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We need to establish that God Almighty is a good God, and the devil is a bad devil. We could say the same thing differently by saying that **if something is good, then it came from the Lord Jesus Christ. If something is bad, then it came from the devil. This is clearly summarized in John 10:10** which reads “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

I have met full time ministers (Bible preachers and teachers) who are doing a wonderful work for Jesus and are getting people born again, healed and delivered. But these same Bible preachers and teachers are confused about John 10:10 and think that God “causes” us when in fact God “allows” us to experience bad things like plagues (sickness and disease), famine (drought) and sword (war).

Therefore, we need to remind ourselves of a few things such as The Eight Rules Of Bible Interpretation (see for example <http://www.ecclesia.org/truth/8-rules.html>)

1. Definition – What does the word mean
2. Usage - The Old Testament was written originally by, to and for Jews. The Jewish language and Hebrew culture is replete with (full of) Hebrew Idioms and Figures Of Speech.
 - a. For example, when Jesus picked His twelve followers, one of the disciples said “Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father” (Matt 8:21). George Lamsa in his book “Idioms In The Bible” explains that in Hebrew culture this expression means “Let me first take care of my father until he dies.” Therefore in the Hebrew culture the “literal” words spoken often have a very different meaning than what was “intended.”
 - b. We do the same thing in American culture. You might tell one of your children to “cut it out” but what you actually mean is “stop it”. The phrase “cut it out” has a literal meaning that is different from the intended meaning which was to stop doing something.
3. Historical Setting – To truly understand the Bible, you must have some familiarity with Jewish language, beliefs, and practices at the time of the Biblical writing. To understand the Corinthian Epistle, we must understand the first century Corinthian (their practices, terminology, and social issues of the time).
4. Logic - Does the interpretation make sense?
5. Inference - A fact reasonably implied from another fact.
6. Genre - The Old Testament contains the first 5 books of the Bible called the Pentateuch, the next 5 are historical, the next 12 are poetic, the next 5 are major prophets, and the next 12 are minor prophets. Knowledge of genres helps to accurately determine what the Biblical author was intending to communicate to the reader.

7. **Scripture Interprets Scripture** – Every word in the Bible is part of a verse, every verse is part of a paragraph, every paragraph is part of a book, and every book is part of the whole of Scripture. In other words, you cannot interpret a specific passage without looking at all the other Scriptures in the Bible:
- a. A common Hebrew Idiom found in the Old Testament (as explained in “Analytical Concordance To The Bible” by Dr Robert Young) is that “Active Verbs Sometimes Express A Permission Of It.” In other words, the Hebrew Idiom translated “literally” will say that God Himself did something when in fact the “**intended meaning**” of the Hebrew Idiom was NOT that God Himself did it, but rather that **God Himself “allowed or permitted”** something to happen.
 - b. We find that a “literal” translation of the Hebrew Idiom in 2 Samuel 24:1 reads “And again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he [the Lord] moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.” This “literal” translation makes it appear that God Himself “caused” David to commit a sin. However, the intended meaning of the Hebrew Idiom is that God Himself “permitted” satan to motivate David to sin because 1 Chron 21:1 reads “And satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.” **Clearly, God did not CAUSE the bad thing to happen. Instead, God PERMITTED the bad thing to happen.**
 - i. Satan cannot, and God will not, override a man’s will to make him sin (James 1:13-16). Also, God will not override a man’s will to make him do right.
 - ii. The problem in some way was with David and his attitude, and when temptation came, David failed the test. God’s judgment is when (because of sin) God chooses to remove Himself (removes His Divine order and presence) which results in calamity, disaster, adversity, distress or (to sum it up in a single word) all manner of EVIL. Hence, darkness is the absence of light, cold is the absence of heat, and **evil** (calamity, disaster, adversity, distress) **is the absence of God’s Divine order and presence**.
 - c. We find that a “literal” translation of the Hebrew Idiom in Jer 4:10 reads “Then said I, Ah, Lord God! Surely thou hast greatly deceived this people...” but the “intended meaning” was that the people did not want to hear the painful truth from Jeremiah (Jer 23:25-40) and therefore God chose to “permit” them to be deceived. We see the same thing in the New Testament in which the Hebrew Idiom in 2 Thes 2:11 reads “And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie” when in fact the “**intended meaning**” is that **God will “permit”** them to be **deluded by satan** (2 Thes 2:9) **because of their sinful choices**.
 - d. Another example of Hebrew Idiom is in Ex 4:21 which reads “[concerning Pharaoh] I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go” when the “intended meaning” is that God “allowed” Pharaoh to harden his heart. We could say it this way, **the same sun that softens wax, hardens clay**. **What is the condition of your heart** (what kind of soil is in your heart – good soil or rocky soil Matt 13:1-23). Pharaoh had already set his heart against God and it took 10 Judgments (calamities and disasters) to convince him to release the Israelites from slavery.

8. Illumination Of The Holy Spirit – Scripture tells us that we depend upon the Holy Spirit to help, guide and instruct us (John 16:12-15, 1 Cor 2:9-11). The Holy Spirit does not give us interpretations that contradict or reveal “new truth” but rather illuminate what is already revealed in Scripture.

Remember, when it comes to Bible interpretation that **Scripture Interprets Scripture**. Therefore, we have to depend upon Scripture in the New Testament to help us interpret Scripture in the Old Testament. For example:

1. We read in James 1:7 that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights...” In other words, Jesus is a good God and good things (not bad things) come from our Heavenly Father.
2. We read in John 14:8-9 that “Philip saith unto him, Lord show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him... he that hath seen me hath seen the Father...” Then we read in John 5:19 that “The Son [Jesus] can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”
 - a. In other words, when Jesus did His earthly ministry, we saw a perfect example of what our Heavenly Father is like and what our Heavenly Father does.
 - b. Did Jesus ever put sickness or disease onto someone? The answer is no. Did Jesus ever put a curse on a human? The answer is no.**
3. We read in Acts 10:38 that “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil...” and we read in 1 John 3:8 that “He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”
 - a. In other words, Jesus (who was imitating God the Father) only did GOOD things (not bad things), and Acts 10:38 clearly states that it is the devil who oppresses humans with sickness and disease.
 - b. Jesus does not put the Old Testament curses on humans, it is the devil who is PERMITTED to attack humans, and God ALLOWS the devil to place curses on humans because of SIN. Jesus came to earth as 100% God and 100% man to make it possible for us to get rid of the devil’s curses and the devil’s bad things and instead receive God’s good things.

Also remember that the devil preaches his lies every Sunday morning from the church pulpit. It is time to give up and let go of your traditions! The devil has taught us (from the pulpit) that tornadoes, hurricanes, and other “acts of nature” are “acts of God.” No – a thousand times no! Don’t you remember? Good things come from God. Bad things come from the devil. But then the devil will quickly lie and say “but God is sovereign which means (**here comes the lie**) that God is controlling everything.” Liar, liar, liar! The Bible says that God sovereignly delegated authority to man. Don’t you remember? The Bible in James 4:7 tells us that “[We humans are to] Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” God is not going to resist the devil for us – God delegated that authority and responsibility to man; we are God’s policemen and policewomen on this earth.

The devil uses things like our human depression and anger to motivate us to sin (like commit a murder). This is what happened to Cain in Gen 4:6-7 which reads “And the Lord said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why do you look sad and depressed... If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.”

Human sin opens the door for the devil to attack (gives the devil a legal right to attack) with sickness, disease, paralysis, etc. This is clearly explained in Matt 9:2-7 which reads “And behold, they brought to Him a man paralyzed and prostrated by illness, lying on a sleeping pad; and when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man... **your sins are forgiven**... **Get up!** Pick up your sleeping pad and go to your own house. And he got up and went away to his own house.” And again in John 5:8-14 which reads “Jesus saith unto him, **Rise, take up thy bed**, and walk... Behold, thou art made whole: **sin no more**, lest a worse thing come unto thee.”

In the faith camp/Word church movement, we have been correctly taught that as Christians we have authority over the devil, sickness, etc. But... what we were NOT taught is that sickness and disease is ALWAYS the result of some SIN. A door was opened to the devil (which is a legal right for the devil to attack us) as a result of some sin. We have to discover what that sin was so that we can confess and repent of that sin (remove the devil’s legal right to attack, remove the devil’s legal right to place the curse upon us) and receive the healing that Jesus made available to us. James 5:16 clearly states that we are to “Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.” Use Jer 33:3 to ask the Lord for help in discovering what the sin problem is that has brought the devil’s curse. Then follow the steps in The Road To Freedom to get set free of the devil’s curse (see instructions in http://housechurchministriesforjesus.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/000_Hcmfj_120707_The-Road-To-Freedom.png).

Who do you think regulates the amount of heat coming from the sun? Jesus does.

Who do you think regulates the earth’s orbit around the sun? Jesus does.

What would happen if God removed His presence and Divine order from the earth’s rotation around the sun? The answer:

The removal of God’s presence and Divine order would cause (would create) calamity, disaster, adversity, and distress (evil).

Now you understand Isaiah 45:7 with reads from the Amplified Bible “I form the light and create darkness, I make peace [national well-being] and I create [physical] evil (calamity); I am the Lord, Who does all these things.”

As stated earlier, darkness is the absence of light. When God leaves – darkness and chaos is the result. When God removes His presence (because of sin), the result is everything bad. So yes, the removal of God’s light “creates” the darkness. The removal of God’s Divine order and presence “creates” physical evil (calamity). But... let’s not forget that it is mankind’s decision to sin (pushing God out of their hearts, pushing God out of their thoughts, pushing God out of their lives) that allows the devil and evil (calamity, disaster, adversity, distress, affliction, and misery) to be the result. So, **evil is the lack of God’s presence and Divine order**.

If you remove God's love, holiness, unity, truth, harmony, health, peace, life, pleasure, faith, order, etc., then in the absence of these things you have hate, unholiness, disunity, disharmony, sickness, war, death, pain, fear, disorder, etc. and all manner of EVIL. Natural disasters (hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, etc.) are simply a lack of balance, order and harmony in our environment.

So, God's **Judgment** is when we (because of sin, hard-hearted rebellion against Jesus) have removed God's presence from our lives, our cities, and our nations. When God removes His presence (because of sin), then bad things like disease (pestilence) war (sword) and drought (famine) are the result (Ez 6:11-14). In footnotes to Ez Chapter 6 we read:

Ezekiel 6:7 On the basis of the fact that God uses it more often than any other important word in the Bible, **the word "Lord" becomes the most essential term in any language for the welfare of any person.** It is not enough that one knows that God is God, and that He is, for only a fool would deny that (Ps. 53:1), but God demands of every person who is to be recognized by Him that he accepts Him as Lord of his life, his Sovereign Ruler, to Whom he yields implicit obedience. When Thomas was able to say of Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28), his doubts ceased to exist. Nothing short of that kind of expression of Christ's lordship meets God's demands. Watch for the word "Lord" in the Bible; it occurs around 5,000 times. Watch also for this phrase ("you shall know, understand, *and* realize that I am the Lord") throughout the book of Ezekiel.

Rather than end on an unhappy, sorrowful note. We do have God's promise in 2 Chronicles Chapter 7:12-14 which says if because of national sin there is judgment as evidenced by things such as drought and disease. Then, if God's remnant (the small group who have remained loyal to Jesus), will humbly pray, seek and crave God's face and turn (or stay turned) from wicked ways, than God will forgive the sins and heal their land.

My advice to you – if you do not want the sinner's judgment (consequences), then do not participate in their sins (keep God's presence in your life). Moreover, it does not matter if you are outnumbered and cannot hold your ground because Jesus will fight that battle for you provided:

1. You do not fear, but put your trust in Jesus (Matt 14:27, Josh 1:9, Ps 31:24, Ex 14:13)
2. Having done all the chrisis demands, then stand firmly in your place and hold your ground. (Eph 6:13-14, 2 Kings 6:16-18, 2 Chron 20:17, Deut 28:7, Ps 91:1-16, Ps 35:1-9)

The final punch line: Why do bad things happen? The answer: God's presence was not there. Jesus has to be **INVITED**, praised, and worshipped (1 Thes 5:18, Acts 16:25, Ps 100:4) You must seek and love God with all your heart, soul and mind (Matt 22:37). Jesus has to really for real be your LORD. Lord becomes the most essential term for the welfare of any person. If you are willing and obedient you shall eat the good of the land (Is 1:19).

So, why do bad things happen?? Simple – God's presence was not there.

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