

Evil (killin' it)

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This message covers

- Why is there so much evil and God seems to do nothing about it?
- God's actual solution to the problem of evil.

Information notice board

- 1) **About me.** Before I became a devoted Christian, I spent 20 years of my life being a hedonist – one who seeks pleasure for the sake of it, yet Love also brought pain! Since God humbled me to turn me into his servant and I got baptized in May 2017, he has enabled me to overcome sin ruling my life and to live by the Holy Spirit. You can read my full testimony [here](#):
- 2) **About these series.** The Lord Jesus gave me a single word “Blossom” as I was praying for a word for this season and series. This word will define a series of 12 topics he has also given me to tell his church about and build Christian character in his Holy Spirit. This lesson is one of those messages, but what does it mean to blossom?
- 3) **Pray for us!** Without the Lord, our effort is in vain. Pray that we remain faithful, humble servants.
- 4) **Subscribe to** our [YouTube Channel](#) and keep up with our videos which support the website.
- 5) **Looking for a ministry to partner with (pray, volunteer, give, subscribe to)? Consider supporting:**

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A purpose driven church started by Rick and Kay Warren 35 years ago. From the beginning, Pastor Rick wanted his church to be a place for people who didn't like church

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Basics

Why is there so much evil in the world? Think for example to the American Black Lives Movement (BLM) where many cry out about injustice at the hands of the police. Or countries like Belarus where law and order is falling to pieces and its government jails opponents, those who can't get away anyway. We have a saying that “*the more things change, the more they stay the same*”. Perhaps we are dealing with an ancient problem.

Habakkuk, was a prophet who lived around 640 – 609 BCⁱ, that is about 2,800 years ago. He was really distressed by what he saw. He saw that justice was a joke and complained to God. Here is his complaint:

*God, how long do I have to cry out for help
before you listen?*

How many times do I have to yell, “Help! Murder! Police!”



*before you come to the rescue?
Why do you force me to look at evil,
stare trouble in the face day after day?
Anarchy and violence break out,
quarrels and fights all over the place.
Law and order fall to pieces.
Justice is a joke.
The wicked have the righteous hamstrung
and stand justice on its head.*

Habakkuk 1: 1 -4 (MSG)

Sounds similar to our world today, over 2,800 years later.

[Now in these series of which this message is part 10](#), we are using an analogy of an orange tree growing to describe how a Christian matures in the Holy Spirit to the point of bearing lasting fruit, including how to overcome evil.

So, when growing an orange tree from a seed, over the 5 years, there are 6 key stages it goes through:

1. Planting
2. Sprouting
3. Growing
4. Blossoming (Flowering)
5. Pollination
6. Bearing Fruit

Disaster can however strike in the form of an incurable disease that is today called the “HIV/AIDS of oranges”. It is the disease commonly called “Citrus greening” or huanglongbing (HLB). The disease is so dangerous that in Florida, one of the primary orange production areas, it caused production to fall by 72%. In China, where it originated (just like oranges), the top producing region of oranges lost 25% of their groves by 2018 and in Brazil, it has eliminated 31% of the trees. Worse than these statistics is that this disease has very few weapons against it. Little is known about the bacteria which causes it and there are few cures to date. Pesticides can help control it but eventually they too develop resistance.

How does HLB devastate oranges?

HLB attacks a tree’s phloem (also known as sap or the life blood of a plant, as we covered in the previous message [on love, being like sap](#))—the vascular tissue that it uses to transport nutrients—so infected trees don’t grow at the rate of healthy ones. Although they appear healthy initially, trees with HLB become unproductive within a few years.ⁱⁱ

How does evil eventually kill someone? Where does it come from? If God is all powerful, why is he doing nothing about it? How do you solve a problem like evil anyway?

Examples from the bible: Understanding evil and God’s response

God can be complicated to understand. When Habakkuk took his complaint to God about violence and injustice in his nation, as highlighted earlier, do you know how God responded? He said, he was going to send an evil nation, of Babylon to discipline the Israelites for their injustice. This shocked the prophet and this is what he said:

*God, you're from eternity, aren't you?
Holy God, we aren't going to die, are we?
God, you chose Babylonians for your judgment work?
Rock-Solid God, you gave them the job of discipline?
But you can't be serious!
You can't condone evil!
So why don't you do something about this?
Why are you silent now?
This outrage! Evil men swallow up the righteous
and you stand around and watch!*

Habakkuk 1: 12 – 13 (MSG)

God answered Habakkuk eventually in a way he understood by showing that the problem of the end of evil would be coming soon! He explained the fate of the evil in Habakkuk 2 over several verses, which seem a replica of our modern problems:

Describing pride, arrogance and narcissism:

*⁴ "Look at that man, bloated by self-importance—
full of himself but soul-empty.
But the person in right standing before God
through loyal and steady believing
is fully alive, really alive.*

God then took on the arrogant rich:

*⁵⁻⁶ "Note well: Money deceives.
The arrogant rich don't last.
They are more hungry for wealth
than the grave is for cadavers.
Like death, they always want more,
but the 'more' they get is dead bodies.
They are cemeteries filled with dead nations,
graveyards filled with corpses.
Don't give people like this a second thought.
Soon the whole world will be taunting them:*

And then the corrupt and thieves – those who use power or violence to steal

*⁶⁻⁸ "Who do you think you are—
getting rich by stealing and extortion?
How long do you think
you can get away with this?"*

Neither did he fail to call out the party animals, hedonists and drunks.

*¹⁵⁻¹⁷ "Who do you think you are—
inviting your neighbors to your drunken parties,
Giving them too much to drink,
roping them into your sexual orgies?
You thought you were having the time of your life.*

***Wrong! It's a time of disgrace.
All the time you were drinking,
you were drinking from the cup of God's wrath.***
*You'll wake up holding your throbbing head, hung over—
hung over from Lebanon violence,
Hung over from animal massacres,
hung over from murder and mayhem,
From multiple violations
of place and people.*

Habakkuk 2: 2- 17 (MSG)

Our generation: The ancient evil problem

Our generation is “woke” and it is correct that bad things happened in the past, but it is now 2,800 years since the ancient times and Jesus Christ has surely come, why then does evil still prevail? Which then makes us ask many questions.

Qn #1: Is God cruel? Does he enjoy seeing us die?

Instead of the evil being struck down by a bolt of lightning, they seem to be the ones punishing the righteous. Is God really cruel we ask? God has already answered this question. There is another prophet to whom he gave the answer to the question: “Is God cruel?” This is what he says to the Prophet Ezekiel:

“Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign LORD. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live. However, if righteous people turn from their righteous behavior and start doing sinful things and act like other sinners, should they be allowed to live? No, of course not! All their righteous acts will be forgotten, and they will die for their sins. Ezekiel 8: 23 – 24 (NLT).

God is therefore concerned most about justice. Stop doing evil and you will live. But this doesn't answer all the questions we ask today, including by agnostics.

Qn #2: If God doesn't want to see people die, so where does evil come from?

Jesus explained this plainly in his parable of the weeds. He describes it as follows:

Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. “The owner's servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ““An enemy did this,’ he replied. Matthew 13: 24 – 28 (NIV).

So it is clear that God who is good is not responsible for evil. It is his enemy, that ancient serpent, craftier than all God's creation who is always asking “did God really say this?”.

Our generation's Dilemma

Our generation's dilemma is this. Jesus came and rose again as many of us read about him when growing up, but the saddest bit is that, many of us know, try as hard as some of us want to avoid sin, it seems to chase after us! And we enjoy sinning! The bible describes this dilemma as follows:

It happens so regularly that it's predictable. The moment I decide to do good, sin is there to trip me up. I truly delight in God's commands, but it's pretty obvious that not all of me joins in that delight. Parts of me covertly rebel, and just when I least expect it, they take charge.

I've tried everything and nothing helps. I'm at the end of my rope. Is there no one who can do anything for me? Isn't that the real question?

Romans 7: 21 – 24 (MSG)

What is the solution to the dilemma?

The answer, thank God, is that Jesus Christ can and does. He acted to set things right in this life of contradictions where I want to serve God with all my heart and mind, but am pulled by the influence of sin to do something totally different. Romans 7: 25 (MSG)

The solution to the dilemma of evil and sin in your life is not to cover it, but to confess it – to bring it to Jesus, like the immoral woman in the story in Luke 7: 36 – 49.

When Jesus went to eat at the house of Simon the Pharisee, this immoral woman (probably a prostitute) brought very expensive perfume and weeping, she wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair and anointed them with the perfume. Simon wondered in his heart what sort of Prophet Jesus was who didn't know what sort of woman was touching him. Jesus in response told Simon a parable which showed that those who have been forgiven greater sins (like the woman), love much more. He reminded Simon, who probably felt self-righteous that he had not even extended to him common courtesies like water for his feet or anointing oil for the day, but she had, with her tears and perfume and then he forgave her sins.

Acknowledging who Jesus, being humble and believing him is the way to kill evil.

- It's Jesus who God sent as a solution to rescues us from the wretchedness of evil.
- It's Jesus who gives us his Holy Spirit thus allowing the just to live by faith
- It's Jesus who will enable us to rise again and never die
- It's Jesus who while we are here on earth helps us overcome evil by giving us the fruit of the Holy Spirit who is a seal/deposit/guarantee (2 Cor 1: 22) working holiness in us until we attain the full stature of Christ.
- This is the Holy Spirit who transforms us from one degree of glory to the next (2 Cor 3: 18) first stumbling, then crawling, then walking, then running and then killin' evil with him at the resurrection.
- This is the Spirit who helps us to no longer live by the flesh and become a slave to the flesh and all the wickedness and evil it produces, like citrus greening disease. Instead with Him, we become slaves of righteousness and go on producing the fruit of the spirit:

love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5: 22)

Next steps

Would you like to receive the Holy Spirit to help you overcome sin in this life, knowing the Lord Jesus will eventually kill it for the next life? This promise is available for everyone who believes.

“Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him.

Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life. Outside the city are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie.”

Revelation 22:1-3, 14-15 NLT

Let us pray.

How can I pray for you?

- You are a believer but sin is overcoming you. You need the Lord’s help to kill it.
- You have never received the gift of Christ, being eternal life and neither have you received his Holy Spirit.

Write to me so I can pray further for you: dwasake@shaweleroad.com

Be blessed.

END.

Notes

ⁱ <https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-habakkuk/>

ⁱⁱ <https://cen.acs.org/biological-chemistry/biochemistry/Citrus-greening-killing-worlds-orange/97/i23>