

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL?

The Bible describes God as:

1. Holy!

Isaiah 6:3—“And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”

2. Righteous!

Habakkuk 1:13—“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?”

Psalm 7:11—“ God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.”

3. Just!

Deuteronomy 32:4—“ He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”

4. Sovereign!

Daniel 4:17-37

These attributes tell us some things about God:

- (1) God is capable of preventing evil, and**
- (2) God desires to rid the universe of evil.**

So, if both of those things are true (and they are), **why does God allow evil?**

If God has the power to prevent evil and desires to prevent evil, why does He still allow evil?

Perhaps a practical way to look at this question would be to consider some alternative ways people might have God run the world. Have you ever talked with someone that thought they knew better than God how He should do things?

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I. GOD COULD CHANGE EVERYONE’S PERSONALITY SO THAT THEY CANNOT SIN!

This would also mean that man would not have a free will.

We would **not be able to choose right or wrong** because we would be **“programmed” to only do right.**

Had God chosen to do this, there would be no meaningful relationships between Him and His creation!

Instead, God made Adam and Eve **innocent but with the ability to choose good or evil.** Because of this, **they could respond to His love by choosing to trust Him, and obey Him or they could choose to disobey Him!**

Sadly, they chose to disobey the LORD and that is why we are in the mess that we are in.

Because we live in a real world where we can choose our actions but not our consequences, Adam and Eve’s sin affected ALL of those who came after them! (ALL of Us!...ALL of mankind!)

Similarly, our personal decisions to sin have an impact on us and those around us and those who will come after us!

II. GOD COULD COMPENSATE FOR PEOPLE’S EVIL ACTIONS THROUGH SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTION 100 PERCENT OF THE TIME.

God could stop a drunk driver from causing an automobile accident!

God could stop a lazy construction worker from doing a substandard job on a house that would later cause grief to the homeowners!

God could stop a father who is addicted to drugs or alcohol from doing any harm to his wife, children, or extended family!

God could stop gunmen from robbing convenience stores!

God could stop high school bullies from tormenting other kids!

God could stop thieves from shoplifting!

God could stop terrorists from flying airplanes into buildings!

God could stop the left from wreaking havoc in our own dear country!

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While that solution might sound attractive, it would lose its attractiveness as soon as God's intervention infringed on something we wanted to do.

We want God to prevent horribly evil actions, but we are willing to let "lesser-evil" actions slide—not realizing that those "lesser-evil" actions are what usually lead to the "greater-evil" actions.

Should God only stop actual sexual affairs, or should He also block our access to pornography or end any inappropriate, but not yet sexual, relationships?

Should God stop "true" thieves, or should He also stop those who justify cheating on their taxes? Should God only stop murder, or should He also stop the "lesser-evil" actions done to people that lead them to commit murder?

Should God only stop acts of terrorism, or should He also stop the indoctrination that transformed a person into a terrorist?

III. ANOTHER CHOICE WOULD BE FOR GOD TO JUDGE AND REMOVE THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO COMMIT EVIL ACTS.

The problem with this possibility is that there would be no one left, for God would have to remove us all!

We all sin and commit evil acts!

Romans 3:10-12—“10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

Romans 3:23—“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”

Ecclesiastes 7:20—“ For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”

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1 John 1:8—“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

While some people are more evil than others, where would God draw the line? Because **ultimately, all evil causes harm to others.**

IV. GOD'S CHOICE IS WHAT WE SEE, EVEN IF OUR FINITE MINDS CAN'T UNDERSTAND!

Instead of these options, **God has chosen to create a “real” world in which real choices have real consequences!**

In this real world of ours, our actions affect others!

Because of Adam's choice to sin, the world now lives under the curse, and we are all born with a sin nature!

Romans 5:12—“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

There will one day come a time when God will judge the sin in this world and make all things new, but He is purposely “delaying” in order to allow more time for people to repent so that He will not need to condemn them!

2 Peter 3:9—“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

Until then, He IS concerned about evil!

When the LORD gave His chosen people the Old Testament laws, the goal was to show them how exceeding sinful they were and their need for a Savior. The LORD put consequences on disobedience to discourage and punish evil.

The LORD judges nations and rulers who disregard justice and pursue evil.

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Likewise, in the New Testament, the LORD reveals to us that **it is the government's responsibility to provide justice in order to protect the innocent from evil (*Romans 13*)**.

Conclusion

In summary, we live in a real world where our good and evil actions have direct consequences and indirect consequences upon us and those around us.

God's desire is that for all of our sakes we would obey Him that it might be well with us!

Deuteronomy 5:29—“O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!”

Instead, what happens is that we blame the LORD for not doing anything about others wickedness while we choose our own way, and think we should get a free pass! Such is the heart of sinful man!

But Jesus came to change men's hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit! He does this for those who will acknowledge and turn from their evil way to Him and call on Him to save them from their sin and its consequences! He can do that only through the grace that He provided in our LORD Jesus Christ, Who took the payment for our sin and gives us His righteousness instead! (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

God does prevent and restrain some (many) acts of evil! This world would be MUCH WORSE if God was not restraining evil. And this world is about to find out what evil is like when the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit is pulled out of here during the Tribulation Period! (*2 Thess 2:7*)

At the same time, **God has given us the ability to choose good and evil, and when we choose evil, He allows us, and those around us, to suffer the consequences of evil.**

Rather than blaming God and questioning God on why He does not prevent all evil, we should be about the business of proclaiming the cure for evil and its consequences—Jesus Christ!