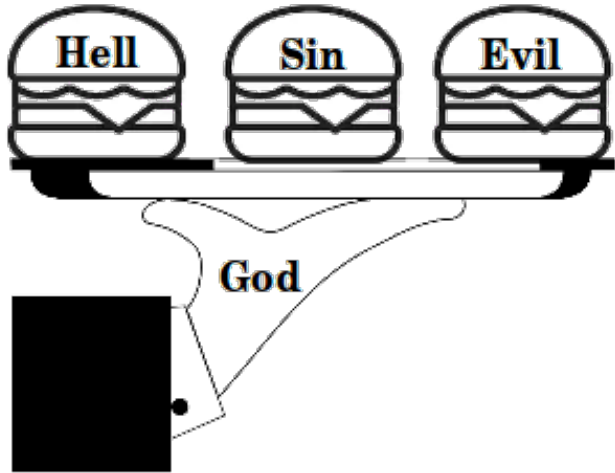


A Theology Slider



1. Hell is separation from God
2. God punishes all sins equally
3. God does not ordain evil, but He does permit it

Is God in hell?

To suffer in the presence of the hosts of heaven is not to lessen the fierceness of the judgement but to make it more grievous. Christians had borne the shame of public derision and opposition; soon their antagonists will suffer before a more august gathering.

Robert Mounce, Revelation, NICNT

God is sovereign

Eph 1:11 - God ... works all things according to the counsel of His will.

Eph 3:9-11 - God created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord

What does God say about evil?

Ex 4:11 - Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?

Is 45:5-7 - I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things.

What does God say about evil?

Lam 3:37-38 - Who has spoken and it came to pass, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High *that good and bad come?*

Amos 3:6 - Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid? *Does disaster come to a city, unless the Lord has done it?*

Terminology

- **Ultimate cause – God**
- **Proximate cause – close to, next to, but not the actual cause or agent**
- **Efficient cause – actual cause or agent, the one doing the event**
- **Chargeable cause – the proximate and efficient causes**

Summary Statement

God is the ultimate cause of all things, including evil events, but Scripture never calls Him the chargeable cause. Only the efficient and proximate causes are the chargeable cause for their evil acts. God is praised for His righteousness in bringing about the very same evil acts.

Terminology

- **Ultimate cause – God**
- **Proximate cause – close to, next to, but not the actual cause or actor**
- **Efficient cause – actual cause or actor, the one doing the event**
- **Chargeable cause – the one or ones responsible and therefore guilty of sinning**

God is not subject to the ignorant evaluations of his creatures. Man does not have sufficient understanding of God's character and his eternal plan (not to mention sufficient authority) to bring accusations against him.

John Frame, The Doctrine of God

Though we may not at the time see His purpose in the afflictions which He sends us, it will be plainly revealed when the light of eternity falls upon the road along which we have journeyed.

The swiftly passing years may mitigate the grievous pain of the wound God's hand gave me seven years ago, but they cannot heal it; only the same gracious hand can do that, and it seems to me that He hath bound up the sore heart just enough to make life bearable, while His purposes are being unfolded.

Susannah Spurgeon

Cheer up, Christian! Things are not left to chance: no blind fate rules the world. God hath purposes, and those purposes are fulfilled. God hath plans, and those plans are wise, and never can be dislocated. Oh trust thou in him and thou shalt have each fruit in its season, the mercy in its time, the trial in its period, and the deliverance in its needed moment.

Charles Spurgeon