

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: Why Does God allow Evil? Part 6

Why Doesn't God Get Rid of Evil Now

Scripture Text: Revelation 6:9–11

11/18/2018

“The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the LORD tests the hearts. “Proverbs 17:3 (NKJV)

Revelation 6:9–11 (NKJV) ⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.*

We have come to what I think is the last message in the series pertaining to the question as to “Why does a loving, all knowing, all powerful God allow Evil to exist? I have tried to answer to the best of my ability some of the most common questions asked by believers and non-believers alike. I listed those questions in your program for today.

Today I want to end with two more.

1. Why Doesn't God Get Rid of Evil Now?
2. When will evil end?

In our focus passage John gives us a glimpse into a scene in heaven where the souls of the martyred saints are gathered under the altar. Those saints under the altar are believed to be the church.

Note: Here is evidence that though the body dies the soul lives on.

The mentioned of the fifth seal being opened marks the time to be during the Great Tribulation. We see fellow believer being martyred for their faith. These are those that will be saved during the Great Tribulation but will face immense evil at the hands of Satan, the Beast and the antichrist(s).

They ask the same question we are asking today and that is “How long will God allow the evil in the world to continue?”

They have seen enough. They are wanting God to avenge the deaths of His saints.

With all that John has seen he closed the book of revelation with these words.

Revelation 22:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus!*

I can't tell you how many times I have become so distressed by the evil men do to other men, to women and it really upsets me the evil they do to defenseless children and babies.

I want Jesus to return to put all that evil to an end. How I often pray that evil doers will be caught and punished severely. So, I can understand the prayers of these saints.

The saints seemly want the martyrs to be avenged. I admit so do I.

We should take note that God does not rebuke them for their desire to be avenged. God will administer judgment in His time.

Another similar example is found in Genesis. The Amorites in the promised land were an abomination to God but God is a long-suffering God slow to anger but will not acquit the wicked *Nahum 1:3 (NKJV)* ³ *The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, **And will not at all acquit the wicked.** The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet.*

God gave the Amorites plenty of time to repent before Joshua made war in the promised land killing them all. For He told Abraham about them long before that.

Genesis 15:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *Now as for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried at a good old age.* ¹⁶ *But in the fourth generation they shall return here, **for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.***

Question: So, the question for today is, “why doesn't God get rid of evil now?”

<https://www.exploreGod.com/why-doesnt-god-get-rid-of-evil-now>

I have a few reasons I think are worth considering.

1. **God knows what He is doing** and His ways are not our ways. God is patient and longsuffering.

Isaiah 55:8 (NKJV) ⁸ *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.*

2. **A refining Process**

The continued existence of evil may be Gods refining method as it was with Job.

Job 23:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.*

When we see the evil first hand, we learn to hate it and despise it just as God does.

3. **Gods extends mercy for the unsaved** desiring that no man should perish.

It is God mercy toward the unsaved. Were He to rid the world of evil today, there would be millions of souls lost—for all eternity. Perhaps in God's eyes, the “lesser evil” is to allow His own people to continue to experience this transitory suffering, while the millions who are lost are given a little more time to be found.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance***

Question: When will evil end?

There are two quick “off the cuff” answers sometimes given. They are:

- When Christ returns.
- When the devil is taken out of the world.

First, the answer, “When Christ Returns.” Christ will return at the time of the Rapture to take the church and departed believers. The great tribulation follows and evil will be at its very highest point.

Next, Christ returns to fight against and defeats the Beast (the Antichrist) and His armies. (*Revelation 19:17–21*). Then the devil was bound into the bottomless pit, not destroyed, for 1,000 years. (*Revelation 20:1–3*)

In those 1,000 years Believers reign with Christ as king (*Revelation 20:4*). But sin still exist and where there is sin there is evil.

During the millennium We will reign with Christ but Christ will rule with a rod of iron. *Revelation 19:15 (NKJV)* ¹⁵ *Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. **And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.** He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

This will be swift and righteous judgment upon those that sin and practice evil. He will dispatch His angels to separate them.

Matthew 13:40–42 (NKJV) ⁴⁰ *Therefore as the tares are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of this age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice lawlessness, ⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.*

So, we can see that even when Christ returns and the devil is taken out of the world sin and evil is still around. Man has been infested in his heart with a sin nature.

After 1,000 years, Satan is released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations. Many will follow him into battle against the saints. This time God enters the battle and sends down fire from heaven and destroys them all. (*Revelation 20:7–9*).

This is the end of the devil, Satan, the Evil One.

Revelation 20:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ *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.*

Satan deceived in the beginning and deceives in the end.

- Satan deceived Eve.
Genesis 3:13 (NKJV) ¹³ *And the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, **“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”***
- Satan deceived those who get the mark of the beast

*Revelation 19:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, **by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast** and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.*

- Over the course of History Satan deceives the nations
*Revelation 20: 3 (NKJV) ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, **so that he should deceive the nations no more** till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.*
- In the end He will deceive no more.
*Revelation 20:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ **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.***

Deception is his stock and trade along with his false Christs, and false prophets.

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV) ²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.

The word of God has forewarned us regarding the Evil One. Jesus taught us to pray to be delivered from the evil one (*Luke 11:4*). Jesus prayed that God would protect us from the Evil One (*John 17:15*) and God will protect us from the Evil One (*1 John 5:18*).

When we enter the New Jerusalem. There will be no evil there.

Revelation 21:27 (NLT) ²⁷ Nothing evil will be allowed to enter, nor anyone who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty—but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

With all that help mentioned above, we can overcome the Evil One. Not in our own strength but through our prayers, through the prayers of Jesus and through the protection of God.

James 4:7–8 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. ...

Message Scriptures: **Revelation 6:9–11**, Revelation 22:20, Nahum 1:3, Genesis 15:15–16, Isaiah 55:8, Job 23:10, 2 Peter 3:9, Revelation 19:17–21, Revelation 20:1–3, Revelation 19:15, Matthew 13:40–42, Revelation 20:7–9, Revelation 20:10, Genesis 3:13, Revelation 19:20, Revelation 20:3, Matthew 24:24, Luke 11:4, John 17:15, 1 John 5:18, James 4:7–8.

END

Testing vs Temptation

James 1:12–14 (NKJV) ¹² Blessed is the man who endures **temptation (testing/trial)**; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him. ¹³ Let no one say when he is **tempted**, “I am **tempted** by God”; for God cannot be **tempted** by evil, nor does He Himself **tempt** anyone. ¹⁴ But each one is **tempted** when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.

Temptation - a desire to do something, especially something wrong or unwise.

Testing - To reveal the strengths or capabilities of (someone or something) by putting them under strain.

Testing is to reveal that which may be hidden or unknown strength, endurance or such.

It is possible that testing can include being subject to temptation where our character is tested.

The most famous scripture deals with Jesus being tempted by Satan, the chief tempter.

Matthew 4:1–3 (NKJV) ¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness **to be tempted** by the devil. ² And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. ³ Now when **the tempter** came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

According to our definition Jesus was tempted to do something wrong. That was not the only time Jesus was tempted for the scriptures say He was tempted in all points as we are.

Hebrews 4:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was **in all points tempted** as we are, yet without sin.

Job was tested.

Job 23:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ But He knows the way that I take; **When He has tested me**, I shall come forth as gold.

Job’s integrity was being tested.

The devil said about Job:

Job 1:11 (NKJV) ¹¹ But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, **and he will surely curse You to Your face!**”

His wife said this:

Job 2:9 (NKJV) ⁹ Then his wife said to him, “**Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!**”

Job stood the test

Job 1:22 (NKJV) ²² In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Abraham was tested not tempted.

Hebrews 11:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ By faith Abraham, **when he was tested**, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

We are tested by God for a reason

James 1:2–3 (NKJV) ² My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing **that the testing of your faith produces patience.**

Temptation plays upon our lust to do wrong. Testing is to reveal the best in us.

Why Does God allow Evil? Resources and References

http://www.openbible.info/topics/satan_beautiful

"Did God Create Evil?"

"Did God Create Evil?"

<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/676-did-god-create-evil>

"Why does God allow evil?"

<https://www.gotquestions.org/God-allow-evil.html>

Theodicy of German Philosopher, Gottfried Leibniz (1646-1716).

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/leib-met/>

Hurricane Benefits

<https://weather.com/storms/hurricane/news/hurricane-landfall-benefits-2016>

“Why doesn't God get rid of evil now?”

<https://www.exploregod.com/why-doesnt-god-get-rid-of-evil-now>

Tough Questions Christians Face

Dr. John MacArthur Video

https://www.ligonier.org/learn/conferences/tough_questions_christians_face_08_west_coast/why-does-god-allow-so-much-suffering-and-evil/?format=video

How could a good God allow so much evil?

<https://www.focusonthefamily.com/faith/becoming-a-christian/is-christ-the-only-way/how-can-god-allow-so-much-evil-and-suffering>

What Is Evil & Where Did It Come From? - RC Sproul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ir6pKEV0RQ>

Why Does God Allow Evil and Suffering? FAQ

https://www.christianbiblereference.org/faq_evil.htm

Does God create evil as Isaiah 45:7 says?

<https://reasonsforhopejesus.com/does-god-create-evil-as-isaiah-457-says/>

Why Doesn't God Get Rid of Bad People?

<https://billygraham.org/answer/why-doesnt-god-get-rid-of-bad-people/>

Josh McDowell Ministry

Would a Good God Allow Suffering?

<https://www.bethinking.org/would-a-good-god-allow-suffering/q-why-does-god-allow-evil-to-exist>

Why God Allows Evil and Suffering

<https://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/good-news-from-god/why-god-allows-evil-and-suffering/>

The Biblical Conception of the “Heart”

https://www3.dbu.edu/naugle/pdf/institute_handouts/general/biblical_heart.pdf