

# The Problem of Evil

Genesis 3:1-7

**Introduction:** Three events: 'creation of heaven and earth' (Genesis 1-2); 'creation of the Church' (Matthew 16, Acts 2); and 'recreation of heaven and earth' (Revelation 21-22:5). Woven into these three stories is evil and freedom.

**Thoughts on evil** - God did not create man as a perfect copy of himself; he created two innocent beings capable of obeying and serving him; but because they were not perfect they had the capacity to do evil.

The consequences of my evil and the evil around me are not erased because of Jesus. For now we live in a veil of tears as we obey the Holy Spirit and his Word waiting for the return of Jesus Christ.

Genesis 3:1 - The Hebrew word translated "serpent" can refer to a "shining, upright creature". The first two words of verse two indicate that this serpent talked.

Genesis 3:2-5 - It would seem that the serpent wants to clarify what God told Adam and Eve regarding the trees in the garden.

**Concept:** In this story there is no attempt to explain the origin of evil; all we get is the origin of human sin and its resultant evil.

There are a number of 'tells' in this exchange. First, Satan can't stop questioning God's motives. Second, Satan can't avoid lies or half-truths. Third, Satan pretends to know things about God and that is also not true, Finally, when I lean in Satan's direction he is delighted in my movement away from faith in God and celebrates bringing me along.

Genesis 3:6-7 - These verses tell me that sin, when it comes to life, never stops growing or gaining ground. These two verses define and describe Eve's move towards sin, "she saw, she delighted, she desired, she took, she ate and she gave" some to her husband.

**Precept:** As believers God intends to deal with our sin and our sinful choices in this life so some of our pain and suffering can be a part of this life. (Job 31:1)

**Conclusion:** I conclude that what's missing is intentional and to pursue it will lead us away from the main point, how sin entered the human family.

**Precept:** Obedience and self-discipline are important lessons to learn but discernment is more important if we are to walk in the works and ways of the Lord Jesus.

Be careful where you fix your eyes. Satan told Eve that her eyes would be opened to know good and evil; choose to guard your eyes.

The greatest challenge is to simply trust God, (Proverbs 3:5-6) and when we do all will be well. All other choices have dyer consequences.