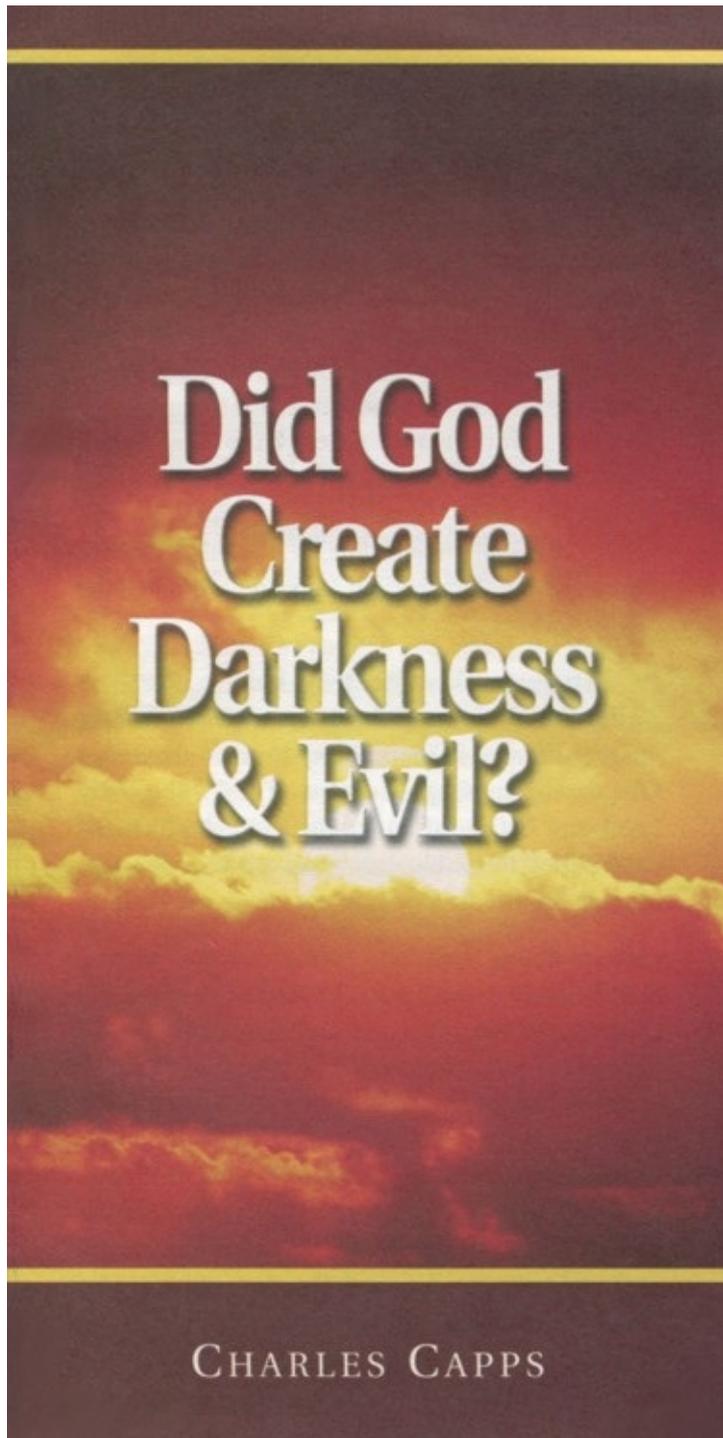


**Did God
Create
Darkness
& Evil?**

CHARLES CAPPS



Did God Create Darkness

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and Evil?

There has been much confusion through the years, especially in religious circles, about whether God sends bad

things on good people to teach them something. You have probably heard someone say: “Well you know the Bible says,” and they quoted something that was foreign to the Bible. How many times have you heard somebody say, “God will not put more on you than you can stand?” Many times no doubt, but that statement is not in the Bible. It is what they heard someone say they thought someone heard that the Bible said.

However, because they believe that was what the Bible said they are crippled in their prayer life and in their ability to resist the things the devil brings against them. They will usually end up being offended at God because of something the Bible didn't say at all. There are scriptural answers to

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every wrong interpretation that will bring balance to any controversy, but we must be willing to spend the time to search them out and rightly divide the Word of Truth. The Scripture they thought made that statement is found in 1 Corinthians 10:13 which reveals that

God has made a way for you to escape every temptation the devil brings against you. Your way of escape is through the Word of God. Jesus proved that on the mount of temptation. He defeated the devil with God's own words (Luke 4:1-13).

When you find something in God's Word that doesn't seem to agree with other parts of the Bible, spend some time searching other related Scriptures until you find the true intent of that Scripture. You will find that it will always be in agreement with the whole Word of God. There is usually some information missing or something that is not understood in the context that tends to cause confusion.

The intent of what was said is as important as what was said because there are some Scriptures in the Bible that are hard to understand and may

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seem to convey a thought that's not really there at all unless you study the intent of that Scripture. Isaiah 45:7 is a classic example of a Scripture that is most often misunderstood. *"I form the*

light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.” This is an astounding statement to be found in the Bible, but it is there. We know that God formed the light. In Genesis 1:3, He called light when there was darkness all around, but did God really create darkness, as pertaining to evil?

We seem to have a conflict here because we know God is good and just. Yet, here it states He created darkness and evil. How do we interpret that statement? We cannot take this statement literally. For, if we do, it would violate a major part of God’s Word, and it would be out of character with God. The only sense in which God has created darkness is that He made the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night, creating daytime and nighttime. It seems clear, in this context, that God caused the darkness at night because of the rotation of the earth. But

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evil darkness didn’t come from God. Natural darkness is simply the absence of light... evil darkness is the absence of

the spiritual light of God's Word and revelation of righteousness.

Since God is spiritual light and righteousness, there is no spiritual darkness in Him. If He were to create evil darkness, He would have to put Himself out. We find in the first chapter of Genesis that God divided the light from darkness. Light and darkness cannot co-exist. Where spiritual light is present in abundance, spiritual darkness cannot exist. Light always has dominion over darkness. God is true light. Satan is total darkness. Have you noticed that when you turn the light on in a dark room that darkness disappears? You can't darken a spot in a room full of light. But you can shine a flashlight into a dark room and create a light spot in the darkness. That concentrated beam of light creates a hole in the darkness. However, there is no such thing as a "flash dark" that would create a dark spot in a room filled with light. The point is this: Since God is light, He couldn't create darkness unless He first

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put Himself out. For He doesn't just

contain light, He is light. Therefore, darkness could not exist in His presence.

Exodus 20:21 and Deuteronomy 4:11 speak of God being in thick darkness which was a heavy cloud to protect the people lest they be destroyed by His brightness.

*And the people stood afar off,
and Moses drew near unto the
thick darkness where God was.
(Exodus 20:21)*

*And ye came near and stood
under the mountain; and the
mountain burned with fire unto the
midst of heaven, with darkness,
clouds, and thick darkness.
(Deuteronomy 4:11)*

In Deuteronomy 5:23, Moses heard God's voice out of the darkness which refers to a cloud. It is obvious from these Scriptures that these clouds were for the purpose of protecting people from the fire and light of God.

The question then arises, Who created darkness? Did the devil do it? No, darkness is simply the absence of

light. Lucifer forsook the light of God and found himself in total darkness.

Jude 13 indicates that this blackness of darkness is reserved for all evil spirits and fallen angels forever.

Now let's deal with the other half of Isaiah 45:7, "... *I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.*" This word "evil" means bad, misery, hurtful, unkind, wicked, distress, and calamity. Are we to believe that God really creates all this evil? If He did, we really have a problem. First of all, this would be totally out of character with God. So how do we interpret this statement? We must interpret it with other related Scriptures. As we read verses 7 and 8 together, we get a clue.

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.

Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: let the earth open, and let them bring forth salvation, and let righteousness spring up together; I the Lord have created it. (Isaiah 45:7-8) (Read Amplified

version also.)

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Immediately, God begins to talk about pouring down righteousness upon the earth. So what are we going to do with the verse that says, "I, God, created evil?" We must interpret it with God's own Word.

In Genesis 1:11-12, the Scripture says that God created everything after His kind; and God's kind is good and perfect. Verse 31 says God saw everything that He had made, and behold it was very good. Everything that God created was good when He created it. Even Lucifer was good at the beginning until iniquity was found in him (Isaiah 14:12-17).

II Peter 1:3 reveals that God has given us all things that pertain to life and Godliness. Evil certainly does not pertain to life and Godliness. In John 10:10, Jesus said: "*The thief cometh... to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life... more abundantly.*"

Then James 1:16-17 states, "*Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good*

*gift and every perfect gift is from above,
and cometh down from the Father of*

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lights, with whom is no variableness,
neither shadow of turning.”*

God is good all of the time. He has given us every good and perfect gift. He is not the author of evil. In the light of these Scriptures, Isaiah 45:7 has to be interpreted that God allowed evil, because man allowed it. In Hebrew, sometimes the active voice only gives permission of something rather than being the cause of it. But, the people under the Old Covenant generally believed that everything that happened to them came from God. Their theory was: If God allowed it, He was considered to have done it. We find from the New Testament that God is not the author of confusion or evil. But, yet, God had to allow evil, because man chose evil, and it came to the earth through man's wrong choices. God never makes even a gradual turn from that which is good and perfect. We know evil would certainly not be considered a good gift.

Let's study these two verses for confirmation of the true scriptural answer to the question: Did God create
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evil? First, James admonishes us to not get in error. Then he says that every good and perfect gift comes from God who is the Father of Lights. Notice that he didn't say the father of darkness, but rather the Father of Lights. With God, there is no variation or change, not even a shadow of turning from that which is good and perfect.

Now let's look at James 1:13: "*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.*" Every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed. This verse plainly says to let no man say that God tempted him with evil. Consider this fact: If there was no evil, man could not be tempted. The Scriptures clearly state that God does not tempt any man. But Adam chose the knowledge of good and evil in the garden. No, God did not create evil, so don't be sidetracked by Scriptures that

seem to say something that is contrary to the character of God.

The bottom line of the whole matter is: God is the Father of Jesus who

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revealed His light to the world. He is the giver of all good gifts.

John confirms this with this word of revelation:

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (I John 1:5-7)

MARANATHA!

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