

Satan: Adversary (III)

Many are curious about satan

- 1 Tim.3:6, pride [Mt.4:8-10]
- Jd.9, self-control
- 1 Pt.1:12, secret [Ep.3:10]
- Many are guilty of selective evil.
 - “Why do babies suffer?”
 - As in abortion?
 - Does suffering violate a standard?
 - Sin introduced suffering in world, Gn.3.
 - Jesus came to suffer / save us from sin.

I. Questions

II. Some Find Fault With God

**III. Faultfinders Have
No Better Alternative**

A. What about suffering [Canaan]?

- If no God, we are only a collection of amoral cells, like a tree that blows over in a storm.
 - If no God, no evil.

‘In a universe of electrons and selfish genes, blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won’t find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice...no design, no purpose, no evil and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference’ – Richard Dawkins

A. What about Canaanite slaughters?

- If science alone explains us, can't blame God or religion as root of all evil...
 - There is NO EVIL!
 - Supernatural explanation is beyond realm of nature and science
- If humans are cosmic accidents who simply dance to the music of DNA, what is wrong with anything??

Why should we be moral? is like wondering
Why should we be hungry? – Michael Shemer

A. What about Canaanite slaughters?

- Without God, moral impulses are no more true (or false) than a vomit or a yawn.
 - Thinking ‘I ought’ is on the same level as ‘I itch’ ... or ‘I prefer cheese’ – Lewis.
- Gn.15:16, God waited 430 years before destruction of Canaan.
 - Canaanite thirst for blood expressed itself in idolatry.

Wm. F. Albright – deity *Anath*

The blood was so deep that she waded in it up to her knees – nay, up to her neck. Under her feet were human heads, above her human hands flew like locusts. In her sensuous delight she decorated herself with suspended heads while she attached hands to her girdle. Her joy at the butchery is described in even more sadistic language: ‘Her liver swelled with laughter, her heart was full of joy, the liver of Anath (was full of exultation).’ Afterwards Anath ‘was satisfied’ and washed her hands in human gore before proceeding to other occupations.

A. What about Canaanite slaughters?

- Amos 1-2, Gentiles were accountable for sin explained in Ro.1:19-20 . . .
 - ‘without excuse’
- Final question: What is wrong with slaughter of Canaanites?
 1. Adults were corrupt; worthy of judgment.
 2. Children were eternally safe.

Who is wronged?

B. Human suffering?

- Bertrand Russell, 20th Century atheist:
How can you talk about God when you're kneeling at the bed of a dying child?
 1. The real tragedy: people reject God, push Him away, until they need something...?
 2. What would we have God do? Remove our free will? [Pro-choice?]
 - a. Gn.4: free will is real; people demand it. Consequence: innocent may suffer.
 - b. Innocents' suffering ends here, Mt.18.

B. Human suffering?

- Atheists deny God, but do not remove problem of evil.
- What could Bertrand Russell say when he kneels at bed of dying child?
 - Comfort child with love of God?
 - Assure child of eternal joy?
 - Cold silence???

c. Why did God create humans, knowing many will go to hell?

- Sinners have freedom to reject God's grace. Mt.23:37. 1 Tim.2:4. Ezk.33:11.
- God never forces Himself on us...will not force us to love Him, like Him, live with Him.

I. Questions

II. Some Find Fault With God

III. Faultfinders Have
No Better Alternative

IV. Why Allow Satan
To Come To Earth?

Satan has limited power.

- Mt.4, Jesus could work miracles, but...
 - He quoted Scripture
 - Mt.4:4, *man*
- Satan's defeat highlights power / victory of Christ. Lk.23:...39-43. Jn.12:32
- Develops our faith and spiritual growth.
- Principles illustrated . . .

Habakkuk

Romans 8

Lewis

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?”