

Why Does Evil Exist? Part II

Brandon Phillips / General

The King and His Glory / Prayer / Matthew 6:9–13

In Matt 6:9-13, Jesus teaches His disciples the proper, God-honoring, and worshipful way to pray.

Pre-sermon Comments

[2 Corinthians 11:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ.

[2 Corinthians 11:14–15](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is not surprising if his ministers also disguise themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds.

These present sufferings ...are actually in a sense blessings in disguise, because the sufferings in this world are used by God for our ultimate good and for our ultimate benefit. ~ R. C. Sproul

Discussion Questions

Sermon Text

Matt [hew 6:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ ‘And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]

Sermon Outline

In this week’s sermon, we will consider from Scripture three propositional truths about God’s relationship with evil. God’s Word assures us that God is/has an/is not the:

- **Absolutely Sovereign over Evil!**
- **Astounding Purpose For Evil!**
- **Author of Evil!**

Review

Passage Outline

- **God's Power and Sovereignty (Matt [6:9-10](#))**
- **God's Provision and Security (Matt [6:11-13](#))**

Evil Exists and Abounds

Supernatural Evil

Natural Evil

Moral Evil

Eternal Evil

Evil does not proliferate

God has restrained evil in four powerful ways

Humans are personally restrained through the human conscience.

The Civil Government restrains evil by bearing the sword.

Humans are relationally restrained by the family

The Church restrains evil by preaching the gospel.

God's Word assures us that God is Absolutely Sovereign over Evil!

The Westminster Confession, Chapter III, Paragraph I:

God, from all eternity, did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is violence offered to the will of the

creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established,

[Psalm 33:11](#) (LSB) ¹¹ The counsel of Yahweh stands forever, The thoughts of His heart from generation to generation.

[Isaiah 46:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My counsel will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure',

[Acts 2:23](#) (LSB) ²³ this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put *Him* to death.

[Acts 4:27–28](#) (LSB) ²⁷ “For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

[Ephesians 1:5](#) (LSB) ⁵ by predestining us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

[Ephesians 1:11](#) (LSB) ¹¹ In Him, we also have been made an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

[Ephesians 3:11](#) (LSB) ¹¹ *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

[Philippians 2:13](#) (LSB) ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

[Hebrews 6:17–18](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

Michael Riccardi: These passages the truth of God's divine decree by which God, before the foundation of the world and the creation of time, determined to bring about all things that were to happen in time.

God's decree is Eternal!

[Psalm 139:16](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unshaped substance; And in Your book all of them were written The days that were formed *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.

[Matthew 25:34](#) (LSB) ³⁴ “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom, which has been prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

[1 Corinthians 2:7](#) (LSB) ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the *wisdom* which has been hidden, which God predestined before the ages to our glory,

[Ephesians 1:4](#) (LSB) ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him in love,

[2 Timothy 1:9](#) (LSB) ⁹ who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,

[Ephesians 1:11](#) (LSB) ¹¹ In Him, we also have been made an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

[Ephesians 3:11](#) (LSB) ¹¹ *This was* in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord,

God's Decree is Unconditional!

[Isaiah 43:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ “You are My witnesses,” declares Yahweh, “And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no god formed, And there will be none after Me.

[Isaiah 44:24](#) (LSB) ²⁴ Thus says Yahweh, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb, “I, Yahweh, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone,

[Psalm 115:3](#) (LSB) ³ But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

[Psalm 135:6](#) (LSB) ⁶ Whatever Yahweh pleases, He does, In heaven and on earth, in the seas and in all deeps.

[Isaiah 46:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My counsel will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure,

[Daniel 4:35](#) (LSB) ³⁵ “And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can strike against His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

God’s Decree is Immutable and Efficacious!

[Psalm 33:10–11](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ Yahweh nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the thoughts of the peoples.

¹¹ The counsel of Yahweh stands forever, The thoughts of His heart from generation to generation.

[Daniel 4:35](#) (LSB) ³⁵ “And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of earth; And no one can strike against His hand Or say to Him, ‘What have You done?’

[Job 42:2](#) (LSB) ² “I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.

[Isaiah 14:27](#) (LSB) ²⁷ “For Yahweh of hosts has counseled, and who can thwart *it*? And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?”

[Isaiah 46:9–11](#) (LSB) ⁹ “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me,

¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My counsel will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’, ¹¹ Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My counsel from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have formed *it*, surely I will do it.

God’s Decree is Exhaustive!

[Romans 8:28](#) (LSB) ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to *His* purpose.

He controls the weather

[Job 37:5–12](#) (LSB) ⁵ “God thunders with His voice marvelously, Doing great things which we do not know. ⁶ “For to the snow He says, ‘Fall on the earth,’ And to the downpour of rain and the downpour of rains, ‘Be strong.’ ⁷ “He seals the hand of every man, That all men may know His work. ⁸ “Then the beast goes into its lair And dwells in its den. ⁹ “Out of the south comes the storm, And out of the north the cold. ¹⁰ “From the breath of God ice is made, And the expanse of the waters is frozen. ¹¹ “Also with moisture He loads the thick cloud; He scatters the cloud of His lightning. ¹² “It changes direction, turning around by His guidance, That it may do whatever He commands it On the face of the inhabited earth.

He controls entire solar system

[Psalm 19:1](#) (LSB) ¹ The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And the expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

[Matthew 5:45](#) (LSB) ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on *the* evil and *the* good, and sends rain on *the* righteous and *the* unrighteous.

[Psalm 104:14](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for man’s cultivation, To bring forth food from the earth,

He feeds all the animals

Matt [hew 6:26](#) (LSB) ²⁶ “Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they?

Matt [hew 10:29](#) (LSB) ²⁹ “Are not two sparrows sold for an assarion? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

He clothes and feeds His people

Matt [hew 6:31-33](#) (LSB) ³¹ “Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ ³² “For all these things the Gentiles eagerly seek; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³ “But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

He sets the boundaries of the nations and rules over them

[Acts 17:26](#) (LSB) ²⁶ and He made from one *man* every nation of mankind to inhabit all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,

[Psalm 22:28](#) (LSB) ²⁸ For the kingdom is Yahweh’s And He rules over the nations.

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue: God ordains even the desires and free choices of men, whether for good ([Eph. 2:10](#)) or for evil ([Gen. 45:5-8](#); [50:20](#); [1 Sam. 2:25](#); [2 Sam. 24:1](#); [Isa. 10:1-8](#); [Acts 2:23](#); [4:27-28](#)).

John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue: Perhaps the greatest summary statement of the exhaustiveness of God’s decree comes in Paul’s doxology in [Romans 11:36](#): “For from him and through him and to him are all things.” Whether ends, means, contingencies, desires, choices, or even the good and evil actions of men, nothing escapes the providential governance of God’s decree.

Mike Riccardi: The exhaustiveness and meticulousness of God’s sovereign decree raises a significant question: How can God be the cause of actions and events that are evil and sinful—things which God Himself prescribes against—

and yet not be rightly charged with unrighteousness? Scripture gives us no other option but that God is indeed the Sovereign Lord who works *all* things [including evil] after the counsel of His will (Eph 1:11).

Discussion Questions:

What does it mean for God to be "absolutely sovereign" over all things, including evil? How does this impact your understanding of God's nature?

How do verses like [Isaiah 46:10](#) and [Psalm 33:11](#) affirm God's absolute control over everything that happens in the world?

How does God's decree being eternal ([Ephesians 1:4](#), [Psalm 139:16](#)) challenge or comfort you when considering the trials in your life?

How does understanding that God ordains even difficult events for His purpose ([Romans 8:28](#)) provide hope in a broken world?

[Philippians 2:13](#) says God is working in us for His good pleasure. How does this encourage you in your walk with Christ, knowing that God's purposes will ultimately prevail?

How does the knowledge that God's decrees are both eternal and unchangeable ([Isaiah 46:9-11](#)) influence your trust in Him during uncertain times?

Pastor Brandon mentioned that God's decree is exhaustive, covering even the smallest details in life. How does this truth affect your view of God's providence in day-to-day circumstances?

[Job 37:5-12](#) speaks of God's control over nature. How can reflecting on God's meticulous control over creation help you trust Him with the uncertainties in your own life?

Considering God's absolute sovereignty, how should this influence our prayer life, especially when we face evil or suffering in the world?

How can we encourage one another in the small group to rest in God's sovereign plans, even when we don't understand them fully?

God's Word assures us that God has an Astounding Purpose For Evil!

Old Testament thought consistently affirms God as the ultimate cause of all things, even the existence of the serpent (3:1), but it never attributes evil to God. He is not morally responsible for the sin of the first couple nor is he culpable for the serpent's deceit. ~ Kenneth A. Mathews

God's Decree and Divine Permission

Permission: "not to hinder what has, or appears to have, a tendency to take place" - Jonathan Edwards, *Concerning the Divine Decrees* as quoted by Mike Riccardi

[Mark 10:13-14](#) (LSB) ¹³ And they were bringing children to Him so that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Permit the children to come to Me; do not hinder them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Michael Riccardi: Arminian theologians treat the concept of permission according to its actual definition. Jack Cottrell, an Arminian, puts it this way: "God simply allows these agents to produce what they will. This is true permission, i.e., not efficaciousness but noninterference." Cottrell is actually using the concept of permission according to its true sense: a response to a future plan or intention known in advance.

Mike Riccardi: [At the time of God's decree], there was nothing for God to refrain from interfering with, nothing outside of Himself to which to "acquiesce."

[Acts 17:24-25](#) (LSB) ²⁴ "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; ²⁵ nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things;

[Acts 17:28](#) (LSB) ²⁸ for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.'

What does the Bible teach regarding God's agency in evil?

Mike Riccardi: We want to avoid speaking of God's involvement in ordaining evil or sinful events, because we don't want people to think that we're saying sin is God's fault. And of course, that is a noble desire. But I don't think that permissive language accomplishes that end, because Scripture itself doesn't mind speaking of God's agency in evil in very active terms.

Biblical Examples

[Amos 3:6](#)

[Amos 3:6](#) (LSB) ⁶ If a trumpet is blown in a city will not the people tremble? If a calamity happens in a city has not Yahweh done it?

The Book of Lamentations

[Deuteronomy 28:15](#) (LSB) ¹⁵ "But it will be, if you do not listen to the voice of Yahweh your God, to keep *and* to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I am commanding you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

[Lamentations 1:5](#) (LSB) ⁵ Her adversaries have become her masters; Her enemies are complacent; For Yahweh has caused her grief Because of the greatness of her transgressions; Her infants have gone away As captives before the adversary.

[Lamentations 2:17](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ Yahweh has done what He purposed; He has completed His word Which He commanded from days of old. He has pulled down without sparing, And He has caused the enemy to be glad over you; He has exalted the might of your adversaries.

[Lamentations 3:37-38](#) (LSB) ³⁷ Who is there who speaks and it happens, Unless the Lord has commanded *it*? ³⁸ Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both calamities and good go forth?

[Lamentations 4:11](#) (LSB) ¹¹ Yahweh has spent His wrath; He has poured out His burning anger; And He has kindled a fire in Zion Which has devoured its foundations.

[Isaiah 45:5-7](#)

[Isaiah 45:5-7](#) (LSB) ⁵ “I am Yahweh, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, ⁶ That they may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am Yahweh, and there is no other,

⁷ The One forming light and creating darkness, Producing peace and creating calamity; I am Yahweh who does all these.

The story of Joseph and his brothers

Mike Riccardi: God’s intentions in Joseph being unjustly sold into slavery were just as active as Joseph’s brothers’ were. He was as sovereignly involved on the front end of Joseph’s trials as He was on the back end of his prosperity.

[Genesis 45:5-7](#) (LSB) ⁵ “So now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

⁶ “For the famine *has been* in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ “So God sent me before you to establish for you a remnant in the earth and to keep you alive for a great remnant of survivors.

[Genesis 50:20](#) (LSB) ²⁰ “As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to do *what has happened on this day*, to keep many people alive.

The crucifixion of Christ

[Acts 2:22-23](#) (LSB) ²² “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God did through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— ²³ this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put Him to death.

[Acts 4:27-28](#) (LSB) ²⁷ “For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate,

along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

It seems absurd to them for man, who will soon be punished for his blindness, to be blinded by God's will and command. Therefore they escape by the shift that this is done only with God's permission, not also by his will; but he, openly declaring that he is the doer, repudiates that evasion. However, that men can accomplish nothing except by God's secret command, that they cannot by deliberating accomplish anything except what he has already decreed with himself and determines by his secret direction, is proved by innumerable and clear testimonies. What we have cited before from the psalm, that God does whatever he wills [[Ps. 115:3](#)], certainly pertains to all the actions of men. If, as is here said, God is the true Arbiter of wars and of peace, and this without any exception, who, then, will dare say that men are borne headlong by blind motion unbeknown to God or with his acquiescence? ~ John Calvin, Institutes of the Christian Religion & 2, ed. John T. McNeill, trans. Ford Lewis Battles, vol. 1, The Library of Christian Classics (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), 229.

God does bring about sinful human actions. To deny this, or to charge God with wickedness on account of it, is not open to a Bible-believing Christian. Somehow, we must confess both that God has a role in bringing evil about, and that in doing so he is holy and blameless. ~ John Frame (*Doctrine of God*, 175)

Conclusion:

[Romans 11:33–36](#) (LSB) ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? ³⁵ Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE REPAYED TO HIM? ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

Communion:

[1 Corinthians 13:12](#) (LSB) ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

[Hebrews 2:17](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ Therefore, He had to be made like His brothers in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

[2 Corinthians 5:18–21](#) (LSB) ¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

[Acts 2:23–24](#) (LSB) ²³ this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of lawless men and put *Him* to death. ²⁴ “But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

[Colossians 2:14](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us which was hostile to us, He also has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

[1 John 1:9](#) (LSB) ⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[1 Corinthians 11:23–26](#) (LSB) ²³ For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was being betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁵ In the same way *He took* the cup also after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink *it*, in remembrance of Me.”

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until He comes.

The Gospel

God

Created and owns everything

[*Gen 1:1*](#)—*In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth*

[*Psalms 24:1*](#)—*The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it.*

Is Perfectly Holy

[*1 John 1:5*](#)—*This is the message we heard from Him and announce to you that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

[*Matt 5:48*](#)—*Therefore you are to be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.*

Requires perfect obedience to His Law

[*James 2:10*](#)—*for whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.*

Man

Has broken God's law

[*Rom 3:10,23*](#)—*there is none righteous, not even one...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*

Will pay the eternal penalty for his sin

[*Rom. 6:23*](#)—*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*

Cannot save himself by his good works

[Titus 3:5](#)—He saved us not based on works which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.

Christ

Came to earth both as God and sinless man

[Col 2:9](#)—For in Him the fullness of deity dwells in bodily form

Demonstrated God's love by dying on the cross to pay sin's penalty

[Rom 5:8](#)—But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

[2 Cor 5:21](#)—He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Rose from the grave and is alive today

[1 Cor 15:4](#)—And that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

Sinners

Must repent of all that dishonors God

[Isa 55:7](#)—Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

[Luke 9:23](#)—if anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me.

Must believe in Christ as Lord and Savior

[Rom 10:9](#)—that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

Will you repent and believe in Christ?

[Acts 17:30](#)—therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance God is declaring to men that all everywhere should repent.

Don't hesitate to contact Pastor Brandon or Pastor Keith if you have any questions about this sermon or if you would like to know how to follow Christ.

Brandon.Phillips@gracegainesville.org

Keith.Kemp@gracegainesville.org

Next Time:

God's Word assures us that God is not Author of Evil!

Additional Quotes

For, were it not good that evil things should also exist, the omnipotent God would almost certainly not allow evil to be, since beyond doubt it is just as easy for Him not to allow what He does not will, as for Him to do what He will. ~

Saint Augustine of Hippo

Every renewed heart is anxious to be free from even a speck of evil. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Evil is the real problem in the hearts and minds of men. It is not a problem of physics but of ethics. It is easier to de-nature plutonium than to de-nature the evil spirit of man. ~ **Albert Einstein**

There is nothing evil in matter itself. Evil lies in the spirit. Evils of the heart, of the mind, of the soul, of the spirit—these have to do with man's sin, and the only reason the human body does evil is because the human spirit uses it to do evil. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

My child, flee from every evil and everything that resembleth it. ~ **Didache**

The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between parties either—but right through every human heart—through all human hearts. ~ **Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (School Teacher)**

God would never permit any evil if he could not bring good out of evil. ~ **Thomas Watson**

A defense of God's righteousness is called a theodicy. ~ **Roy B. Zuck**

A theodicy is an attempt to vindicate the justice of God in his actions. ~ **James Montgomery Boice**

A biblical theodicy assumes not that man in his fallenness has the ability to obey God but rather that fallen humans in their corrupted nature choose only what serves their own pleasure and power. ~ **John F. MacArthur; Richard Mayhue**

Jesus solved the Old Testament problem of evil by harmonizing divine justice and mercy. By his atoning death, he is the divine theodicy, vindicating both divine justice and mercy at the cross ([Rom. 3:26](#); [5:8-9](#), [20-21](#)) ~ **John F. MacArthur; Richard Mayhue**

Since the ultimate theodicy is future, we must now deal with the problem of evil by faith. ~ **John Frame**

The word theodicy suggests a man looking about in the world and coming to the conclusion that God's way with it is just. ~ **Gerrit Cornelis Berkouwer (Theologian)**

The problem of theodicy is insoluble outside of a faith that knows the limits of human reason. ~ **Gerrit Cornelis Berkouwer (Theologian)**

Whenever you find the people of God in a condition of real revival, they don't write books on theodicy; they make calls for repentance and contrition. ~ **D. A. Carson**

Since the burden of proof is on the objector, it is not necessary for us to come up with a full theodicy, a complete justification of God's ways. ~ **John Frame**

The most basic cause of controversy over the doctrine of hell is the challenge of theodicy. ~ **Dr. Richard Albert Mohler Jr.**

“Apocalyptic literature is always a theodicy literature, not in the sense of providing a theoretical explanation for evil, but in the sense of offering a vision that sees beyond the horrors of ‘the present evil age.’ ” ~ **Andreas J. Köstenberger; L. Scott Kellum; Charles L. Quarles**

Köstenberger; L. Scott Kellum; Charles L. Quarles

However, while God is properly said to ordain—and thus to be the Ultimate Cause of—all things, he is never the proper chargeable cause of evil. Scripture distinguishes between the (1) Ultimate Cause of an action and (2) the proximate and efficient causes of an action, indicating that only the proximate and efficient causes are blameworthy for an evil action. ~ **John F. MacArthur; Richard Mayhue**

Satan was the immediate cause, but God was the ultimate cause. ~ **John F. MacArthur**

This is not to say that God is the author of sin. He is the *ultimate* cause of sin, not the immediate cause of it. ~ **Millard J. Erickson**

Causality operates hierarchically in the universe: the first and ultimate cause, who is God, gives being to all. ~ **Saint Thomas Aquinas**

What is the problem of this world? What is the ultimate cause of our troubles? It is not man! It is the devil and his unseen forces and powers. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

He is not outside history; history is not working itself out apart from Him; He controls it at this moment. It is in His hands and He is unfolding it. ~ **David Martyn Lloyd-Jones (Welsh Preacher and Writer)**

God is the source of primary causality; in other words, He is the first cause. He is the Author of all that is, and He continues to be the primary cause of human events and of natural occurrences. ~ **R. C. Sproul**