

CAN YOU DISTINGUISH EVIL FROM SIN?

ARE WAR AND DISEASE EVIL?

DID GOD CREATE EVIL?

taken from

1 Timothy 1:18

FOURTH IN A FOUR PART SERIES



Buddy Dano, Pastor

Divine Viewpoint

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CAN YOU DISTINGUISH EVIL FROM SIN?

One of the passages that seems to have been difficult is Isaiah 45:7. This has the principle of evil in it. We're taking up some of the passages that discuss what exactly evil is. This passage talks about the Lord Jesus Christ controlling history. The greatest demonstration of this is in a so-called problem passage, which we must look at. Isaiah 45:7.

This is one of the strongest passages on this particular subject. I'll read it through once and then we'll dissect it. We'll go back to verse 5. It says "I am the Lord and there is none else. There is no god besides Me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known Me. That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside Me. I am the Lord, and there is none else." He's very dogmatic. Then, our so-called problem passage. "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things." Well, you can see that immediately there is a supposed problem there with "I create evil." We'll go slowly through this passage and include it in our concept of evil.

You can't simply quote this one. You have to get a corrected translation. It takes a little bit more. So, first of all, last time we started to review some of the words for creation, because there are three of them here. We began to list them, so I'll list them again for you and then we'll continue.

One of the words for "create" in the Hebrew language is BARA, and it means to create something out of nothing. That was used for the creation of man's soul. So, we also have ASAH. These are all words that are translated "create" or "made." This is the personality that emerges in the soul. Then, the third word is JATSAR, which is also translated "create" or "made." Man's body is said to be molded. That's the word JATSAR. The other word is BENAHA and that refers to the woman's body. These last two refer to the body of a man or a woman, while BARA is used for the soul, and ASAH is the personality inside of the soul.

So, here are four words. Three of these are used in this passage. We won't get to number four, but we will take up three of them. "I formed the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil." The word "formed" is one of the words. "Create darkness." create is another one of the words. "Make peace," make is another one of the words. And "create evil" is another one. We have three used in this particular phrase. "I formed the light." That's JATSAR. It's the kal, active, participle of JATSAR. Not only was the body of man formed, but light, which is in the Hebrew, OR, was also molded.

So, there's a synonymous term with the man's body and also light. This is a very excellent way to describe light, by the way. Light generally in scripture represents Truth.

Light generally represents the wonderful things we see in color. But, the reason that it is said to be molded is because light comes in waves. The waves of light are actually molded. And in light are all the colors that we see. In the prism, for example, when you break it down into the spectrum, you have a tremendous wave range of all the colors you have ever seen, plus some colors that you have never seen, like ultra-violet and infrared. The radiations of color are invisible. But they are said to be formed. That's the word here, or sculptured. This is an excellent way of describing it. There is also, by the way, heat in light, but that is another story.

Now, the previous verse said "I am the Lord, and there is none other." And then it says "forming light." This is the beginning of a very interesting way of teaching because in the Hebrew this is a structured concept. Now in a structured concept in the Hebrew language it usually has four phrases. They're all kal, active, participles. And they all relate, first of all, and they are all parallel, and they're also antithesis between one and two, and three and four. And then two is related to three and one relates to four. It's a very beautiful system by God the Holy Spirit setting up Truth so you can't forget it. "I am Je-

hovah,” the Lord, “there is no other. Forming light.”

And then we have the word BARA, which is #1 here, a kal, active, participle. It sets up the structurized concept. And the object of BARA is different and it's the word “darkness.” It looks like this: CHOSEK. This is caused by the fall of Satan. We know this according to Genesis 1:3-5. Darkness, therefore, is used in connection with Satan. So we have an antithesis in the beginning of our structure here. We have light formed, JATSAR, and darkness created.

Now, the fact that darkness comes from this word BARA, and light comes from the Hebrew word JATSAR, it is extremely important in this passage. Because there will be something set up to relate to this. BARA will be repeated. Darkness is not created directly by God. But, God created a creature who brought darkness into the world. This is a reference to darkness, not as we understand it, like when we walk out at night, but this actually refers to Satan as the author of darkness.

God created Satan and he was called Lucifer, Son of the Morning, Angel of Light. When God created him he was absolutely perfect. But in his free will, in his volition, there were certain negative elements, which were contrary to the Word of God and contrary to God. From those negative elements came darkness.

So, while God created Satan, and gave him free will, what did Satan do with it? Well, he created darkness, the antithesis of light formed by God. This is the structural concept here. Since JATSAR is used here, we are to think of light, not as color, but as wave lengths. Light travels in waves and darkness breaks the waves.

So, God created this creature and gave him free will. The first thing that he did when he got oriented in Heaven was to make sure that he broke the waves, the vibrations, as it were, that God had set up. He went against them. Darkness is the creation of Satan. Darkness was caused by the fall of Satan and by this unseen angelic revolution.

In preparing Earth for man's inhabitation God corrected the situation with light when

He restored the Earth. Light would provide heat and energy, which would melt off the ice pack and to make it possible for man to live on this Earth. Man was created primarily to resolve the unseen conflict. But, in this verse it declares that God created the darkness, and BARA is used because God created Satan, who is called the Prince of Darkness.

As the ruler of this world Satan is a creature of God. God is the Creator. The whole blessing that we are to derive from this structurized Hebrew system is that the Creator continues to control, even though the creature, from his own free will, went away from God that had formed it. The point is: “Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” And what this actually shows in essence is that Jesus Christ actually controls history even though the greatest genius that ever came from the hand of God was Lucifer, the Son of the Morning. And even though Lucifer, the Son of the Morning, is the author of darkness, all that is found here in what we call here in Isaiah 45:7 a structurized system.

Now, this structurized system continues, as you can see. In other words, in the Hebrew it jumps out at you because they are all kal, active, participles. They all have the same verb form, although they are different words.

Now, we go back to the word ASAH, which is number two. In verse 7 it says, “I make peace.” The word “make” is the word ASAH. And the word “peace” is not peace as we know it. It is the word “prosperity.” The Hebrew word SHALOM that people use for the word “peace” did not mean “peace” originally in the way that we mean peace. ASAH means to manufacture something out of something. So, then, to make peace, or to make prosperity, it means that God is the manufacturer. God is the subject. He said “I am the Lord. there is no one else.” But what does He manufacture? He manufactures SHALOM, which is prosperity. That is the greeting that people used to give one another and it doesn't mean peace. When you say “hello” to people, it always meant prosperity to you. So, SHALOM meant primarily prosperity.

What this verse is saying then is that GOD MANUFACTURES PROSPERITY. ASAH says that you do it out of something. ASAH means to make something out of something that already exists. BARA means to create something out of nothing. God manufactures prosperity out of something. He manufactures prosperity for us OUT OF HIS WORD.

Now we're getting into this structuralized concept. "I am the One manufacturing prosperity." What He manufactures is for you and He does it out of the Word. Spiritual blessings. Occupation with Christ. Capacity for life. Happiness. Love. Temporal blessings. Wealth. Success. Social prosperity. Materialism prosperity. Talent. Technical prosperity. Leadership. These things are manufactured.

So, you have a series of blessings which are all manufactured out of the WORD THAT IS RESIDENT IN YOUR SOUL. When you structuralize and teach, which is here, by antithesis, you must set up an antithesis. "God formed light. He created the one who produces darkness." That's antithesis. Light and darkness. They're antithetical. TWO different verbs. Now, what is the antithesis then of prosperity? By the way, SHALOM and our prosperity always glorifies God. This is the way you glorify God. See, you don't glorify God by hustling for God, or running around and doing things. But you're motivated to do by the Word, but **you glorify God by taking in the Word, so that God can give you success and wealth and blessing and the materialistic things, as well as the spiritual things.** This glorifies God..

Now, what doesn't glorify God? What is the antithesis? What is the anti-thesis in verse 7 of the believer receiving maximum blessing? Well, the verse says "evil is the antithesis." And therefore, in this antithetical structure of the second phrase, it says "and create evil." This time, again, we have the kal, active, participle of BARA again. To create out of nothing, in other words. BARA is used again. Why is it used again by God the Holy Spirit? Because we're dealing with that same creature. We go back to where it was used before. "He who was created is the author of darkness." Satan is the author of darkness. God is the one who created him. Lucifer, Son of the Morning.

Now, you would think that we would have the most common word for evil, but we can't because the common word for evil here is RAAH. But we can't have that here for the simple reason that RAAH is in the feminine gender. Satan, by sex is male. So, instead of having RAAH, we have RA. And that's the masculine form.

Now you know something about the Hebrew language. THIS IS HOW ACCURATE THE WORD OF GOD IS. So, we have Him creating the Evil One. RAAH is an adjective used as a substantive, just as in the Koine Greek. So it's the Evil One, referring to Satan. "The One creating the Evil one" is the literal translation. We've had light. We've had darkness. We've had prosperity. We've had evil. The word for create for darkness and evil is BARA. The word for create for light was JATSAR because God understands what He created.

He created light in waves, like, for example, polarized light playing music. That's because light is JATSARed perfectly and God knows exactly what He is doing. Then we had ASAH. Here is the only place where you have parallel verbs because both of them are speaking about the same one, Satan.

So, you have the word BARA used twice and it refers to the same person, Satan was created by God. He says so both times. He was created by God perfect. He became imperfect because God created a creature with free will. God didn't give dinosaurs, for example, free will. God gave the angels something to play with and the angels probably played with the dinosaurs. They now form, we understand, deposits for oil. People are still digging up big bones here and there, but dinosaurs were simply, possibly toys for the angels to horse around with. What kind of toys did the angels have? Probably dinosaurs.

Dinosaurs didn't have free will. God wanted a creature with free will. Free will always goes sour. And did it go sour! It revolted. As a result of his revolt against God, he created a policy called evil. So, darkness is used in the Scripture, not only for literal darkness, but for the policy of Satan. EVIL IS THE POLICY OF SATAN IN ACTION.

So, darkness and evil are synonymous terms for satanic policy. God created Satan perfect. Satan as Lucifer, Son of the Morning, was perfect. But through his own negative attitude he became the author of darkness and the author of evil.

What is in the contrast to darkness and evil? Light, that's the Word of God. "Thy Word is a light unto my path." And prosperity, that's the result of the Word.

This is what is called structured passages. The Hebrew structure is not to be taken literally, but its words are to be used. As you see, you have two antithesis and then you have a parallel for the use of the verb. You're dealing with the same thing.

So, two are synonymous and two are resultant. If you go across you'll look at this antithesis. If you go down, you look at progress. If you go down again, you're looking at synonymous terms for satanic policies. Now, that's the structuralized Hebrew verse.

Literally, then, "the One creating the Evil one: I am Jehovah: I am the One manufacturing all of these things." This time He uses ASAH to indicate that creatures have free will, angels have it, man has it, but I still ASAH history. "I manufacture out of history My plan and I am the Winner." That's the point of "I, Jehovah am the Manufacturer of all of these things." "I, Jehovah, and there's no other. Forming light, creating darkness, the One manufacturing prosperity, the One creating the Evil one: I, Jehovah, am the One manufacturing all these things."

It says "I am the One who keeps controlling history even though running lose in history are creatures who, with their own free will." no matter how free will is, free will will never make you break through control of history on the part of God. The Member of the God-head who controls history is the One who did the creating. He's the Person speaking. Jesus Christ is the actual Creator, the second Person of the Trinity. Even though He has turned lose all of these free wills on this planet Earth, He is never going to lose control of history. He is going to be the inevitable winner. The only thing that we have to do now, because life is very simple for us, IS THAT YOU LINE UP WITH HIS CONTROL

OF HISTORY. The way you do it is by the Word of God.

So, you can begin to see how it is all going to work out. You can't run around, as we said before, and assassinate people and solve anything. You're not doing the world any good. You're not making it a better world. You can't run around and write your congressman, and vote for this or that. Inevitably it is going to be done only one way.

There's just one thing that lines up with the One who controls history and that's the WORD OF GOD FORMED IN YOUR SOUL. With those who know the Word, then we know Who controls history. The more we know about the One Who controls history, the more we love the One Who controls history, and the more we become a part of the control of history, we will become the salt of the Earth and you'll always be on the winning side.

In 1 Timothy we're still studying the principle of evil. We're now up to point 20) in our study. We have evil distinguished from other categories in Scripture. There are three distinctions in the realm of what the Bible calls evil. Evil is distinguished from war. Evil is distinguished from disease.

This may come to you as a shock, but there's a passage, Jeremiah 28:8, which has a very strong concept. One of the corrected translations for Jeremiah 28:8 reads this way: "The prophets who were before us and before you of ancient time prophesied against many lands and against great kingdoms." And then we have a parallel structured concept again in the Hebrew language.

Then it says "of war, and of evil, and of disease." This is interesting. Sometimes people just brush over them. We're talking about the concept of evil. In Jeremiah 28:8 it says "the prophets who were before me," Jeremiah says, "before you from ancient times, prophesied against many lands, and against great kingdoms." And there are three things: "of war, of evil, and disease." I don't know if you ever saw that verse or not. Maybe this is the first time.

In the Hebrew language here is a structure. You start out with something like war,

for example, and then evil. The word for evil is that word again RAAH. And then disease.

So, we have three things here. We have war, evil and disease. Now, under this system of structure they are distinguished. Evil is distinguished from war and evil is distinguished from disease. In other words **war is not evil and disease is not evil.**

Evil, here in this structure, is separated from war and disease. This passage is saying that evil must be distinguished from war and that warfare, in this passage, is not classified as evil. Neither is disease classified as evil. Now, don't get too far ahead of me on this one.

WARFARE, BIBLICALLY SPEAKING, IS A MEANS OF MAINTAINING OUR NATIONAL FREEDOM. It's also a means of suffering and even pressure, **but it is not evil!** I'll tell you when it gets evil. It's possible to take this separate entity (war) and insert evil into warfare, or another distinction, to insert sin into warfare, but warfare, biblically speaking, IS A GOOD THING! In other words, when the liberals are trying to abolish war, they are trying to abolish a good thing, biblically speaking. They're trying to get rid of a good thing.

Warfare is a part of establishment, whereby a national entity maintains its freedom. So, war in itself, is not evil and is not bad. The infiltration of sin, or sinful things done, or evil things accomplished, turns warfare, but it doesn't change the principle. The principle of warfare remains the same. It's a good principle and not a bad principle.

The same thing is true of disease. Disease is not evil. People may have a disease because of sin, or because of evil, but in principle disease, in itself, is not evil. Sinful and evil things may be done in war, but war in itself is not evil. Sinful and evil things may be done as a result, it may be a disciplinary diseases but disease is not evil. It may be punishment, but in itself, disease is not evil.

You can see what a horrible shock this could be to a lot of people. All of our major denominations today are trying to fight war. Yes, what we really need is a good war, if you think about it, to clear up the situation. And, a good depression helps also. A good

depression gets rid of dead wood. You know, the people who don't want to work, those who don't want to lift a broom, those who don't want to do anything. **You have a good depression and that clears out the dead wood.** Depression always does that. Depression without welfare. You take away welfare, for example, and we might have a depression.

So, we have these principles now. Disease, in itself, there's nothing wrong with that. An evil person might have a disease. And a sinful person may have a disease. But this is cause and effect and not principle. But in principle there is nothing wrong with disease and in principle there is nothing wrong with war until the Second Advent of Christ. And then both will be abolished.

But, you see, that's what's wrong with, for example, this cult of Christian Science. Christian Science is neither Christian nor scientific. It's the fact that Mary Baker Patterson Glover Eddy took the position that disease is sinful. And this goes along with the false doctrine of healing in the atonement. This is what's wrong with "divine healers," who are really sinful heels who claim that they have some ability to get rid of disease.

So, we do have distinctions made in the Bible. And by the way, the principle that warfare is good and not bad, warfare is good and not evil, and disease is good and not evil. Only when these things get into the concept of cause and effect, they result in Divine discipline administered, then it's a departure from this principle and they're merely used for another purpose.

Once you get your thinking straight here, then you can get out of that terrible rut that you try to get into some cause, which is usually some communistic cause, an evil cause, to abolish war, or to abolish disease. You know, I wouldn't march on any march for getting rid of some disease. Suppose that the disease that I marched for was abolished and that was the particular disease that the Lord was going to use to take me out of this world. I'd be tearing up my own ticket to Heaven. And the principle of dying in GRACE. That's the last thing in the world that a believer would want to do.

You have to be careful with what you hook up with, because you may be hooking up with something that is very, very evil. If you're trying to abolish that which God permits as a part of history and as a part of the unseen conflict, and to abolish any part of the unseen conflict is to destroy the unseen conflict. That particular principle may be too subtle for many, but that's the type of thinking that Satan does every day under his great genius. Satan is always trying to get a lot of people on his bandwagon to abolish war by abolishing death, by abolishing diseases, by abolishing these things which are generally regarded as disasters in principle. Under the unseen conflict they are not disasters, as we have seen.

The great concept of depression. There never has been a believer in history who was oriented to the GRACE of God, who ever missed anything when a depression came along. Or, there never has been a believer who was positive to the GRACE of God, or understood the GRACE of God, that ever missed anything when it came to a time of national prosperity. GRACE is not subject to the variations of the economy of our country, or any historical variations in life. Once more, **the GRACE of God is not subject to any variations of our economy, or to any other historical variations in life.** Things come and things go, but GRACE keeps on going right through them regardless.

We've been so geared by the news media and the fourth estate to worry about the economy and variations in life that we have subjected the GRACE of God to varying circumstances. We put them under the category of the Dow Jones average. It's pitiful. **It can't affect the GRACE of God at all!**

So, if you have GRACE in your soul, then this means that whatever the historical climate, it makes absolutely no difference. We are enjoying the Millennium in Houston. I don't know whether you know it or not. It's been a beautiful. People have said a million times "what a beautiful day." A million people have said today "this is a beautiful day." It is a beautiful day, I guess. But, you see, this is the Millennial period in Houston. And we enjoy Houston, I hope you do, no matter what the weather will be.

You know, pretty soon it's going to get pretty sticky and hot and it's going to be a very terrible, terrible summer. And it's going to be warm and it's going to be muggy. It's going to rain.

I found out something very interesting. Ladies, you know that in damp weather, it's the best thing in the world for your complexion. And even though you may feel terrible, just console yourself with the fact that you have a beautifully built in sauna bath in Houston. Just wait a couple of weeks. And ladies from Houston, they tell me, always have a wonderful complexion. You see, there's always something to enjoy. Therefore, we don't care about the weather in Houston.

It's amazing how many people turn on that weather station. Now they've got a 24 hour one. Every hour on the hour they are wrong. They read it right from Washington. They can't even ad lib. But they have you so geared to the economy and so geared to the weather and the variations in life that **you forget about the GRACE of God that goes right on through!** It doesn't make any difference. So, we know when the weather is good. And, we may even curse when it's bad. But, weather is very, very INCIDENTAL.

And so it is with GRACE oriented believers. When it's time of depression, whether it's time of prosperity, it makes absolutely no difference to the GRACE oriented believer. It doesn't change our occupation with the Person of Christ. The Lord, for example, doesn't withdraw His wealth or success, or any of the various areas of prosperity, or leadership, and He doesn't take away from us our happiness because of economic depressions, or any other form of disaster. So, the sooner we learn to distinguish between evil and things that are often tabulated as evil, but really are not, the sooner we will be rightly dividing the Word of Truth. It's a very important area of Scripture.

So, under point 20) evil must be distinguished from sin. There are certain passages in the Word of God, and there are certain functions in life which are not understood unless you can distinguish between evil and sin.

Now, there's a tremendous passage in 1 Chronicles 21:17. That also is a passage

which is very much misunderstood. It's amazing how many passages seem to cause so much trouble. In 1 Chronicles 21:17 David said to God "Is it not I who ordered the census of the numbering of the people?" He said "Indeed I am the one who has sinned." David said in 1 Chronicles 21:17 that he sinned in numbering the people. That's a QAL perfect of the verb CHATA. And he says "I have sinned." That's the word sinned.

David was a very, very smart believer, one of the smartest believers that ever lived. David, as you know, was promoted to the highest rank in Israel, king. I don't know if you know it or not, this may shock you, but I'll tell it to you anyway. He was promoted and had somewhere from five to seven wives. Two may have died. But he had five to seven wives and he definitely had some mistresses. And yet he was promoted under the GRACE of God.

Saul, who was monogamous, had been demoted by the sin unto death. Obviously, this isn't a principle that you'll receive in a Baptist Sunday School class. In fact, they won't handle it. They'll ignore it or explain it away. This also applies to anyone else who is easily shocked. But the fact remains that **Sin is not the issue! Evil is the issue!** So, we must learn to distinguish between evil and sin.

David distinguished between the two because David immediately confessed his sin and distinguishes for us. He said "I am the one who has sinned and done evil." Now we have a HIPHIEL infinitive, absolute, and a HIPHIEL perfect of the verb RA again. Here we go again. This is the word for evil (RA), which is different from CHATA.

So, he distinguishes between sin and evil. He puts great emphasis on his evil, simply because he doubles the verb. He doubles RA and singles CHATA. So, we have two HIPHIELs. It's causative, active voice. And we have the infinitive plus the perfect tense. It's a very strong thing. I, myself, he says, have personally caused evil. Or in doing evil I have caused evil. "But these sheep, what have they done?" That's the verse.

Now, twice in his life it's recorded that David got hooked up with evil. He probably has the highest batting average of avoiding

evil of any believer who has ever lived. That's why it is said of David that he was a man after God's own heart!! That's why he was one of the greatest believers who ever lived, because he was free from evil most of the time.

Now, we're going to sin, I want you to know, until the day we die. In case you don't believe it, let me be the first to tell you. You're going to sin until the day you die. All of us are. All of us are going to sin simply because we have an old sin nature.

On the cross, as you know, Jesus Christ died for all the sins we'll ever commit. Therefore, when we do sin, we name our sin and we're forgiven immediately. But, you see, **evil was not judged on the cross. Evil is not judged until the Second Advent.**

So, if you distinguish between the ad-vents and what happens, **then at the Second Advent, Jesus Christ will judge evil.** How does He judge evil? He judges evil by removal of Satan, the Evil One, from this world.

Remember, once again, that evil is not only the genius of Satan, but evil is the policy of Satan. Everything related to evil is satanic. Satan's genius expresses itself through evil. The way in which God and His genius expresses Himself is through GRACE and Truth. So, **the greatest issue is always the Word versus evil.**

David was a man of the Word and consequently he avoided evil. But, when he did not avoid evil, he knew what he had done and expressed it beautifully. In this expression of it he distinguishes between sin (CHATA) and evil. He confesses his sin and he declares that he is the cause of evil. But he makes the distinction between them.

Now, the sin, of course, is forgiven. Recovery from evil is something else. It takes a little more time, but it brings up an issue. Satan, himself, when he was the son of the morning, he originated both sin and evil. He's the author of both. He's a creature and as a creature he was given free will. But he's the originator of sin and the first sinner among creatures. He is the originator of evil and the author and evangelist of evil throughout all of human history is Satan.

Now, since sin and evil have a common origin we often confuse them. But, when it comes to man, sin and evil are separate in man's soul. The old sin nature has an area of weakness, which is the source of sin. But the mind, or the heart as it is called, which is the thinking part of the mind, is the source of evil. So, then, evil is a thought. Evil is a satanic thought, a satanic policy, a satanic viewpoint. Sin is a violation of the laws and a violation of the standards of God. And they are separate and distinct in the human race, even though they had a common origin in Satan himself.

David knows all of this. So, the first half of this verse, 1 Chronicles 21:17, teaches that sin and evil are not the same, though both were involved in David's numbering of the people. The sin of David was arrogance and pride of prosperity. The evil of David was the checking up on God. As it says in the same chapters 1 Chronicles 21:21, "then Satan stood up against Israel and motivated David to number the people." Satan motivated David to number the people. So, both sin and evil are involved here. Both sin and evil are distinguished as separate categories of failure.

The third distinction we want to make in this point 20) is evil is distinguished from evil. Not only is evil distinguished from sin, but we have passages where evil is mentioned with evil and there's a distinction between evil and evil. Now, we're getting pretty tough. I don't think that you'll find this in too many places. See if you're up for it.

Evil is distinguished from sin. **And then evil is distinguished from evil.** There are two kinds of evil found in Scripture. There is evil, for example, in a national entity when they reject, when they go negative towards the laws of Divine Establishment. Or when a believer rejects the Word and becomes negative. We've already seen this parallel course of negative volition in the saturation of evil.

Now, when it reaches the saturation point, then it results in the fifth cycle of discipline and the nation is dispersed. But, when it's used to destroy a nation under the influence of evil, it is called evil to an evil nation. There's a passage that says "evil to an evil nation." In other words, God matches the

punishment and the crime. Therefore, we have the double use of evil.

A good illustration of this is Jonah. Jonah 3:10 says "When God saw their deeds, that they turned from the way of evil, then God repented of the evil that He declared that He would do unto them and therefore He didn't do it." There are two evils in this passage. When God saw their deeds, that they turned from their way of evil, then God repented of the evil that He declared that He would do unto them and therefore, He didn't do it. This is what made Jonah mad.

Jonah was an unwilling missionary. He was not very high in favor of being a missionary to the Assyrians, which is a very interesting factor. Which all goes to prove a point. You hear about these missionaries and they think that they have to love the people to whom they go. In other words, you can't go to Africa unless you love the Africans. So, they try to witness to Africans before they go there. You can't witness to the Chinese unless you love them. And you can't witness to the Japanese until you love them. That's a lot of baloney.

In other words, some people in the 20th century say that you can't witness to a doctor unless you study something about his profession. You can't witness to a musician until you learn something about music. Get on his level, as it were. You can't witness to the Indians until you do some of their habits, like eating puppy dog stew. You see, that's all baloney.

You only have to love the Lord! Period! You don't have to love people! **You don't minister for God by loving people.** In fact, the more you minister for the Lord, **the less love you have for people.** So, it's loving the Lord that counts. It is loving the Lord that is the most important thing. That's exactly what happened here.

Jonah, then, was a perfect missionary. He couldn't stand the Assyrians. Now, that's the way to go to witness, when you can't stand them, not when you love them.

The Assyrians were those wild, fierce people. Jonah had a racial antagonism that would beat anything that we've ever had in this country. He despised the Assyrians. He

said to himself, as he was called to the mission field, "Assyria? What area can I go to that I can be as far away from Assyria as I can get?"

Well, there's a place called Tarshish, which is a Phoenician smelting center on the coast of Spain. That means going west on the Mediterranean. That's as far away as you can get and be in the world at the same time. So, he took a ship, and you know what happened to him. You know, after that whale got through with him and put him back on dry land, he became a reluctant missionary. But, as he closed in on Assyria, he became a very happy man all of a sudden. Because, when he finally received his message from the Lord, it's just the kind of message that he wanted to give the Assyrians.

He had a two point message. Point one of the message is that God told him to tell them that they were no good. (I left out the word.) They're no good. He loved to say that. His heart was in his message because he couldn't stand them anyway.

Secondly, the Lord told him that all the Assyrians were going straight to hell. And he loved that, too. You tell me that God doesn't know what He is doing. Jonah couldn't stand them. No one was ever more vigorous in their message, and when he hit the gates of Ninevah, there was Jonah, who was the ideal missionary. You can't imagine the enthusiasm he had for that message. You just think of some person to whom you have that same animosity for. And just lay it on them that they are going straight to hell without Christ. You can do it with vigor. Feel it? Can you see Jonah now?

Once he got cranked up, boy he got cranked up. He ran around and told them that. He told them they were no good. And he told them that they were all going straight to hell. And he said it for three solid days. Every time he had a crowd, and they heard such a vigorous message from such a fearless man, they responded. It was the message of God the Holy Spirit and they changed their minds about the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and a great revival broke out.

It became the basis of the Assyrian Empire of a future time, like under men like

Sennacherib and therefore, because they changed their minds about Christ, there was a spiritual outbreak and there was no destruction of the Assyrians. As it says, it's an anthropopathism, God knew all of the time that this was going to happen, but it says that "God repented of the evil." When they turned from their evil ways, that's one evil, God returned of the evil that He was going to do them. That's two evils. So, you have to distinguish between evil and evil. The evil here that God changed His mind about was the administration of the fifth cycle of discipline.

See, evil destroyed evil. God calls this fighting fire with fire, or fighting evil with evil. He's about to destroy the nation, but He didn't do so. But instead He had a sulking missionary on His hands. For those of you who are familiar with him sitting up there under that worm in that gourd, and how that God explained it all to His sulking missionary, Jonah. But, there was never a more successful missionary.

You know what? He didn't throw a faggot on the fire and dedicate himself to go to the Assyrians. And he didn't declare, "Oh, how I love the Assyrians" and hugged and gushed all over them. And how he had a love for them. And God gave him this love for the Japanese. I probably would be a good missionary to the Japanese. I'd like to see them go straight to hell because of Pearl Harbor.

He wasn't roused up to go out and tell them how he loved them. He went out and gave it straight down the middle. Hell, fire and damnation in spades. He gave it so beautifully and he gave it so vigorously that they turned completely around. And Jonah was very disappointed because he wanted them to go to hell. He was extremely disappointed. He sulked about it and God had to straighten him out.

So, when the Assyrians repented and God canceled the fifth cycle of discipline, called here the evil, the distinction then becomes obvious. There are two kinds of evil then, in this passage.

Again, it says "When God saw their deeds, that they had turned from their way of evil," notice, that they turned away from their way of evil, they actually had a recovery, and then God changed His mind of the evil, the

fifth cycle of discipline, which He declared that He would do to them. Therefore, He didn't do it. So, the distinction becomes obvious.

The Assyrians practiced evil in terms of following Satanic policies. They are about to be overtaken by evil and God makes the punishment fit the crime. This is the manifestation of His perfect justice. Therefore, He was about to administer the fifth cycle of discipline and Jonah's great missionary effort saved the day for them.

Now, we have illustrations of distinguishing features between evil and other factors that are often misconstrued as evil. This brings us to the concept then. Rightly dividing the Word of Truth not only means recognizing dispensational differences, but rightly dividing the Word of Truth means recognizing other differences when the Bible makes the distinction. These distinctions become the **basis for great wisdom.**

For example, we have a lot of so-called great Bible teachers, I don't think that most believers would recognize a great Bible teacher if they heard one, but we have a lot of so-called great Bible teachers of reputation, who say that believers can be demon possessed. I heard it today from a prominent person on the radio. He's a great Bible teacher. Well, I'll tell you what. That's really going off the deep end. We used to call that in Philadelphia "doing a Pier 6," that's jumping off the bridge. It's a failure to rightly divide the Word of Truth, as well as, understanding what evil is all about. No believer can be demon possessed. We know this from the doctrine of the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit.

See, God the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit indwells your body. Demon possession is a demon controlling a body. Therefore, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit never changes. The Holy Spirit is in your body.

We're not commanded to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit. We can't lose the Holy Spirit. When we sin we're still indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Nothing changes that. It's the soul that's the issue. In the soul there are two concepts: The filling of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit indwelling us and controlling our

soul. We're commanded to be filled by the Spirit. And we're told though, through carnality, through influence of evil, we break fellowship, and through negative volition, which is called quenching or grieving the Spirit, but we're told that we can recover the filling of the Holy Spirit by confession of sins.

We're told that there's a lack of balance in the soul and when we're minus the Word, the day we're born again we don't have any Word, so the filling of the Spirit does not have any dynamics until there's a balance in the soul. Through the function of growing in GRACE this minus becomes a plus and then we have a balance in the soul.

But, there's no way for any demon to break in through the body or the soul of the believer. It's impossible. It's impossible for demons to possess those who are born again. **However, something worse than demon possession can occur to a believer. We can be evil possessed,** rather than demon possessed. Evil is the policy of Satan. Evil is the thought pattern of Satan, Evil is the philosophy of Satan. Evil is the religion of Satan. Evil is the entire genius of Satan and thoughts can infiltrate the soul. You should know that by now. All you have to do is listen to some goofy thing on TV and immediately you have some flaky ideas. You have a goofy thought.

You know, some people watch these Miller commercials and think that if they drink Miller beer that they are going to end up with some lovely blonde lady. Or hit a golf ball off a tree and it ends up in the cup. The only thing that you get from Miller beer is cirrhosis of the liver and a bogus nose and red veins all over your body. These commercials say that they will do certain things and they won't.

Some people think that if you use some kind of soap that they mention on TV that you'll be something special. And by using certain products that are advertised that you'll be a super-sonic whatever. You know, some after shave lotion, some under arm deodorant, or foot powder, or whatever it is, this will make you available to all types of promises and whatever.

But, you see, these thoughts have infiltrated your soul. Some guy gets on and talks

about the fact that they are overstocked with automobiles. And therefore, because they are overstocked, or over-bought, they have to get rid of these cars. And he says "we're giving them away. Just come down and see Super Sam." And a thought comes into your soul. And you're a bargain hunter. "I've always wanted that type of car. I'm going to go and get that car." But, you see, you go down there and you pay more than before because you forgot that he has to pay for the advertisement on TV. That's infiltration. You listen to something and then you make it your own.

See, your soul possess thoughts. **If you listen to evil, evil will possess your soul.** Evil is the satanic viewpoint and the Word of God is the Divine Viewpoint. The Word of God is the GRACE viewpoint. The SATANIC VIEWPOINT AND THE GRACE VIEWPOINT ARE STRUGGLING OVER YOUR SOUL! Your soul is a battleground either for the Word or for the evil.

No demon possession can get into your soul. No demon can get into your body. But,

the very thinking of Satan can become your thinking and Satan, then, can control you through thinking. You may not realize it, **but the control of this world is accomplished through thinking and thoughts.** Evil is the satanic viewpoint. EVIL POSSESSION IS WORSE THAN DEMON POSSESSION. Demon possession is for unbelievers only. Evil possession is for believers. The unbeliever can be evilly possessed and demon possessed at the same time. That's the worst kind. But the believer can only be evil possessed. Satan's angels, or evil spirits, can indwell the body of the unbeliever. In many cases of demon possession it is nothing more than evil controlling the thought pattern.

This pamphlet was taken from a class taught by Buddy Dano on May 15, 1985 from his series on 1 Timothy.

Buddy Dano, Pastor

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