

## God's Sovereignty and Evil

We could solve the problem of evil by making God smaller. Yet, this would be a lie. We could solve the problem of evil by making God less good, yet that, too, would be a lie. So, to understand how our great God is great and can allow evil in the world, we are going to have to look deeper. We are going to have to see how He interacts with us as the sovereign King.

Scripture(s): Psalm 148 (and assorted verses)

Remember this - Our God is One who meets us in \_\_\_\_\_ relationship instead of as simply a controlling dictator.

I. Who God is tells us how He will \_\_\_\_\_ with His creation. God's sovereignty is one in which His influence and genuine relationships with His creation are both real and \_\_\_\_\_. God doesn't play with us like \_\_\_\_\_ pieces. God interacts with us as One who loves us and desires the \_\_\_\_\_ for us. Revelation 5:11-13; Psalms 116:5-8; Isaiah 26:7-10

II. Who God is tells us how He relates to \_\_\_\_\_. God relates to evil the same way He relates to all human decisions: with foreknowledge and redemptive \_\_\_\_\_. God is not passive in His interactions with His world so that people can come to \_\_\_\_\_ Him. Exodus 3:19-20; Exodus 7:1-4; Romans 11:11b-12; Ephesians 2:1-9; John 6:35-40; Hebrews 3:12-19

III. Who God is shows us what God is doing when evil \_\_\_\_\_. The bad things in our life and in the world are as much \_\_\_\_\_ in the hand of God to redeem us as the good and beautiful things are. God is not thwarted or limited by evil because He has already planned to use it to \_\_\_\_\_ people. Genesis 50:19-21; John 15:1-2; James 5:7-11; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

What should we do?

1. Treat God as the ever-present lover of your soul and not some \_\_\_\_\_ deity.
2. Hear the voice of God in His \_\_\_\_\_, His \_\_\_\_\_, and through carefully considering the circumstances of your life. (in that order)
3. Begin to see the struggles in your life as God's \_\_\_\_\_ to shape you and prepare you rather than just the random evil of people and circumstances.

Ask Jesus...

Do I treat You as a real person who loves me so much and wants me to truly know You that way?

June 29, 2025

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\* Pastoral Prayer & Time in the Word \*

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