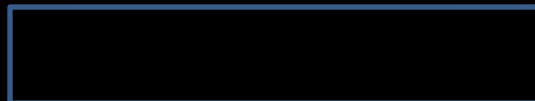




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“Evil is anything that we prefer over God and who He intended us to be.”



“For the creation was subjected to futility, NOT WILLINGLY, but because of Him who subjected it, in HOPE that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” (Romans 8:20-21)

Why the Problem

1. God exists
2. God is all good
3. God is all powerful
4. Evil Exists



1. Nonbiblical Response

- Atheist have two responses
 - Evil just exists and there is no explanation for it.
 - Evil is an illusion.
- Deist Response
 - *God permitted evil to bring about greater good*
 - *God is the creator of evil but He is far above us.*



1. Nonbiblical Response

- God is limited in Power and learning as He goes.



2. Living in the Mystery



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Job 1:6-12

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. The LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and from on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”⁸ And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?” Then Satan answered the LORD and said,

Job 1:6-12

“Does Job fear God for no reason? Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.” And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.(ESV)

2. Living in the Mystery

- God is in charge
- Satan asks for permission
- God grants his request with limitations.
- God permits the evil to happen.
 - Not passive in this permission but sets limits on what can be done. He is still in control.



Job 1:13-22

¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁶ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you."

Job 1:13-22

¹⁷ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

¹⁸ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, “Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, ¹⁹ and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you.”

Job 1:13-22

²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”
²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

2. Living in the Mystery

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord HAS TAKEN AWAY; blessed be the name of the Lord.” And the next verse which is important, *“In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.”*

- **Job acknowledges God is in control because he receives from God both the good and the bad.**
- **None of Job’s actions or words were sinful.**

2. Living in the Mystery

- Job's statement of assigning to God both good and evil, we are told, was not sin.
- 9:17, *"For he crushes me with a tempest and multiplies my wounds without cause;"*
- 22 *"He destroys both the blameless and the wicked."*
- 10:8 *"Your hands fashioned and made me, and now you have destroyed me altogether."*

2. Living in the Mystery

- Isaiah 45:7 *“I form light and create darkness, I make wellbeing and create CALAMITY, I am the Lord, who does all these things.”*
- Lamentations 3:28 *“Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come?”*
- Amos 3:6 *“Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? Does disaster come to a city, UNLESS THE LORD HAS DONE IT?”*
- Ecclesiastes 7:14 *“In the day of prosperity be joyful, and in the day of adversity consider: God has MADE THE ONE AS WELL AS THE OTHER...”*
- Psalm 88

2. Living in the Mystery

- God is Good!
 - *“The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.” Deut. 32:4*
 - *“For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you.” Psalm 5:4*
 - *“Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.” Psalm 25:8*
 - *“The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.” Nahum 1:7*

2. Living in the Mystery

- Job makes a statement that God is in control and receives the evil from Him, however, Job does not charge God with the wrong because God is not the doer of evil but the responsibility lies with Satan, Sabeans, and Chaldeans.
- Living in the mystery means
 - *We know without a doubt that God is good and there is no evil in Him.*
 - *We know that He is in control and permits (albeit not passively) evil*
 - *God is not guilty of evil but those who do it are guilty.*

2. Living in the Mystery

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” Genesis 50:20

3. The Greatest Example

“Therefore, do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus BEFORE THE AGES BEGAN.” 2 Timothy 1:8-9

Application

- *The mystery keeps God as God and us from becoming gods ourselves.*
- *Knowing that God is sovereign over evil gives us the ability to TRUST Him no matter how bad it hurts because it is a part of His plan for us.*
- *The reminder of evil in this life keeps us longing with eager longing for what is to come in eternity where God remakes the earth to what it is intended to be without evil and sin.*



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