

## RCWTG4 Habakkuk 1:1-4 WHAT THE HELL? IF GOD IS LOVE, WHY IS THERE EVIL?

**WHY** – 1 powerful words – Iphone, resolved wars, quantum mechanics, penicillin, Compelled us seek answers perplexing problems – **IF GOD IS LOVE WHY EVIL?**

- NOT JUST INTELLECTUAL/PHILOSOPHICAL BUT **REAL/PERSONAL**

Why son die overdose. Daughter shot killed. husband divorce leave me. Sexually abused..

- Why cancer... 6 MILLION...**MADMAN?** Charles Darwin - **POSED GOD BIBLE**

Even the atheist becomes a theist when the hat of suffering needs a place to hang.

- Of all the world religions Christianity on the surface seems to create the greatest tension considering Problem of Evil – **BOLD SAY SOVEREIGN LOVING AND GOOD**

**MP: Christianity provides the strongest answers, meaning, solutions and hope in the face of the reality of evil in this world.**

Evil needs no defining – E1 knows face of evil - NATURAL/MORAL/SUPERNATURAL

**BIBLE DOESN'T HIDE OUR STRUGGLE WITH EVIL**

Nowhere is the problem of evil and suffering taken more seriously than in the Bible.

**Genesis** – origin est corrup of Lucifer / fall adam and eve **REST WRESTLING**

**Job** – oldest book – treatise on problem of evil – catastrophe - 38 chapters why - **GOD**

**Asaph** – worship leader – singer song writer God – **BROKEN OVER PREVAILING WICKED**

**John the Baptist:** greatest prophet – sacrificial life Jesus – imprisoned - **WONDERED**

**Habakkuk:** God Why? Violence/Oppression/Wickedness – **INDIFFERENT/ENDORSE**

**OUR WRESTLING WITH EVIL DOESN'T DISPROVE GOD IT AFFIRMS HIS EXISTENCE**

**THE TRILEMMA:** If God is unable to prevent evil, then he is not all-powerful. If God is not willing to prevent evil, then he is not all-good. If God is both willing and able to prevent evil, then why does evil exist? Same error Job friends/Habakkuk/Asaph

**God all wise (plan) – all-knowing (details) – eternal (parent doc/polio/hurts/prot)**

Man lost his horse it ran away – the neighbor came bad luck ur horse ran away maybe so/not

Few days later horse came back w/20 other wild horses – not bad luck, it's good luck u got 20 more –

maybe so/not. Young son going break 1 of horses young horse kicked him breaks his leg – bad luck

that these horses came and broke your sons leg maybe so/not. A few days go by thugs come by looking

for all the able body boys join gang – c boy bc of his broken leg pass neighbor comes by and says good

luck your sons leg was broken maybe so/not we'll see **WE DON'T KNOW – GOD DOES**

Isaiah 55:8 For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, Nor *are* your ways My ways,” says the LORD. *“For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

- NOT comforting – **ENTRUST** - His ways wise, eternal, all knowing, good, loving –

**QUESTION AFFIRMS GOD:** identify evil – standard make determ – moral law establishes good (otherwise everything subject/perm) – if you have a moral law moral law giver –

**EVIL PEOPLE/PERSONS** assumes intrinsic worth/value – value from the moral law giver made in his image – **why are we made in His image??**

**BECAUSE OF LOVE** – God's supreme goal is we would love him with all heart/soul/mind neighbor – **TO LOVE CHOOSE – CHOOSE CHOICE – GOOD AND EVIL**

Options: 1. No world 2. Ammoral world 3. World where no one could choose/predetermined 4. The world we have – LOVE IS POSSIBLE

- RESPONSE SHAPES - Asaph worship lead – Struggling SUFFERED WICKED WHY

Psalms 73:17 When I thought *how* to understand this, It was too painful for me - Until I went into the sanctuary of God. REMEMBERED/EXPERIENCED GOD

**JESUS CONFRONTED EVIL SO YOU COULD EXPERIENCE GOD AND HIS LOVE**

Why do bad things hap. There is only one time a bad thing happened to a good person.

- CRUC of Christ was the greatest confrontation of evil – **HE SUFFERED NOT REM**

Isaiah 53: undesired, despised, rejected, man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, unesteemed, bore our griefs, carried our sorrows, stricken smitten by God wounded for our transgression bruised for our iniquities, chastised for our peace, healed by his stripes, our iniquity on him, oppressed, slaughtered, cut off, stricken, died innocently, bruised, grieved, sacrificed, interceded transgressors

- Natural Evil – Death Secured Future Renewal of Creation subject futility bc hope

- Moral Evil – **WE ARE BROKEN** – sexually, selfishly, idols, pride, hate, violence

**The problem of evil is not just external, it is an internal problem. PRESS**

o Broke the power of evil over your life - My God my God WHY

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, <sup>14</sup>having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

- Supernatural Evil: Principalities and Powers

Colossians 2:15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in *the cross*.

**JESUS WILL ULTIMATELY DESTROY EVIL COMPLETELY**

**Reality WHY HELL? HELL IS THE ULTIMATE & COMPLETE DESTRUCTION OF EVIL**

- Anti-Christ, FP, Death and Hades, GWTJ – CATEGORICALLY DESTROYS EVIL

Revelation 21:3 “Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. <sup>4</sup>And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

**EXPERIENCED DAILY THROUGH RESURRECTION**

- New Life – Kingdom of God – Liberated – Freed – ALREADY BUT NOT YET

When belief in god becomes difficult, the tendency is to turn away from him, but for heaven’s name to what? G.K. Chesterton

- PAUL VISION OF GOD – THORN IN THE FLESH SATAN – GRACE - **PROPH**

Habakkuk 3:17 Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls— <sup>18</sup>Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

Job 42:3 I have uttered what I did not understand, Things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

<sup>4</sup>Listen, please, and let me speak; *You said*, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ <sup>5</sup>“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.

- **God is not the problem – God is the answer.**

We shouldn’t be consumed with the existence of evil but with the presence of God’s love.

It's not wrong to wrestle with these things as long as we are finding our rest in Him.