

## Why Is There Evil in the World?

A question asked by many non-believers is, "Why is there evil and suffering in the world, if you say there is an all-powerful, loving God? It seems like a contradiction. How can you reconcile the two?"

1. **THE PROBLEM** - All of God's original creation was "very good." The earth was subjected to the CURSE of sin, sickness, disease, death and suffering, animals and people killing each other, poisonous plants and animals, and thorns and thistles, because of the first man Adam's rebellion and disobedience to God's command. Adam brought evil into the world by eating of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil - it brought the experience of evil, not just intellectual knowledge of it. God had given Adam dominion over the earth, its plants and animals (Adam even named them all), but when Adam sinned, it was as if he gave over that authority to Satan (the serpent), and now Satan is the "god of this world" (II Corinthians 4:3-4, Ephesians 2:2, Revelation 12:7-12).
  - **Genesis 1:26-28 & 31** "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have DOMINION over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have DOMINION over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'" "Then God saw **EVERYTHING that He had made, and indeed it was VERY GOOD**. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day."
  - **Romans 5:12** "Therefore, just as **through ONE MAN sin entered the world**, and **DEATH through sin**, and thus **DEATH spread to all men**, because ALL SINNED - "
  - **Genesis 2:16-17** "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of **the knowledge of good and EVIL** you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'" "
  - **Romans 8:20-22** "For the **CREATION was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope. Because the **CREATION itself** also will be **DELIVERED from the bondage of CORRUPTION** into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole CREATION groans and labors with birth pangs together until now."
  - **Genesis 3:17-19** "Then to Adam He said, 'Because you have heeded (listened to) the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you saying, 'You shall not eat of it': '**CURSED is the ground for your sake**(because of what you have done); in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread (work hard for a living) till you return to the earth (ground), for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return.'" "
2. **GOD'S SOLUTION** - The good news is that Satan's holding of the lease on this world is only temporary! The death sentence was pronounced on him when Jesus went to the cross and rose from the dead (Colossians 2:14-15), and it will be carried out when Jesus returns again at His glorious Second Coming to establish His kingdom of righteousness on this earth. At that time, the curse will be lifted from the earth, and once again, the earth will be subject to mankind, rather than a cause of pain and suffering.

- **Hebrews 2:6-9** "...What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."
- **Romans 8:21-22** "Because the **CREATION itself** also will be **DELIVERED from the bondage of CORRUPTION** into the glorious liberty of the children of God....."
- **Read II Peter 3:7-13** "But the heavens and the EARTH which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (Verses 10) "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up." (Verses 12-13) "Looking for and hastening the coming of **the day of God**, because of which the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the earth will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless, we, according to His promise, look for NEW heavens and a NEW EARTH in which righteousness dwells."
- **Read Isaiah 65:17-25** "'For behold, I create new heavens and a NEW EARTH; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind.'" (Verse 25) "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall NOT HURT nor DESTROY in all My holy mountain,' says the Lord."
- **Read Isaiah 11:6-9** (Verse 9) "They shall not HURT nor DESTROY in all My holy mountain, for the EARTH shall be FULL of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."
- **I Thessalonians 5:2-3** "For you yourselves know perfectly that **the Day of the Lord** so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, 'Peace and safety!' then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape."

**Definition: "DAY OF THE LORD" or "DAY OF GOD"** - A phrase or term meaning **the return of Jesus Christ to the earth** and the FINAL RESTORATION of all things on this planet. Usually, it INCLUDES the Thousand Year Reign of Christ (the Millennium), when the earth will be restored to its original state as in the Garden of Eden. After the 1,000 year reign of Christ on the earth, there will be the FINAL JUDGMENT of men, and the REMOVAL of ALL SIN and EVIL from the earth. Before the Millennium, at the return of Jesus Christ to the earth, Satan will be bound and cast into the abyss. After the Millennium, Satan will be finally and eternally removed from the presence of all of God's creation, and he will be cast into the Lake of Fire (hell).

- **Acts 3:21** "Whom heaven must receive until the times of RESTORATION of ALL THINGS, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began."
- **Revelation 20:6 & 10** "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death (going to hell) has NO power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years." "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."
- **Read Revelation 21:1-8** "And I saw a NEW HEAVEN and a NEW EARTH, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city New Jerusalem, coming down out of

heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." (Verses 4-5)  
**"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be NO MORE PAIN, for the former things have passed away.** Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me, 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.'"

- **Revelation 22:3** "And **there shall be NO MORE CURSE**, but the throne of God and of the Lamb (Jesus) shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him."