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D.A. CARSON, *How Long, O Lord?*

*Reflections on
Suffering and Evil,*

© 1990, 2006 Baker:

“The Bible insists God is sovereign, so sovereign that nothing that takes place in the uni-

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verse can escape the outer-

most boundary of his control; yet the Bible insists God is good, unreservedly good, the very standard of goodness.

We are driven to conclude that God does not stand behind good and evil in exactly the same way. In other

does exist, and if God is sovereign, then obviously He must have been able to prevent its existence. If He allowed evil to enter into this universe, it could only be by His sovereign decision. Since His sovereign decisions always follow the perfection of His being, we must conclude that His decision to allow evil to exist is a good decision. Again, we must be careful here. We must never say that evil is good, or that good is evil. But that is not the same thing as saying, ‘It is good that there is evil.’ Again, I repeat, it is good that there is evil, else evil could not exist.”

WAYNE GRUDEM, *Systematic Theology*, © 1994 Inter-Varsity Press.

“We should notice that the alternatives to saying that God *uses evil for his purposes* but that *he never does evil* and is *not to be blamed* for it, are not desirable ones. If we were to say that God himself does evil, we would have to conclude that he is not a good and righteous God . . .” “If evil came into the world in spite of the fact that God did not intend it and did not want it to be there, then what guarantee do we have that there will not be more and more evil that he does not intend and that he does not want? And what guarantee do we have that he will be able to use it for his purposes, or even that he can triumph over it? Surely this is an undesirable alternative position.”

JOHN PIPER, *Is God Less Glorious Because He Ordained That Evil Be?*,

© John Piper, 7.1.1998, Jonathan Edwards Institute, Annapolis, MD:

“God is more glorious for having conceived and created and governed a world like this with all its evil.”

“If you would see God's glory and savor his glory and magnify his glory in this world, do not remain wavering before the sovereignty of God in the face of great evil. Take his book in your hand, plead for his Spirit of illumination and humility and trust, and settle this matter, that you might be unshakable in the day of your own calamity.”

Evil and Suffering and the Sovereignty of God

compiled by Daryl E. Witmer

Here follows excerpts from five of the most insightful messages that I've come across in over 40 years of reading on this subject, both as a pastor and as a Christian apologist.

TIMOTHY KELLER, *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*,

© 2013 Dutton: “Suffering then is not outside God’s plan, but a part of it. In Acts 4:27-28, the Christian disciples pray to God, ‘In this city, there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus . . . Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.’”

“Jesus’ suffering and death was a great act of injustice, but it was also part of the set plan of God.”

“At the most practical level, we have the crucial assurance that even wickedness and tragedy, which we know was not part of God’s original design, is nonetheless being woven into a wise plan. So the promise of Romans 8, ‘that all things work together for good,’ is an incomparable comfort to believers.”

words, he stands behind good and evil asymmetrically. He stands behind good in such a way that the good can ultimately be credited to him; he stands behind evil in such a way that what is evil is inevitably credited to secondary agents and all their malignant effects. They cannot escape his sway, in exactly the same way that Satan has no power over Job without God’s sanction; yet God remains mysteriously distant from the evil itself.”

R.C. SPROUL, *The Mystery of Iniquity*, © Tabletalk:

“. . . since God is both omnipotent and good, we must conclude that in His omnipotence and goodness there must be a place for the existence of evil. We know that God Himself never does that which is evil. Nevertheless, He also ordains whatsoever comes to pass. Though He does not do evil and does not create evil, He does ordain that evil exists. If it



More Evidence in Defense and Confirmation of the Christian Faith