

Date: 10/8/17 RBC SF3026

Title: Understanding Evil and Calamity in the World

Text: Luke 13:1-5

1. GOD CREATED THE WORLD AND IT WAS “GOOD”

2. SATAN REBELLED AGAINST GOD

Satan was created as a good being but with free will to follow God or not. He chose not to. Angels and people were not created as robots. They were created with free will because if they chose to worship and obey God, that would bring Him glory.

John 14:30; 1Thessalonians 3:5, and the story of Job all teach that Satan is the ruler of this world. He causes pain and suffering and tempts man to sin. In Job's case, Satan caused physical illness, natural disaster, financial ruin, etc.

3. MAN SINNED

Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, so also death was passed on to all men, because all sinned.

4. MAN'S NATURE WAS CORRUPTED

Man's corrupted nature is the cause of much evil.

James 1:13-15 - Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted by evil, and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But each one is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desires. ¹⁵Then when desire conceives, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is full grown, it gives birth to death.

5. CREATION WAS CURSED

Genesis 3:17-18 shows that there was a curse placed on creation because of the fall. God removed man from the protective garden of Eden and forced him to live in the world where animals now ate people.

Romans 8:22 - “For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers together until now.”

6. GOD IS IN CONTROL - HE IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL THINGS

Genesis 50:20 shows God used the evil act of Joseph's brothers to preserve the family and nation of Israel. He used the Egyptians' disgust towards shepherds to keep Egyptians from inter-marrying with Israelites to keep the Jewish nation pure.

Romans 8:28-29 – God causes all things to work together for good for those who love Him. It doesn't say that causes all things to work together for good for everyone.

7. EVIL ONE DAY WILL COME TO AN END

When we get to heaven.

When God creates a new heaven and Earth.

So, the Biblical explanation of evil is this:

God created everything good but man rebelled. Nature, Satan, Men were cursed. There was no death before the fall – even in the animal kingdom. God does not cause the evil, but He does control the outcome when evil happens. How He can do this is beyond our understanding, but that doesn't make it untrue.