

Why Does Evil Exist?

Penetrating Questions

Gen 4:6: Why are you angry? Why do you look so unhappy?

1Sam. 15:13-14: When Samuel came to Saul, Saul said to him, “May you be blessed by the LORD; I have carried out the command of the LORD.” But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears, and the lowing of cattle that I hear?” **[answer was a lie!]**

1 Samuel 20:32-33: But why should David be put to death? What has he done?

Isa 5:1-4: What more could I have done for my vineyard that I have not already done? When I expected sweet grapes, why did my vineyard give me bitter grapes?

Isa 50:2: Why was no one there when I came? Why didn't anyone answer when I called? Is it because I have no power to rescue? No, that is not the reason! Because I can....

Isa 55:2: Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Jer 2:5: What did your ancestors find wrong with me that led them to stray so far from me?

Jer 2:31: Have I been like a desert to Israel? Have I been to them a land of darkness? Why then do my people say, ‘At last we are free from God! We don't need him anymore!’

Micah 6:2-3: What have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

Micah 6:11: How can I tolerate your merchants who use dishonest scales and weights?

Haggai 1:2-4: Then the LORD sent this message through the prophet Haggai: ⁴ “Why are you living in luxurious houses while my house lies in ruins?

Zechariah 7:5-6: When you fasted and lamented in the fifth month and in the seventh, for these seventy years, was it for me that you fasted? And when you eat and when you drink, do you not eat and drink only for yourselves?

Malachi. 2:10 Are we not all children of the same Father? Are we not all created by the same God? Then why do we betray each other, violating the covenant of our ancestors?

Matthew 14:31: [To Peter, after his sinking in the water] Why did you doubt me?

Matt. 22:11-12 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless.

Mark 14:32-40: Couldn't you watch with me even one hour?

John 18:19-23: But if I am speaking the truth, why are you beating me?

Galatians 2:11-14: You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to live like Jews?

When we don't do the right thing, what can we say? When we do the wrong thing, how can we defend our actions?

Innocence

Psalm 59:3-4 Even now they lie in wait for my life; the mighty stir up strife against me. For no transgression or sin of mine, O LORD, for no fault of mine, they run and make ready.

Psalm 94:21: They band together against the life of the righteous, and condemn the innocent to death.

Jeremiah 37:18: Then Jeremiah asked the king, "What crime have I committed? What have I done against you, your attendants, or the people that I should be imprisoned like this?"

Matthew 27:4: "I have sinned," he declared, "for I have betrayed an innocent man."

Luke 23:31: For if these things are done when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Acts 13:28: Even though they found no cause for a sentence of death, they asked Pilate to have him killed.

Sin Is Mysterious

2 Thessalonians 2:7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work

Self-Deception

1 John 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Self-deception is the act and state of actually holding belief about or an image of oneself, or a vision of one's situation in reality, while at the same time knowing that the belief, image, or vision is not true. [note: what now needs explaining is how a belief can lead to a contrary belief.]

The explanation for this is a cause that is not a reason.

All Evil Practices Exhibit Insanity!

Deceit, Lust, Force, Pride, etc.

The Insanity of Killing Jesus

Acts 3:13-14: The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses.

Benefits of This Truth

- 1) Knowing that God has done, and is doing, everything He can, to bring good and salvation to our lives and to the lives of our families and friends, fosters a strong love for God and a deeper trust in Him.
- 2) Certainty that sin is illogical, unreasonable, and downright insane fosters a stronger desire to accept God's love and break away from sin.
- 3) It helps explain why Bible writers can never weaken what they say about sin, even when they insist that God's love for sinners is greater, more powerful than sin!

Ellen White

In the day of final judgment, every lost soul will understand the nature of his own rejection of truth....In the judgment of the universe, God will stand clear of blame for the existence or continuance of evil. It will be demonstrated that the divine decrees are not accessory to sin. There was no defect in God's government, no cause for disaffection. **The Desire of Ages 58**

Sin is an intruder, for whose presence no reason can be given. It is mysterious, unaccountable; to excuse it is to defend it. Could excuse for it be found, or cause be shown for its existence, it would cease to be sin. **The Great Controversy 493**

Sin appeared in a perfect universe....The reason of its inception or development was never explained and never can be, even at the last great day when the judgment shall sit and the books be opened....At that day it will be evident to all that there is not, and never was, any cause for sin. **That I May Know Him 15**

Ecclesiastes 9:3 1977 NASB ...the hearts of all are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live....[This text does not say: madness is evil. It says: evil is madness!]

All sin is selfishness. Satan's first sin was selfishness. He sought to grasp power, to exalt self. A species of insanity led him to seek to supersede God. And the temptation which led Adam to sin, was the false statement of Satan that it was possible for him to attain to something more than he already enjoyed—possible for him to be as God himself. Thus seeds of selfishness were sown in the human heart. **MS 3:331**