

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: Why Does God allow Evil Part 3

Where Did Evil Come From?

Scripture Text: Romans 5:12–14

10/21/2018

“Evil is knowing better, but willingly doing worse”

Romans 5:12–14 (ESV) ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

How could evil intrude into a world allegedly made and ruled by a holy and righteous God (Often called the Achilles heel of Christianity).

John Stuart Mill - a British philosopher, political economist, and civil servant. One of the most influential thinkers in the history of liberalism is reported to have said, “The presence of evil makes the existence of God problematic.”

If God is omnipotent, if God is loving and good. If God is all powerful and can create a world without evil or rid the world of evil and He doesn't do it then He is not good and He is not loving. So, many (including Larry King) conclude that God is either not good or not all powerful and to some, not at all.

Now remember for the purposes of this series we have categorized evil into three categories:

1. Natural/Physical Evil
2. Moral evil
3. Demonic evil which includes evil from Hell

My definition---Evil is any intentional underserving harm or hurt done to any person, place, or thing.

In the last two messages we discussed Natural/Physical evil and I hope we all came to the same conclusion that although natural events, like storms, plagues and such can be brought by God, God never does anything with the intent to do harm to any person, place or thing without a sovereign divine purpose unlike the intents of Satan. So, in my mind, God is off the hook as being the creator or even the generator of NATURAL EVIL.

Today we will begin looking at the second of the three categories of evil that is **moral evil**.

Let me begin by trying to answer our first question of the day.

1. If God did not create or generate evil, where did evil come or originate from?

That is a fair question because we all know that evil exist. The very first evil act mentioned in the Bible is recorded in Genesis 3:1–7. It was evil because it was the diabolical intent of Satan to do harm to God's creation by causing man to disobey God and thus sin.

In the first two chapters of Genesis all is well. New birth was all around. God and man were in communion. God repeatedly said “it was good at the end of each day's creation. But in the third chapter enters “The Evil

One” (Matt 5:37, Matt 6:13, Luke 11:4, John 17:15 and more), Satan, disguised as a serpent. I am going to assume that the serpent was good looking because the Bible says that Lucifer was a beautiful angel and could disguise himself in order to deceive.

Ezekiel 28:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; ...

2 Corinthians 11:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ ... For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

Satan. The evil one, brought evil into the world through man by lying and deceiving.

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

Now the doctrine of Satan in the Bible is not as easy to understand as we may think. When we read about him, he is often mingled with comments about a human prince or kings who are energized or indwelt by Satan. *Isaiah 14:12-14* referring to the king of Babylon as well as Satan and *Ezekiel 28:12-17* referring to the prince of Tyre as well as Satan).

The following passage contains the infamous 5 “I Will Statements” attributed to Satan (Lucifer)

*Isaiah 14:12-15 (NKJV) ¹² “How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: **‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.**’ ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.*

Here we have the exposed **evil intent** of Satan to supplant God and become the “Most High.”

It is not a far-fetched supposition that the father of evil is Satan, just as he is the father of lies.

*John 8:44 (NKJV) ⁴⁴ You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, **for he is a liar and the father of it.***

So, I will take a stand and say that I believe that “true evil” **was created and is generated by Satan.**

Look and the name DEVIL. Take away the “D” and what do you have? “EVIL.”

Then that brings up the second question,

2. How did EVIL enter the perfect earthly world of God?

This bring us to our focus passage.

V12 Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

Cannot we say that any evil act or disobedient act toward God would be considered sin? Therefore, Satan deceived Adam and Eve to disobey and sin and sin brought death. Now mankind had the knowledge of “good and EVIL”.

Genesis 3:22 (NKJV) ²² Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. ...

That statement does not mean that man has now become like God, like Satan lied about, but the statement “man has become like one of “US” in that he now **has knowledge of good and evil.** Man knows what is good and what is evil and has freewill to choose one or the other.

Note: It is interesting that prior to the fall, man not only did not have the knowledge of Evil, he did not have the knowledge of GOOD either. All man had to do was to obey God and GOOD would take care of itself. I think that principal applies today.

Satan put the evil thought to doubt, deny and disobey God into the hearts of Adam and Eve and in the hearts of man remains even today.

Mark 7:21–22 (NKJV) ²¹ *For from within, **out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts**, adulteries, fornications, murders, ²² thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.*

As I am preparing the message the seriousness of this knowledge grows within me. We are often misdirected to blame human individuals for all the evil acts we see but we miss the true real perpetrator, Satan.

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) ¹² *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

Just as I said earlier that there are writing in the scripture that sort of blend the identity and actions of a king or prince with that of Satan. Let me give just a few more examples.

Satan influence man to do evil.

1 John 3:12 (NKJV) ¹² *not as **Cain who was of the wicked one** and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous.*

A Satanic EVIL angel stood in the way of Daniel's answer to his prayers.

Daniel 10:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² *Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. ¹³ **But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days;** and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia. I'll just mention the name "job" for we all know that story.*

Satan entering the heart of man.

Luke 22:3 (NKJV) ³ ***Then Satan entered Judas**, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve.*

Satan influencing the heart of another man.

Acts 5:3 (NKJV) ³ *But Peter said, "**Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?*

Satan attempting to thwart the sovereign plan of God (JM) through Peter.

Matthew 16:23 (NKJV) ²³ *But He turned and said to Peter, "**Get behind Me, Satan!** You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

I really don't think we take this information seriously enough. We continue to allow Satan to distract us from his evil actions and to blame them on others who are in fact under his influence.

Jesus, in the model prayer gives us knowledge and warning that we should ask that we be delivered from the "evil one".

Luke 11:4 (NKJV) ⁴ *And forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, **But deliver us from the evil one.**"*

That was not just an idle thought because Jesus himself prayed that prayer FOR us.

John 17:15 (NKJV) 15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

Praise be to God! Jesus does not stop there for He himself will guard us FROM the evil one.

*2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NKJV) ³ **But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.***

Today I hope I answered two questions:

1. If God did not create or generate evil, where did evil come from or originate?

Satan creates and generates evil.

2. How did EVIL enter the perfect earthly world of God?

Evil entered the world through the hearts of man deceived, influenced or indwelt by Satan to sin.

END

Message Scriptures: **Romans 5:12–14**, *Ezekiel 28:17, 2 Corinthians 11:14, Isaiah 14:12-14, Ezekiel 28:12–17, Isaiah 14:12–15, John 8:44, Genesis 3:22, Mark 7:21–22, Ephesians 6:12, 1 John 3:12, Daniel 10:12–13, Luke 22:3, Acts 5:3, Matthew 16:23, Luke 11:4, John 17:15, 2 Thessalonians 3:3.*