

The background features a light blue and white wavy design. On the left, there are green leaves and two butterflies: a purple and green one at the top and a blue and brown one at the bottom. On the right, there are more green leaves.

# THE GOODNESS OF GOD

July 13, 2025

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**#1**

# **The Goodness of God in the Bible**

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

(a) God is good

- Oh, taste and see that the Lord is **good**! (Ps 34:8)
- The Lord is **good**, a stronghold in the day of trouble (Nah 1:7)

**Jesus** – “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (Jn 10:11)

**Spirit** – “You gave your good Spirit to instruct them” (Neh 9:20)

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

(b) There is nothing “ungood” in God

- God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 Jn 1:5)
- There is no unrighteousness in him. (Ps 92:15)

(c) God cannot do anything evil

- Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. (Jas 1:13)

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

(d) God is abundantly good

- Oh, how **abundant** is your goodness (Ps 31:9)
- They...delighted themselves in your **great** goodness. (Neh 9:25)

(e) God is good to all

- The Lord is good **to all**, and his mercy is **over all** that he has made. (Ps 145:9)
- He makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. (Mt 5:45)

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

(f) Everything God creates is good

- God saw that it was good (Gen 1:4,10,12,18,21,25)
- God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. (Gen 1:31)
- Everything created by God is good (1 Tm 4:4)

(g) Everything good comes from God

- Every good gift...is from above, coming down from the Father (Jas 1:17)
- “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” (Ps 16:2)



# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

(h) God works for our good

- The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him (Ezra 8:22)
- the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes...for our good always (Dt 6:24)

(i) God delights to do good

- the Lord took delight in doing you good (Dt 28:63)
- ...how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Mt 7:11)

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

(j) God even redeems evil for our good

- As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good (Gen 50:20)
- And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good (Rm 8:28)



# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

(k) God's will is for us to do good too

- For this is the will of God, that by doing **good** you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. (1 Pt 2:15)
- For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for **good** works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph 2:10)

(l) God commands us to do good

- Turn away from evil and do good (1 Pt 3:11)
- Do good to everyone (Gal 6:10, 1 Thess 5:15)

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

(m) God commands us to do good, even when facing evil

- Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you (Lk 6:27)
- Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Rm 12:21)

(n) It's "ungodly" to do evil, even to bring about good

- Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! (Rm 6:1-2)
- Why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. (Rm 3:8)

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

- (o) God desires our good to be genuine and free
- I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your **goodness** might not be by compulsion but of your own accord. (Phm 14)
  - Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:7)

Unlike Satan:

- ...escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will. (2 Tm 2:26)

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

(p) Does God create evil?

- I form the light and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things. (Is 45:7, KJV)
- Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad [evil] come? (Lam 3:38)
- Does disaster [evil] come to a city, unless the Lord has done it? (Amos 3:6)
- if that nation...turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster [evil] that I intended to do to it. (Jer 18:8)
- Shall we receive good from God, and shall we not receive evil? (Job 2:10)

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

(p) Does God create evil?

- Hebrew word translated “evil” can refer to either **moral evil** or to **unpleasant consequences**.
- Context determines which meaning applies.

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

## Lamentations 3:38

<sup>38</sup> Is it not from the mouth of the Most High  
that good and bad [evil] come?

# #1. The Goodness of God in the Bible

## Lamentations 3:38-40

<sup>38</sup> Is it not from the mouth of the Most High  
that good and bad [evil] come?

<sup>39</sup> Why should a living man complain,  
a man, about the **punishment** of his sins?

<sup>40</sup> Let us test and examine our ways,  
and **return** to the Lord!



**#2**

**If God is good,  
where did evil come  
from?**

## #2. If God is good, where did evil come from?

View 1: God is responsible for evil

- Reasoning: God created everything and determines everything
- Difficult to align with the Scriptures

## #2. If God is good, where did evil come from?

View 2: The free will of creatures brought about evil

- Reasoning: God created us to love freely, and free will requires a genuine choice of good and evil.

Pros    a) vindicates God's goodness

          b) upholds doing good genuinely and freely

Cons    a) definition of "free will" conflicts with biblical teaching

## #2. If God is good, where did evil come from?



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**GOD**

Free will

Good only

**HEAVEN**

Free will

Good only

## #2. If God is good, where did evil come from?

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Free will

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Good only

**EARTH**

Free will

Bad only

## #2. If God is good, where did evil come from?

### **Matthew 12:33,35**

<sup>33</sup> Either make the tree good and its fruit [will be] good, or make the tree bad and its fruit [will be] bad, for the tree is known by its fruit.

<sup>35</sup> The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.

### **Matthew 7:18**

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.”



## #2. If God is good, where did evil come from?

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View 3: Creation's lack of all-sufficiency brought about evil

- Reasoning: Creation is good but not all-sufficient; this deficiency allowed good desires to become inordinate, causing a turning from God (i.e. "evil").

## #2. If God is good, where did evil come from?

### James 1:14-15

<sup>14</sup> Each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup> Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

## #2. If God is good, where did evil come from?

### Inordinate Desire

How, I say, can good be the cause of evil? For when the will abandons what is above itself, and turns to what is lower, it becomes evil—not because that which it turns to is evil, but because the turning itself is wicked...it is itself which has become [evil], by...**inordinately desiring an inferior thing.**

(Augustine, *City of God*, Book XII, Chapter 6)



## #2. If God is good, where did evil come from?

### Inordinate Desire

“Every sinful act proceeds from an **inordinate** desire for some temporal good”  
(*Basic Writings of St. Thomas Aquinas*, Vol 2)

“We teach that all human desires are evil, and charge them with sin—not in that they are natural, but because they are **inordinate**”  
(Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*)

## **#2. If God is good, where did evil come from?**

Examples of temptations:

1. Eve in the garden of Eden
2. Jesus in the wilderness
3. Jesus in Gethsemene

## #2. If God is good, where did evil come from?

View 3: Creation's lack of all-sufficiency brought about evil

- Reasoning: Creation is good but not all-sufficient; this deficiency allowed good desires to become inordinate, causing a turning from God (i.e. "evil")

Analogy: a father teaching a child to ride a bicycle

**#3**

**If God is good,  
why do we suffer?**

# #3. If God is good, why do we suffer?

Logical problem of evil:

1. A God who is **all-good** would **want** to prevent evil in the world.
2. A God who is **all-powerful** would be **able** to prevent evil in the world.
3. Evil exists in the world.

Therefore, an all-good, all-powerful God cannot exist.

# #3. If God is good, why do we suffer?

Different formulation:

1. A God who is **all-good** would **want** to bring about the greatest good in the world.
2. A God who is **all-powerful** would be **able** to bring about the greatest good in the world.
3. Evil exists in the world.

Therefore, an all-good, all-powerful God brings about the greatest good against the backdrop of evil.

# #3. If God is good, why do we suffer?

God uses evil and suffering to reveal glorious virtues:

- For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison (2 Cor 4:17)
- For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are not worth comparing with the **glory** that is to be revealed to us. (Rm 8:18)
- As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good (Gen 50:20)
- And we know that for those who love God **all things work together for good** (Rm 8:28)

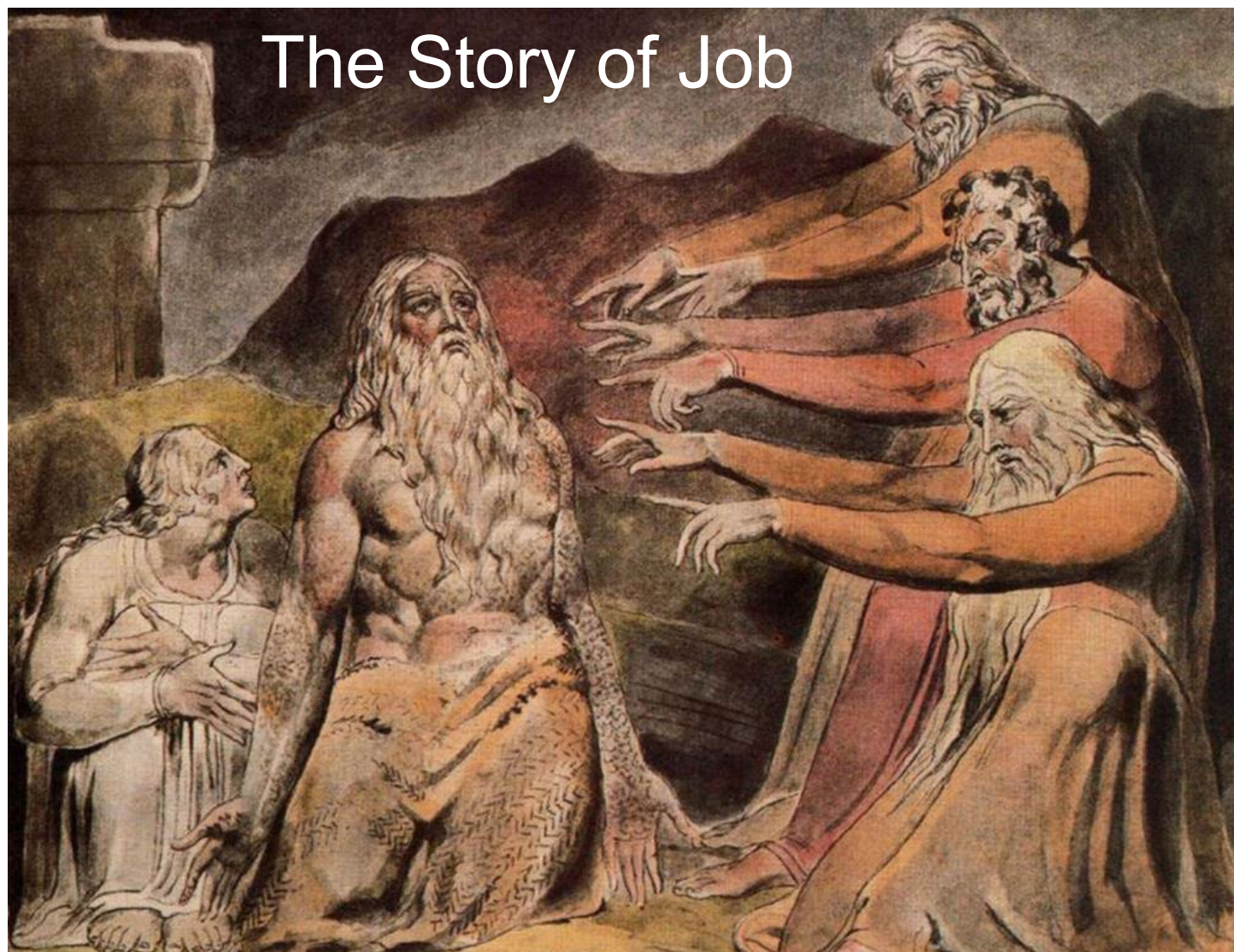


# #3. If God is good, why do we suffer?

Examples:

- Deep love (Jn 15:13)
- Gracious love (Rm 5:6-8; Mt 5:46-47)
- Humility/Meekness (Php 2:8; 1 Pt 2:22-23)
- Long-suffering (1 Tm 1:16)
- Power (Rm 9:17; Eph 1:19-20)
- Faithfulness of Christ (in the temptations)
- Kindness of God (vs wages of sin)
- Others by definition: mercy, justice, slow to anger, forgiveness

# #3. If God is good, why do we suffer?









# **#3. If God is good, why do we suffer?**

The usual question:

**If God is good, why would he  
create a world in which we suffer?**

# **#3. If God is good, why do we suffer?**

A different question:

**If God is good, why would he  
create a world in which He suffers the most?**

# #3. If God is good, why do we suffer?

Look to Jesus

- <sup>1</sup> ...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> **looking to Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> **Consider him** who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. (Heb 12:1-3)

# #3. If God is good, why do we suffer?

Look to Jesus

- <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive **mercy** and find **grace** to help in time of need.  
(Heb 4:15-16)