favor and the defeating of evil as a principle being practiced is now complete. It has gone from a veiled promise in Genesis, through Noah as a righteous man, to Abraham as a faithful father of a nation. It was expressed in the loftiness of the Law of Israel which was only kept by Jesus, who gave his reward of human life away in exchange for Adam's life that had been lost. This gives the opportunity for life again, in a perfect environment the way God originally set it up.

What will that future kingdom look like without evil but with experience with evil?

Daniel 2:44: (NASB) *In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.*

The inhabitants of that kingdom (all of resurrected mankind) will understand the value of evil. Evil as a principle being practiced is destined for utter failure as a result of this process.



The value of pain, How Could an All-Powerful God Allow Evil?
Dr. Ravi Zacharias

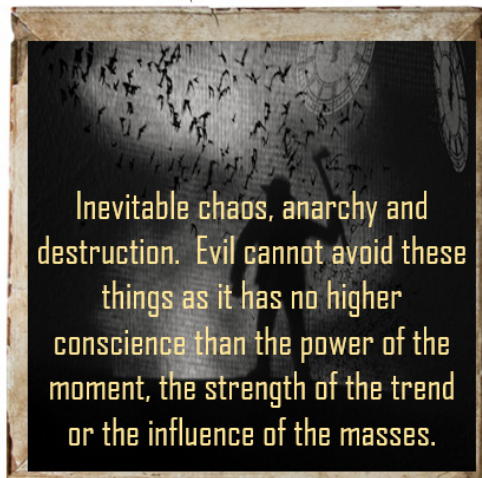
- She could put her hand on a burner and not know that her hand is burning. Now, my question is this - if in our finite existence we can see the role of pain to warn us that something is wrong, is it impossible for God in His infinite wisdom to allow pain in our lives to help us know that something is wrong? Pain is spelt with moral connotations in the human framework. That is because we are moral beings, therefore the answer has to come from within a moral spiritual framework as well. The question assumes moral reasoning, and that can only be assumed if God is in the paradigm, not outside of it.*

For most of us, we do not take this issue to its logical conclusion from a scriptural standpoint. We say that God allows pain and evil in this world so that morality and goodness have the opportunity to rise up. This is true; however, this world is not the end of it. The end comes with the solution:

WOE

RESULT

SOLUTION!



Evil will again become an unused principle, as it will have accomplished its mission. Its mission is darkness and godlessness that leads to anarchy, sin, pain, suffering, death and destruction. Once it comes to its maturity, God takes it over and puts it again "on the shelf."

Now we come to the picture of the end result of God working through evil until it is time to cut it off:

Micah 4:1-4: (NASB) ¹And it will come about in the last days that the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains. It will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it.

Mountain of the house of the LORD - mountains, symbolic of governments. This describes a firm, clear and powerful government.

Peoples will stream to it - it is attracted to people.

²Many nations will come and say, Come and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD and to the house of the God of Jacob, that He may teach us about His ways and that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion will go forth the law, even the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.



This is a communicating and righteous government that is people-sensitive.

³*And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations.*

This is a just government. This is everything anyone ever wished to have in a government!

Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war.

This is a peaceful government.

⁴*Each of them will sit under his vine and under his fig tree, with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

This is a government by God through Jesus and for the people!

This is what it means to have a government in place where evil is only again a principle. Evil will have been once used, learned from and put aside...never to be used again. Are God and evil meant to coexist? Yes, but evil will only be a principle. God reigns!

***So, are God and evil meant to coexist?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***

Bonus Material

First, a look at the beginning of God's allowance of evil into the world.

Humankind was created, given dominion, given the rules, and disobeyed:

Genesis 1:27-28: (NASB) ²⁷*God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. ²⁸God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*

Created in God's image, with the ability to reason and to choose and therefore to rule.

God placed an immediate test before mankind:

Genesis 3:3: (KJV) *But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.*

Choice: A wrong choice was made. Every choice we make reflects the strength of our allegiance to one object of worship or another. Therefore, our daily choices speak volumes.

Genesis 3:11-13: (KJV) ¹¹*And He said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? ¹²And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. ¹³And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.*

Here are the MAJOR consequences for Adam's disobedience:

Genesis 3:23-24: (KJV) ²³*Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. ²⁴So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*



Not only are they separated from their source of life eternal, their offspring will never have the experience of that life source and *that offspring will be born with the inherent deficiency of sin.*

Psalms 51:5: (KJV) *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

Romans 3:23: (KJV) *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Now, the inevitable downward path would not only follow, it would spread like a disease:

Genesis 6:5-6: (KJV) *⁵And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And it repented the LORD that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him at His heart.*

Now a look at the ending of the whole process.

Eternal Principle: God's sense of timing is eternal, so even though the accomplishment of His plan to eradicate sin and evil may seem to take forever to us, they are but moments in His eyes and heart.

All of this destruction and mayhem. Here is how it ends:

Psalms 46:8-11: (NKJV) *⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, who has made desolations in the earth. ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. ¹⁰Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.*

The end result will be of all mankind having a legitimate opportunity to know God:

Isaiah 35:5-10: (KJV) *⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. ⁷And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. ⁸And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

Brotherhood:

Jeremiah 31:34: (KJV) *And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

Unity:

Zephaniah 3:9: (KJV) *For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve him with one consent.*

Eternal Principle: God is love. He proves that by His allowance of sin and our opportunity for life!