

“A Brief Look at Evil”

This article is from the “Among Friends” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s website (churchofgodbigandy.com). It was posted for the weekend of Oct. 14, 2023.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled “A Brief Look at Evil.”

This was the first Wednesday-night Bible study after the Feast of Tabernacles. This was the first Wednesday-night Bible study after Hamas attacked Israel.

After reminding the audience of my six-part series about “Evil and Wickedness” in May and June of 2022, I admitted that I wasn’t planning to start another series about evil. But I was certainly in the mood to talk about the subject of evil that night.

Reminder of series

Here was the reminder of the six-part Bible-study series in 2022.

- 5/11/22—Evil and Wickedness in the Pentateuch.
- 5/18/22—Evil and Wickedness in the Psalms.
- 5/25/22—Evil and Wickedness in Ecclesiastes.
- 6/1/22—Evil and Wickedness in Gospel writings.
- 6/15/22—Evil and Wickedness in Paul’s writings.
- 6/22/22—Evil and Wickedness in the rest of the New Testament.

Does God create evil?

Isaiah 45:7—“I form the light, and I create darkness: I make peace, and create evil [in the King James translation and ‘calamity’ in New King James translation]: I the Lord do all these things.”

How does God create evil?

- God initiated a trial upon Job—Job 1:8 and Job 2:3.
- God allowed Satan to propose some potential details of the trial—Job 1:9-11 and Job 2:4-5.
- God approved the details—limiting the extent of the details—Job 1:12 and Job 2:6.
- 1 Kings 22:20—When the Lord announced His intention for Ahab to have a negative result, various beings proposed details to accomplish the result.

- 1 Kings 22:21—Then, a spirit came forward and offered to provide details.
- 1 Kings 22:22—The Lord asked for the details—and, upon hearing the details, He approved the plan given by the spirit.

First scripture where evil is mentioned

- Genesis 2:9—The Lord made every tree in the Garden of Eden, including the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Genesis 2:16-17—The Lord told Adam that he could not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- Genesis 3:1-6—The serpent successfully tempted Adam and Eve.
- Genesis 3:22-24—God removed Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden.

Some examples of evil

- Genesis 6:5—God saw the preoccupation with evil.
- Genesis 8:21—God acknowledged that man's heart is evil.
- Genesis 14:14-16—Lot was kidnapped, and Abram took soldiers to rescue him.
- Genesis 34:1-29—Dinah was raped, and her brothers got revenge.
- Genesis 50:20—When people plan evil, God can use it for good.
- Exodus 1:22—Pharaoh ordered the killing of babies.
- Exodus 2:11-15—Moses defended a citizen who was being abused—and had to flee from Pharaoh.
- Matthew 2:16—Herod ordered the killing of children—Joseph took the Child to Egypt.
- Matthew 14:1-12—Herod imprisoned John the Baptist and ultimately beheaded him.

Last scripture where evil is mentioned

- Revelation 2:2—Firstfruits do not like to be around evil behavior—including the church leaders who use deceptions and lies.