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MESSAGE NOTES

HOPE FLOW

LETTING GOD'S LOVE FLOW THROUGH US EVERY DAY!



Day One: God's creation includes evil.

What's that you say?! How and why would a loving God create evil?

Yes, it's true, but stay with us here and understand the big picture of God and creation.

God's work of creation includes the visible and the invisible universe. The invisible realm is the spiritual realm—good and bad; angels and demons. The bad, the demons, consist of an angel that once was more beautiful than all the other angels. His name is Lucifer (Latin for “morning star”) also known as Satan. He was not created evil, but became evil because God gives His creation free choice and Satan committed the first sin in Heaven by becoming prideful of his beauty and jealous of God.

Read Isaiah 14:4-19, Matthew 25:41

Day 2: So why is Satan still allowed to be here? Why doesn't God just “zap” him away?

Good question!

The Bible describes God as holy ([Isaiah 6:3](#)), righteous ([Psalm 7:11](#)), just ([Deuteronomy 32:4](#)), and sovereign ([Daniel 4:17-25](#)). God is capable of preventing evil, and desires to rid the universe of evil. If God has the power to prevent evil, and desires to prevent evil, why doesn't He do it?

Perhaps a good way to look at this issue would be to consider some alternative situations for how people might have God run the world:

Option A) God could change everyone's personality so that they cannot sin. This would also mean that we would not have a free will. We would not be able to choose right or wrong because we would be “programmed” to only do right. Had God chosen to do this, there would be no meaningful relationships as love requires choice.

Read I John 2:3-6

Day 3:

Option B) Another choice would have God compensating for people's evil actions through supernatural intervention 100% of the time. For instance, if a drunk driver causes an automobile accident, God would have to keep him and the people in the other automobile from getting harmed, including innocent people.

In such a world, God would be like a bad parent who enables a wayward child's destructive behavior. There would be no consequences for one's actions, and as a result no one would learn integrity, purity, honor, responsibility, or self-control. There would be no “good consequences” for right behavior, no “bad consequences” for wrong behavior. There would be no incentive for people to become less deviant and sinful.

Read Hebrews 4:12-13

Day 4:

Option C) Another choice would be for God to judge and remove those who choose to commit evil acts. The problem with this possibility is that there would be no one left, for God would have to remove us all. We all sin and commit evil acts ([Romans 3:23](#); [Ecclesiastes 7:20](#); [1 John 1:8](#)). While some people are more evil than others, where would God draw the line? Ultimately, all evil causes harm to others.

Instead of these or other options, God has chosen to create a “real” world in which real choices have real consequences. In this real world of ours, our actions affect others. Because of Adam's choice to sin, the world now lives under the curse, and we are all born with a sin nature ([Romans 5:12](#)). There will one day come a time when God will judge the sin in this world and make all things new, but He is purposely “delaying” in order to allow more time for people to repent so that He will not need to judge them ([2 Peter 3:9](#)).

Day 5:

God's desire is that for all of our sakes we would obey Him and live in peace. ([Deuteronomy 5:29](#)). Instead, what happens is that we choose our own way and then we blame God for not doing anything about it. Such is the heart of selfish (I'm being hurt), prideful (God's not doing it right), sinful (I'm not to blame) man. But Jesus came to change men's hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit. So He is able to do for those who will turn from evil and call on Jesus to save them from their sin and its consequences ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)).