

## THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

- I. Categories of Things Considered “EVIL”
  - A. NATURAL evil
  - B. MORAL evil
- II. Types of Suggested SOLUTIONS to the Dilemma
  - A. Some ABANDON the idea of God’s OMNIPOTENCE
  - B. Some MODIFY the idea of God’s GOODNESS
  - C. Some REJECT the REALITY of EVIL
- III. Factors Important to an EXPLANATION
  - A. A necessary accompaniment of CREATING HUMANITY
    - 1. Must include the ability to THINK and to CHOOSE
    - 2. Must include the POSSIBILITY of EVIL
  - B. A necessary aspect of REVEALING GOD
    - 1. Provides contrast for understanding His HOLINESS and RIGHTEOUSNESS
    - 2. Provides context for displaying His WRATH and JUSTICE on the one hand, and MERCY and GRACE on the other
  - C. A reevaluation of what constitutes GOOD and EVIL
    - 1. Good is that which GLORIFIES God, fulfills His WILL, and conforms to His NATURE
    - 2. Evaluate TEMPORARY suffering in light of ETERNITY

3. God's plans and actions are ALWAYS good, and ALWAYS lead to good outcomes

D. Recognizing EVIL as the result of SIN

1. Humanity in general is CORRUPTED by sin

2. Specific evils result from specific human ACTS OF SIN

E. Recognizing that the ultimate VICTIM of EVIL is GOD

1. "Evil" is defined as REBELLION against GOD

2. He became a man to EXPERIENCE the evils of the world and bear the WRATH of the Father for OUR SIN

F. Recognizing the significance of LIFE HEREAFTER

IV. Analysis of SCRIPTURE Relating to God and Evil

A. God uses even EVIL for His GLORY and our GOOD (Rom. 8:28-29; cf. Gen. 50:20; Ps. 76:10; Prov. 16:4; Rom. 9:14-24)

B. God never DOES evil and is never to be BLAMED for evil (Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; cf. Matt. 18:7; Luke 22:22; James 1:13-14)

C. God is JUST in holding MORAL creatures accountable for their EVIL (Isa. 66:3-4; cf. Rom. 9:19-24)

V. Summary of Key FACTS about Evil

A. God PERMITTED evil but did not CREATE it

B. Evil's effect is never INDEPENDENT of God's CONTROL

C. Evil is endemic to PRESENT human condition but is not PERMAMENT