

Scripture
God's Window into Our World
The Problem of Evil



John 1:5 (ESV) — The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

- 1. A perfectly powerful being can prevent any evil.**
- 2. A perfectly good being will destroy evil.**
- 3. God is perfectly powerful and good.**
- 4. In His resurrection Jesus defeated evil.**
- 5. Evil, though defeated, will persist until Jesus' return.**
- 6. In His return Jesus will destroy evil.**
- 7. Therefore, God is powerful and good.**

1. God alone truly defines good and evil

Genesis 2:9 (ESV) — And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:16–17 (ESV) — And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Luke 18:19 (ESV) — And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

Psalms 100:5 (ESV) — For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 106:1 (ESV) — Praise the LORD! Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalms 34:8 (ESV) — Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

Genesis 1:31 (ESV) — And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Psalm 119:68 (ESV) — You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.

2. Fallen humanity has a corrupted view of good and evil

Genesis 3:1–5 (ESV) — Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Luke 18:18–19 (ESV) — And a ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone.

Mark 7:20–23 (ESV) — And he said, “What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

Isaiah 5:20 (ESV) — Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

3. Jesus came to overcome evil with God’s goodness

- **God’s Love is God’s Goodness in eternally giving of Himself to others.**

John 3:16–17 (ESV) — For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

- **God’s Mercy is God’s Goodness toward those in misery and distress.**

Hebrews 4:15 (ESV) — For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

- **God’s Grace is God’s Goodness toward those who deserve only punishment.**

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV) — For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

- **God’s Patience is God’s Goodness in withholding of punishment from those who continue to sin.**

2 Peter 3:9 (ESV) — The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV) — For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

4. Evil, though defeated, will persist until Jesus returns

1 Corinthians 15:25–26 (ESV) — For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Romans 12:2 (ESV) — 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Hebrews 5:12–14 (ESV) — 12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, 13 for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. 14 But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

1. TRUST in God's GOODNESS

Hebrews 11:3 (ESV) — By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

➤ **Even when you don't UNDERSTAND God's WAYS, continue to STAND UNDER God's WORD!**

Isaiah 55:8–9 (ESV) — For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares 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.

2. REST in God's GREATNESS

Philippians 1:6 (ESV) — And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:10–11 (ESV) — And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Matthew 24:29–31 (ESV) — Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the

powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

- ***We live between Jesus' DEFEAT of evil on the CROSS and His ultimate DESTRUCTION of evil when He RETURNS.***

Revelation 21:5a (ESV) — And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”

Revelation 22:12–13 (ESV) — Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

3. PERSIST for God's GLORY

Romans 12:21 (ESV) — Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

- ***Even when you can't SEE God's GRACE, continue to SEEK God's FACE!***

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1. _____ in God's _____

➤ *Even when you don't _____ God's _____,
continue to _____ God's _____!*

2. _____ in God's _____

➤ *We live between Jesus' _____ of evil on the _____ and
His ultimate _____ of evil when He _____.*

3. _____ for God's _____

➤ *Even when you can't _____ God's _____, continue
to _____ God's _____!*