

Does God Use Evil for Good?

Questions Christians Ask

17 November 2023

The question, “Does God use evil for good?” comes from a misunderstanding of **Genesis 50:20**, where Joseph says, “**But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.**”

God works good in spite of evil. This world is filled with evil. God wants to work good in our lives. Therefore, He’ll have to use the available resources, which most of the time are going to be evil.

THE EVIL THAT PREVAILED	THE GOOD THAT CAME OUT OF A BAD SITUATION
Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, falsely accused of a crime, and imprisoned in Egypt.	God wrought, and Joseph became the second most powerful man in Egypt.
A seven-year famine came upon the land. Jacob and his family were at the point of starving.	The family of Joseph came to Egypt and were provided food and a land to dwell in.

- How was God able to do a wonderful work from evil circumstances?
 - Joseph stayed true to God and never stopped trusting Him.
 - He didn’t let his circumstances make him bitter and angry.
 - Because God found good in Joseph, He was able to do a good work for the benefit of all men in spite of the evil circumstances.

THE EVIL THAT PREVAILED	THE GOOD THAT CAME OUT OF A BAD SITUATION
The Israelites became slaves in Egypt under a Pharaoh that knew not Joseph (Exod 1:8, Acts 7:19). Their slavery lasted 400 years (Acts 7:6).	God used this to increase the size of Israel. They started as a family and became a great nation capable of conquering the Canaanites and taking possession of the Promised Land. (Ex 1:7, Acts 7:17)
Egyptian Law demanded that Hebrew male babies be drowned in the river (Ex 1:22). Moses’ parents had to give him up to Pharaoh’s daughter (Ex 2:1-10).	God preserved Moses’ life and later sent him to Pharaoh to tell him, “God said, ‘Let my people go!’” (Ex 5:1)

- God found good in Moses and the Israelite people.
 - The Israelites never became a nation of idolaters while living amongst the idolatrous Egyptians, though some were idolators (Joshua 24:14).
 - Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter (Heb. 11:24).

THE EVIL THAT PREVAILED	THE GOOD THAT CAME OUT OF A BAD SITUATION
Rahab had an evil profession and reputation in Jericho. (Joshua 2)	She believed and feared God, so she hid the spies on her rooftop. Her life was spared with her family. The Israelites conquered Jericho.

- God can use you even though you are not living a holy life yet.
 - Remember when you first got saved? You took joy in witnessing and serving God even before He cleaned you up.

THE EVIL THAT PREVAILED	THE GOOD THAT CAME OUT OF A BAD SITUATION
Christians were being killed and persecuted in Jerusalem. They had to flee for their lives (Acts 8:1,3)	Believers spread out across many lands preaching the word (Acts 8:4).

- God didn’t use the evil government for good. He used the good in the believers because they didn’t lose their faith and turn against God when they had to flee from Jerusalem.
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THE EVIL THAT PREVAILED	THE GOOD THAT CAME OUT OF A BAD SITUATION
Acts 9:15-16. When Paul got saved, God told him he would bear His name before Gentiles and kings. This ministry would bring Paul suffering and death. Paul suffered shipwreck, was bitten by a serpent, and ended up in prison at Rome for two years.	Paul witnessed to at least 2 kings and many Gentile nations. While in prison, Paul witnessed to Caesar's household (Php. 1:13, 4:22) and established a church in Rome.

- God didn't use the evil government that arrested and executed Paul.
- God used Paul who never turned against God, though he was beaten and threatened many times.

THE EVIL THAT WILL PREVAIL	THE GOOD THAT COMES OUT OF IT
This Earth will experience seven years of Great Tribulation.	God will purify the remnant of Israel and clear the way for His Son to come and rule in Jerusalem. Peace on Earth will finally be a reality.

THE EVIL THAT PREVAILS	THE GOOD THAT CAN COME OUT OF IT
2 Cor. 4:16-18. Our bodies experience sin, pain, suffering, and then death.	If you will stay true to God in spite of all your troubles, God can use you all the days of your life.

THE EVIL THAT PREVAILS	THE GOOD THAT COMES OUT OF IT
2 Cor. 5:8. Death is an evil that we all will face (Heb. 9:27). It results from Adam's sin (Gen. 2:17). Rom. 5:3-5. Tribulations are endured by every person.	When a believer dies, they are present with the Lord. Tribulation works many benefits into the life of a believer (patience, experience, hope...)

- Stay good in this evil world. Don't let the evil things that happen to you make you evil.

Isaiah 45:5-9 God forms the light and creates darkness; He makes peace and creates evil. What you receive from Him depends on your treatment of Him.

- If you fight against God, expect evil to come (wars, famines, pestilence, death in the family, loss of job, heartaches, etc.).
- As long as you don't fight God, He will send peace, light, rain, and many other blessings.

Rom. 8:28-29 God makes all things (good and evil) work together for good—but only **to them that love God.**

God's purpose is to conform us to be like Jesus Christ (vs 29).

- As long as you stay in love with God, He will work to make everything that happens in your life contribute to the goal of making you like His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.
- If you turn against God because of your evil circumstances, His promise to work all things together for your good no longer applies.

"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom. 12:21). If you will continue to do that, God can do a wonderful work in your life for good.
