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## \_\_\_\_\_Program 11\_\_\_\_\_

### God Means Evil, Not Just Permits Evil

(God created the possibility of evil when He created free beings)

- **Isa.45:7** That men may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is none other. I form the light and create darkness, I make peace, and create evil, I am the Lord, who does all these things
- **Acts2:23-24** Wicked hands did what God ordained
- **Acts4:26-28** However, for of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom **Thou** hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate
- **Job2:10** Shall we receive good from the hand of God and shall we not receive evil?
- **Isa.53:10-11** Yet it was the will of the Lord to bruise him
- **Gen.50:20** As for you, you meant evil against me; but **God meant it** for good
- **Isa.10:5** Assyria, the rod of **MY** anger
- **Isa.45:3** I will give you the treasures of darkness
- **Ex.4:11** Who made the dumb, or the deaf, or seeing, or the blind? Is it not I, the Lord?
- **Job12:16** The deceived and the deceiver are **His**. Seeing God only—This is seeing through evil to God Only
- **Jer.25:9-12&14** Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, **My servant**
- **Isa.54:16** Behold, I have created the smith who blows the fire of coals, and produces a weapon for its purpose. **I have also created the ravager to destroy**
- **Job2:3** And the Lord said to Satan, Have you considered my servant Job?
- **Job12:16** With him are strength and wisdom; the deceived and the deceiver are **His**
- **Job16:12** I was at ease, and **He** broke me asunder; **He** seized me by the neck and dashed me to pieces, all the **evil that the Lord had brought upon him**
- **Deu.8:5** Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the Lord your **God disciplines you**
- **Psa.8:11** **Thou** didst bring us into the net; thou didst lay affliction on our loins
- **Psa.102:9** For I eat ashes like bread, and mingle tears with my drink, because of **Thy** indignation and anger; for thou hast taken me up and thrown me away
- **IPeter4:12** Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal which comes upon you to prove you, as though something strange were happening to you
- **Amos3:6** Does evil befall a city, unless **the Lord has done it?**
- **Lam.3:1-18** I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of **His** wrath; **He** has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; surely against me **He** turns his hand again and again the whole day long. **He** has made my flesh and my skin waste away, and broken my bones; he has besieged and enveloped me with bitterness and tribulation; **He** had made me dwell in darkness like the dead of long heavy chains on me; though I call an cry for help, He shuts out my prayer; **He** has blocked my ways with hewn stones, **He** has made my paths crooked. **He** is to me like a bear lying in wait, like a lion in hiding; **He** led me off my way and tore me to pieces; He has made me desolate; He bent His bow and set me as a mark for his arrow. **He** drove into my heart the arrows of his quiver; I have become the laughingstock of all peoples, the burden of their songs all day long. **He** has filled me

with bitterness, **He** has made me drunken with wormwood. **He** has also broken my teeth with gravel stones, He has covered me with ashes. And you have removed my soul far off from peace; I have forgotten prosperity. And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord

- **Joel2:25** I will restore to you the years which the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and cutter, **my great army**, which I sent among you
- **IPeter2:21** For even hereunto were you called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps.
- **Rom.8:32** He spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us ALL things? All means good, as well as evil
- **Rom.8:36** For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
- **Jere.25:9-12&14** "Behold I will send and take all the families of the north, saith the Lord, and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, **my servant**, and **I will bring them against this land**, and against the inhabitants thereof, and against all these nations round about, and will utterly destroy thee, and make them an astonishment, and an hissing, and perpetual desolations. I will take from them the voice of mirth, and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom, and the voice of the bride, and the sound of the millstones, and the light of the candle and this land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years, and it shall come to pass when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation saith the Lord for their iniquity...**I will recompense them according to their deeds**, and according to the works of **their own hands**."

To most, it is shocking and even disturbing to consider that "**God means evil**"(Gen.50:20). We all know that God means good, but EVIL? It seems so foreign to our way of thinking. However, the scripture has another story. I think we need to understand we are talking about another dimension, other than the realm of time and space. There is a earthly dimension, and an heavenly dimension. The Bible says we Christians are Heavenly Spirit people, so we need to look at all these scriptures from God's view point, instead of from the familiar separated point of view we are use to. Unless you are living like an ostrich and refuse to see what is happening, or living in denial, you will have to agree that evil is all around us, and may be escalating. In this world, sin, disease, calamity, disaster, death, and turmoil, like never before, is ever increasing. We Christians, more than ever, need to know how to rightly interpret life's adversity from God's point of view.

Certainly evil is a product of the Satanic fall, creation's fall and mankind's fall. The consequences of fallen creation has produced the calamities on earth which make adverse situations unavoidable and evitable. But, why does God means it? I believe that we are being trained to reign with Christ, and overcoming evil is a part of our training. How so? We are called "more than conquerors" in Romans 8:37. What are we to conqueror? God is weaning us from earth eating, and separate space and time living, in order to grow us up to be nourished by Spiritual food, as well as learning to operate from the eternal realities, not seen. God is shaking us loose from our many outer crutches, and idols. Once we are free, we can know our full authority in Christ and live like heavenly kingdom sons of God, fulfilling Isa.40:31, "**mount up with wings as eagles**". All the old realities must be shaken so that what remains is a New Man/Christ as us, living and reigning with Christ in Heavenly Places far above Satan's realm of sin and death.(Heb.12:27).

According to the author of the Hebrew letter, maturity comes as we exercise our New Creation senses. To the mature, "their senses are exercised to discern both good and evil"(Heb.5:14). We know God's goodness, grace and love, but how do we see evil. This is where "the rubber meets the road." If our attention is on sin, the devil, and evil, we will surely fight it in a immature way and maybe even unknowingly propagate it. Although, if we deny evil's existence, it will surely have unsuspected power over us as well. But instead, Hebrews says the mature discern it as an opportunity for faith by looking **through evil to what God is up to**.

The story of Joseph is well known to our Christian circles, yet many miss the profound statement Joseph made after his brothers had repented of their sins. Joseph declares to his brothers, "But as for you, you thought evil against me; but *God meant it unto good*, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive." Joseph is clearly saying that God *means* evil! Most would admit and even give the weaker answer that God **permitted** it. But no, Joseph boldly said **'God means it'**. To say that God means evil takes a huge leap of faith from the normal separated viewpoint. However, saying anything less is making God weak, indecisive and not the determined Lord of all.

Acts 4:10;27-28 clearly brings out these two points of view. Peter is brought before the judgment seat of the Jewish High Priest for healing a man at the temple gate called "Beautiful." Peter exercised his new found authority by healing a crippled man. He did it by the power of the Holy Spirit, and in the name of Jesus. Peter gives his rebuttal, "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, **whom you crucified**, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole"(Acts4:10). Now see the two points of view: Peter doesn't excuse them, but rather judges them for **their evil deed**. Later, when Peter is released and returned to his Christian brothers, he has another view point, recorded in 26-28: "For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together for to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel *determined* before to be done." If Christ Jesus' crucifixion was determined by God, then he means all evils. Crucifying the Son of God was the greatest crime in history, yet it was the Father's will and His determined counsel for it to be done. This is also confirmed in Isaiah's prophesy (53:4): Christ was **"Smitten of God"**. Not smitten by the devil, nor not man, but of God.

God has the final say-so. It doesn't excuse the evil act by Herod, or Pontius with the Gentiles doing what they did, however, God meant the Cross for our redemption, and therefore our good. Now if the most evil event in history is **meant for good**, then all other subsequent evil events, are meant for our good as well. It will depend on how you see evil and if you can see through it to God's sovereign hand and ultimate plan. If you choose not to see every traumatic event meant for your good, then you are left with a distorted and a delusional understanding which will cause your "body to be filled with darkness"(Matt.6:23)and confusion.

So the Bible says that "God means evil". And, we must agree, even though we don't quite understand. Since God is in total control, it does not mean that He just permits it. The fact that He means good is a given, but what about meaning evil? There is a radical statement in Isaiah 45:7, "I make peace and create evil, I the Lord do all these things." How can God create evil, or calamity, as some translations say? He created free beings with the capacity to choose. He risks misuse by creating us free. Freedom has in it two alternatives, either, faith and trust in God, or unbelief. So it is from God's created freedom that Satan chose to call God a liar and be the evil being that he is. Therefore God created the possibility of evil by creating freedom. And in that sense **"God creates evil."** This verse does not mean that God creates and is the misuser, Himself. No, Satan is the author of that. However, God did create Lucifer, a light bearer, and God knew that out of Lucifer's God-given freedom, he would fall into his own hellish trap and bring into being the false kingdom of wrath.

Since, "God means evil". Then does He mean it for evil's sake alone? No, He means it for good. God sees evil as a necessary educational opposite, and therefore utilizes it for his redemptive purposes.

Isaiah 54:16 says that "God created the Waster to destroy." God knew that Satan would desecrate mankind. Why? God has a plan. Romans 8:20 says, "For the creature was **made subject to vanity, not willingly**, but by reason of him who hath **subjected** the same in hope. For, the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of

God." Vanity is the product of eating from the forbidden "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." Good wars against evil and vice versa, they war with one another causing an unresolved anguish which can never be satisfied, nor resolved apart from knowing, Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

## Unified Opposites Hold The Universe Together

Is God speaking out of both sides of His mouth? Does God have power over all evil? Or, is evil done by the evil deeds of evil men, but highly **used** for God's eternal purposes? Or does God speak in paradoxical language? I think that all the above are true. How else can anyone explain unified opposites, except by saying both are true? Therefore, God means evil and uses it to bring about a higher good. Although, some say, "since God uses evil, then it is justifiable, therefore, it should not be punished". **Wrong**, "I will recompense unto them according to their deeds" (Jer.9:14). See Jeremiah's prophecy above (Jer.25:9-12&14). See God sending the enemy down on disobedient Israel to take them captive, then after giving the enemy liberty to enslave His people, God punishes the enemy for doing it in the first place. Wow, doesn't that make your head swim? Think about it, the enemy always has evil intentions against God's people. So, all God did was lift His arm of protection and let them do what they always wanted to do in the first place. Then after God uses them as His rod of discipline, He punishes them for their evil deed. Simple if you understand God's ways.

Paradoxes can be confusing to the natural mind though, so we hope to give a simple example to clear up the confusion. Maybe it can be understood if we take a look at the atom and understand the dialectic tension of opposites holding everything together in the whole universe. The atom is a tiny particle and is the building block of all material reality. It is by a dialectic tension of opposites that unify the atom. Think about it, atoms are constructed out of three different subatomic particles: protons (positively charged particles in the nucleus) and neutrons (neutral particles in the nucleus), that are negatively charged. The interactive tension of negative and positive opposites causes the swirling motion of the electron. Combined with other atoms, creates molecules, and is what is seen as all manifested reality. So, the simple atom shows that positives and negatives in harmonious tension, are **both** necessary for manifesting reality.

Likewise, Spirit reality is manifested the same way. Namely a dialectic tension of opposites one swallowing up the other to manifest itself. Light swallowing up darkness, clarity swallowing up confusion, glory swallowing up suffering, joy swallowing up sorrow, strength swallowing up weakness, peace swallowing up war, mercy swallowing up wrath, and life swallowing up death and so on.<sup>1</sup>

All of life is a process of confronting, opposing negatives, being swallowed up by God's magnificent Glory. Adversity is being transformed into adventure, and all opposition is, like my good friend, Brad Anderson says, "is an Opportunity for Faith."

God means all that happens to you, "for we know that all things do work together for good, to them who are called according to His eternal purposes". All, means all, both good things and evil things working together for our good. Nothing works **against** us, it works **for** us and together for our good (Rom.8:28).

Now how does God see evil? Although, the question is, do we really want to see it the way God sees it? If you choose to see it as God sees it, and dare to agree with God's eternal view point, then, the Holy Spirit will manifest a "peace that passes all understanding", "joy unspeakable full of glory," and "your whole body will be full of light"(Matt.6:23). If you continue to look **at it instead of through it**, and lament, worry and grieve over it, and refuse to see **through evil** to God's eternal

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<sup>1</sup> See programs 29-30 for a fuller explanation of, "The Single Eye of Faith."

purposes behind it, you will stay in confusion, and blame, "your body will be filled with darkness, and if the light that is in you be dark, how great is that darkness"(Matt.6:24). It is your choice.

We Christians need to understand God's mysterious ways of the Cross, and how God brings light out of darkness, and life out of death. "O the depth of the riches both of the Wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counselor? Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto Him again? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things; to who be glory forever. Amen (Romans 11:33-36).