

# THE PROBLEM OF EVIL (& PAIN) PS 73:1-12

This is a **universal** problem for everyone, everywhere, in every age!

**If God were all-powerful – He could destroy evil**

(omnipotent)

**If God were all-good / loving – He would destroy evil**

(omnibenevolent)

**If God were all-knowing / all-wise – He would know how to destroy evil**

(omniscient)

**Evil is NOT destroyed!**

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= **There is no God (How doesn't this help us?) – there is still evil**

= **God is not all-powerful | or has in some way**

= **God is not all-loving / good**

= **God is not all-knowing**

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= **Christian responses (From the Bible)**

**God has not destroyed evil yet**

**God has purposes for evil / good**

**God uses real evil for good and for good purposes**

**Romans 8:18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

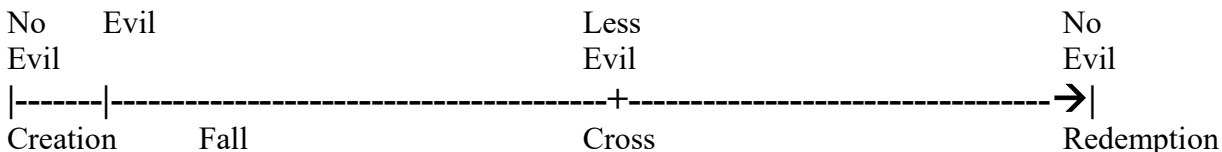
**Psalm 76:10** Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: The remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.

**Genesis 45:1** Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren. **Genesis 45:2** And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard. **Genesis 45:3** And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence. **Genesis 45:4** And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. **Genesis 45:5** Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life. **Genesis 45:6** For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest. **Genesis 45:7** And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. **Genesis 45:8** So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. **Genesis 45:9** Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:

**Genesis 50:19** And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: for am I in the place of God? **Genesis 50:20** But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

**2 Corinthians 4:17** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; **2 Corinthians 4:18** While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

## Worldview and the Problem of Evil:



No evil	Evil	Less evil	No evil
No tears	Tears	<b>Less &amp; different kinds of tears</b>	No tears
No pain	Pain	<b>Pain but also comfort / consolation</b>	No pain
No death	<b>Death – spiritually Immediately and physically eventually</b>	<b>Death but only physically</b>	No death
No sorrow	Sorrow	<b>Sorrow but <u>not</u> like those who have no hope</b>	No sorrow
No curse	Curse	<b>Curse partially lifted</b>	<b>No curse / curse removed</b>
No suffering	Suffering	<b>Suffering <u>but</u> in hope &amp; <u>with</u> purposes</b>	No suffering
No shame	<b>Shame – of <u>both</u> varieties: <u>shamed</u> (too ) and <u>shameless</u> (too )</b>	<b>Shame borne <u>by</u> Christ</b>	<b>Shame no more</b>
No guilt	Guilty	<b>Guilt borne <u>by</u> Christ</b>	No more guilt
No fear	<b>Fear in <u>many</u> fo &amp; for <u>many</u></b>	<b>No fear in</b>	No fear
<b>Presence of God</b>	<b>Ab of God!</b>	<b>Sp God presence of</b>	<b>Full, ma presence of God</b>

**Revelation 21:2** And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. **Revelation 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. **Revelation 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. **Revelation 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. **Revelation 21:6** And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

**Revelation 22:3** And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: **Revelation 22:4** And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. **Revelation 22:5** And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. **Revelation 22:6** And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done.

**Psalm 73:16** When I thought to know this, It was too painful for me;

**Psalm 73:17** Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then understood I their end.

**Psalm 73:18** Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: Thou castedst them down into destruction.

**Psalm 73:19** How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.

**Psalm 73:20** As a dream when one awaketh; So, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

**Psalm 73:21** Thus my heart was grieved, And I was pricked in my reins.

**Psalm 73:22** So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

**Psalm 73:23** Nevertheless I am continually with thee: Thou hast holden me by my right hand.

**Psalm 73:24** Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.

**Psalm 73:25** Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

**Psalm 73:26** My flesh and my heart faileth: But God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

## **Thoughts:**

### **1. Evil doesn't begin with God!**

**Genesis 1:4** And God saw the light, **that it was good** (כִּי־טוֹב): and God divided the light from the darkness.

**Genesis 1:10** And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw **that it was good** (כִּי־טוֹב).

**Genesis 1:12** And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw **that it was good** (כִּי־טוֹב).

**Genesis 1:18** And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw **that it was good** (כִּי־טוֹב).

**Genesis 1:21** And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw **that it was good** (כִּי־טוֹב).

**Genesis 1:25** And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw **that it was good** (כִּי־טוֹב).

**Genesis 1:31** And God saw every thing that he had made, and, **behold, it was very good** (וַיִּבְרָאֵם כִּי־טוֹב מְאֹד). And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

### **2. Evil begins with man & the fall.**

**Genesis 2:15** And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

**Genesis 2:16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: **Genesis 2:17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

## **Evil:**

- **As rebellion → against God and His word**
- **As sin → falling short / not measuring up**
- **As privation / a parasite / parasitical**

**Marital intimacy → immorality**

**Truth → lies**

**Enjoying God's goodness → covetousness**

**According to nature → against nature**

**Leviticus 18:22** Thou shalt **not** lie with mankind, as with womankind: **it is abomination. Leviticus 18:23** **Neither** shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: **neither** shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: **it is confusion.**

**Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who **hold** (κατεχόντων) the truth **in** unrighteousness;

**Romans 1:21** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **Romans 1:22** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, **Romans 1:23** And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. **Romans 1:24** Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: **Romans 1:25** Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. **Romans 1:26** For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: **Romans 1:27** And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

- **As the curse**

**Romans 8:18** For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **Romans 8:19** For the earnest expectation of the **creature** (τῆς κτίσθως) waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. **Romans 8:20** For the **creature** (ἡ κτίσις) was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, **Romans 8:21** Because the **creature** (αὐτὴ ἡ κτίσις) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. **Romans 8:22** For we know that the **whole creation** (πᾶσα ἡ κτίσις) groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. **Romans 8:23** And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

### 3. Evil both assumed and addressed on the Cross by Christ!

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

**Galatians 3:13** Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, **being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:**

**1 Peter 3:18** For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

**Isaiah 53:4** Surely he hath borne our griefs, And carried our sorrows: Yet we did esteem him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

**Isaiah 53:5** But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement of our peace was upon him; And with his stripes we are healed. **Isaiah 53:6** All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned every one to his own way; And the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. **Isaiah 53:9** And he made his grave with the wicked, And with the rich in his death; Because he had done no violence, Neither was any deceit in his mouth. **Isaiah 53:10** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, He shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. **Isaiah 53:11** He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: By his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; For he shall bear their iniquities. **Isaiah 53:12** Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, And he shall divide the spoil with the strong; Because he hath poured out his soul unto death: And he was numbered with the transgressors; And he bare the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

### 4. Evil will be eliminated

#### No more

**Revelation 21:3** And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. **Revelation 21:4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. **Revelation 21:5** And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. **Revelation 21:6** And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

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