

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: Why Does God allow Evil? Part 5

Why Doesn't God intervene Against Evil

Scripture Text: 2 Kings 7:3-7

11/11/2018

"The Devil tempts that he may ruin and destroy; God tests that He may crown." St. Ambrose quotes

2 Kings 7:3-7 (NKJV) ³ Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? ⁴ If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine *is* in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die." ⁵ And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one *was* there. ⁶ For the LORD had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!" ⁷ Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact—their tents, their horses, and their donkeys—and they fled for their lives.

I believe that we all agree that evil does exist. Because of evil many call into question whether the God of the Bible is who the Bible says he is or He is unable to control the power of evil or He does not exist.

In the preceding messages I hope I answered many of the questions surrounding the subject, if God is who He says He is then why does He allow so much evil? As we discovered the answer to that question requires the answers to some initial questions.

I want to continue to answer some of the additional questions often asked.

Question: Why didn't God change everyone's personality so that they cannot sin.

This is almost like asking. "Why did God put the tree of knowledge in the garden in the first place. If He knows everything ahead of time, then didn't He know they would be tempted to sin and succumb to the temptation?"

Perhaps there are two questions in one here.

If God were to force a change to everyone's personality so they could not sin then He would be taking away their "Free Will" which He gave in the beginning as a free gift. A good gift.

Looking at "free will" we know that the angels had free will, but some chose to follow Satan, Jesus had free will but He chose to do Gods will.

John 6:38 (NKJV) ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. (Matt 26:39, John 5:30)

Freewill is the ability to choose, what we choose is either good or evil. When we have a chance to exercise our “freewill” God always gives us the right choice either through His word or through our conscience.

That is not an option I would want God to take. We have to look at the exalted position God has made us. He has made man a littler lower than the angels.

Psalm 8:4–5 (NKJV) ⁴ *What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?* ⁵ **For You have made him a little lower than the angels,** *And You have crowned him with glory and honor.*

God crowns us with glory and honor. It is our fault when we do not live up to it.

Let me take that thought a little higher. God has also made Jesus, the Son of man, a little lower than the angels.

Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV) ⁹ *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.*

It may take a minute but we should all shout glory about this because it is Gods will that we will be conformed to the image of His Son.

Romans 8:29 (NKJV) ²⁹ *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (2 Corinth 3:18, 1 John 3:2)*

We are Gods Children and heirs with Jesus. We could not obtain that glory as robots without “freewill”.

Romans 8:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ *and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

The second part of the first question as to why God allows us to be tempted to do evil.

First let’s make it clear that God tempts no man

James 1:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² *Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, (tried KJV, ESV; testing NIV, NLT), 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.*

There is only one tempter, Satan.

Matthew 4:3 (NKJV) ³ *Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.” (1 Thess 3:5)*

The question still remains, didn’t God know that they would yield to temptation claiming to be deceived.

Their being deceived is a very thin excuse because God told them what would happen if they ate of the fruit. Their deception was willful and disobedient.

When God allows us to choose, He lays out the consequences of our choices.

Genesis 4:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ So the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?” ⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” (*Deuteronomy 30:15–20*)

There are countless many more. But today mankind has free will to choose eternal life or death. *Romans 6:23 (NKJV)* ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God’s knowledge consists of knowing what consequence lies down the road of whatever decisions we make.

I really did not plan to take this long on the first questions. Let me move on.

Question: Couldn’t God compensate for people’s evil actions through supernatural intervention.

God could stop a drunk driver from causing an automobile accident. He could stop terrorist from flying into high rise buildings.

This sounds like a viable alternative to letting us still have our free will but God holding revoking power over it.

First let me say that God does intervene in potential disasters like car accidents. How many of you have delayed entering into an intersection only to see someone run their light?

It’s not like God cannot stop all mass shootings, all wars or even every evil act of man, but in so doing isn’t that taking away man’s freewill. If I decide to do something by my freewill and God revokes it then I have no effective free will.

I believe God does intervene against evil more than we know. He does so supernaturally, by changing the hearts of the potential evil doer or raising up an adversary against them.

In our focus passage we see how God intervened in a supernatural way by sending the noise of horses and chariots for the Syrians to hear.

2 Kings 7:6 (NKJV) ⁶ For the LORD had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses—the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, “Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!”

He intervened against evil by:

- Opening the Red Sea (*Ex 14:22-29*)
- Samson against the Philistines (*Judges 13:5*)
- Raising up Moses and changing his mind to deliver His people (*Exodus 3:10*)
- Raising up Gideon against the Midianites (*Judges 6:14*)
- Raising up Jephthah against the Ammonites (*Judges 11-12*)
- And there are other examples

There other supernatural acts of God's deliverance against evil. Paul, Silas and Peter released from Jail by an angel, (*Acts 5:17–20*) by an earth quake (*Acts 16:25–28*).

This deliverance does not always come as we would like, but God does intervene in the affairs of men, especially His children.

With God intervention, evil still rises up again and again for evil thoughts reside in the hearts of man influenced by Satan. (*Genesis 6:5, Matthew 15:19*)

The last question for today

Question: Couldn't God judge and remove those who choose to commit evil acts.

If God would remove all those who choose to commit evil then He would have to remove us all.

God desires that no man perish

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.*

But God is not mocked. A time will come when we all must stand before Christ and be judged.

Revelation 20:12–15 (NKJV) ¹² *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*

He has provided a path to salvation through His Son Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:13 (NKJV) ¹³ *For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."*

John 3:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Message Scriptures: **2 Kings 7:3–7**, *John 6:38, Matt 26:39, John 5:30, Hebrews 2:9, Romans 8:29, 2 Corinth 3:18, 1 John 3:2, Romans 8:17, James 1:12–13, Matthew 4:3, 1 Thess 3:5, Genesis 4:6–7, Romans 6:23, Ex 14:22-29, Judges 13:5, Exodus 3:10, Judges 6:14, Judges 11-12, Acts 5:17–20, Acts 16:25–28, Genesis 6:5, Matthew 15:19, 2 Peter 3:9, Revelation 20:12–15, Romans 10:13, John 3:16*

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