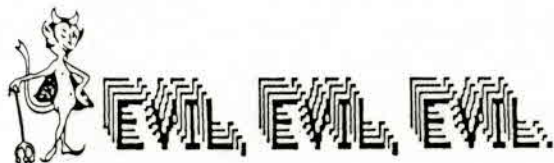


MAY - JUNE 1986



Who created EVIL?

That is a question that usually separates the men from the boys.

This happy lesson will free us from our wrong ideas of the past.

Most boys erroneously think that the devil created EVIL. Impossible! The devil never created anything, but a lie.

The devil is a destroyer, not a creator. He goes about hatefully destroying. He cannot create, because it takes LOVE to create.

This lesson will give us victory over the devil. We will learn more about the destructive process than we have ever seen before. We will find how to turn destruction into a positive process that will eventually produce something good.

WHO CREATED EVIL?

Well, if evil was not created by the devil, then by whom was evil created?

Ready? Evil was created by ELOHIM, the creator GOD.

If you haven't thrown this MONARCH away yet, you will see: "I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and CREATE EVIL: I the Lord do all these things." (Isaiah 45:6-7).

Shocked? Most people are.

God said, I CREATE EVIL. He said it right there in Isaiah.

Is it a misprint?

Is it a translation error?



Well, in the same scripture God said that He also created darkness; and that is the antitype of light.

Lets look at several other scriptures to see if there is a mistake or if there is a pattern from which to learn.

I KILL, I WOUND

The next scripture is hard, too. "For the Lord...shall say...See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I KILL and I make alive; I WOUND, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand." (Deuteronomy 32:36-39)

Again we find God using antitypes. He said, I KILL and I WOUND. The antitypes, of course, are to make alive and to heal. Here again God said that He does both.

Most Christians have not been taught that God does both. It seems so impossible

But the Christian who masters the truth of this Bible lesson will step from darkness about the devil into light about our great GOD.

WHO SENT THE EVIL?

"Shall there be evil in a city and the Lord hath not done it?" (Amos 3:6).

Unless God so wills it, no harm can ensue; so if misfortune befalls Israel (or anyone), it will not be due to chance, but to His will.

I think that it is a cop-out to say that bad things are from the devil and that good things are from God. That's too simplistic

There are just too many scriptures that do not support that simple idea. That's the kind of answer we would receive in Sunday school.

GOD SENT AN EVIL SPIRIT.

"Then God sent an evil spirit between Abimelech and the men of Shechem." (Judges 9:23).

"But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him." (I Samuel 16:14).

"And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul." (I Samuel 18:10).

There are three examples of EVIL SPIRITS that were sent by God; the scripture does not say that the EVIL SPIRITS were sent by the devil.

Yes! Those scriptures do produce a paradox in our thinking. And I'm led to demonstrate several more scriptures that are seldom quoted by most preachers - in order to show that these are not isolated ideas. The Bible is full of the theme that has unfortunately suffered atrophy from disuse.

Following are five different scriptures that say that God sent LYING, PERVERSE, DECEIVING, DELUSIONS.

A LYING SPIRIT FROM THE LORD.

"And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will persuade him. And the Lord said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets; and he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also, go forth and do so." (I Kings 22:22, also II Chronicles 18:20-22).

A lying spirit came forth from the Lord and entered into the prophets of Ahab and deceived them, so that they entered into the designs of the wicked King and gave an answer favorable to him.

The idea is somewhat similar to the next scripture.

THE LORD HAS DECEIVED.

"And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the Lord have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him." (Ezekiel 14:9).

A PERVERSE SPIRIT.

"The Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof; and they have caused Egypt to err in every work." (Isaiah 19:14).

Strong's Concordance says that "perverse" means to be crooked, to turn.

THE DECEIVER IS HIS.

"With him is strength and wisdom; the

deceived and the deceiver are his." (Job 12:16).

Well, who is the deceiver? JESUS said. "Your father the devil...was a murderer from the beginning,...abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him...for he is a liar." (John 8:44). That would indicate that even the devil is possessed by God for His purpose and use. "The deceived and the deceiver are his."

GOD WILL SEND A LIE.

And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." (II Thessalonians 2:11).

Even the New Testament confirms the idea that our GOD does send delusion (a lie).

You just read five different scriptures that say that God sends a lie.

GOD OF HELL?

Is our GOD the GOD of hell as well as the GOD of heaven?

King David answered our questions; "If I ascend up to heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." (Psalm 139:8).

David said that God is in hell as well as in heaven. That makes our God very big. That makes hell a part of GOD's big plan. That means that our GOD will (does) use hell for his purposes.

ANSWERS!

For many people, none of this makes sense. We need some answers. These scriptures make God look bad. We were taught that God is good. How can a good God do things like create evil, create darkness, kill, wound, and send evil and lying spirits?

GOD CREATED EVERYTHING.

Our GOD is the GOD of everything, heaven earth and hell. All things were created by Him and for Him, even hell.

We must all see that our GOD ELOHIM is the creator of everything. GOD is love. And lovers create.

"All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." (I John 1:3).

"God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 3:9).

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth,



visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." (Colossians 1:16).

Notice that all things are created by Him and for Him.

And now we are beginning to take notice that "ALL" even includes evil and hell.

"Thou...O Lord...hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Revelation 4:11).

LOVERS CREATE.

Our GOD ELOHIM is such a great lover that our GOD ELOHIM can never destroy anything. Lovers create; they don't destroy.

Conversely, the devil is a hateful destroyer. No hateful person creates anything.

IN THE WAY.

But here's the catch. Sometimes there are things in the way of our GOD's creative plans. The work cannot proceed while the thing is in the way.

In other words, the road cannot be built until the tree (in the way) is cut down.

The tree is used as an allegory for many influences in our own lives that hinder the big plans and purposes of GOD.

THE ANSWER!!

So our GOD ELOHIM created a destroyer to use in order to remove or destroy things that have outlived their usefulness and/or are in the way of progress.

Yes. Our GOD did create the devil; and Satan works for our GOD.

In other words, our GOD is so good that He can never destroy or remove anything. But eventually some things do get in His way. So He created a destroyer to remove whatever is in the way of the big plan.

Now we are beginning to see the happy answer.

A lady I know was convinced that Satan was out to destroy her life and remove everything good during the divorce. Later on, she saw that the devil really did remove things from her; but she later realized that her present state of happiness could never materialize while those other things were in her life. Satan's attack was painful. But every cloud has a silver lining and tough times don't last, but tough people do. She is happier now than

she ever has been, and she thanks our GOD for Satan's attack way back then. But that does not mean that presently she relishes the thought of another attack.

I CREATED THE WASTER TO DESTROY

"Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy." (Isaiah 54:16).

In other words, our GOD has created a waster, a destroyer, a devil to work for Him (an instrument for His work).

Satan could not do anything to Job until God gave Satan permission or a command. See Job 1:6-12 and Job 2:1-6.

If Satan was his own boss, then I don't think that he would have had to wait for God's approval before he began his attack on Job.

My GOD is the boss of everything, and everything was created by Him and for His own eternal plans and purposes.

When all hell breaks loose and it seems like GOD has left Harrisburg and has gone on vacation to Miami, then this lesson comes into play and I know that everything is working out for the best in the long run.

The truth of this lesson does not make the attack hurt less; it makes the future produce more.

GOD OR SATAN?

But several of those scriptures said that our GOD did all those evil, lying destructive things. Only a few scriptures said that the devil (Satan) did the action.

Here is an allegory to explain if our GOD did or if He did not destroy.

I knew a man who said that he was building a house. But when I went to look, I found that he never cut a board or drove a nail. Other men were doing all the work for him. Now, was he building the house, or wasn't he? The fact that he gave all the orders to have the house built really did qualify him to say that he was building a house, even though other men did all the work.

In a like manner our GOD can say that He cut down a tree, when really he hired a fellow to cut it down for Him.

So, in the sense that our GOD did tell the devil to destroy and bring evil, our GOD did it.



The following verse contains the same idea - that GOD is in charge of everything, even though He uses other people to accomplish His objectives.

"For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is GOD." (Hebrews 3:4).

LOVERS DON'T DESTROY.

But to me, it is nice to know that our GOD is such a lover that He couldn't do it. So, in a sense, our GOD hired the devil (created the devil) to do His dirty work for Him.

Over the last 20 years I have dealt with many Christians who claimed that their love for someone drove them to take actions that resulted in destruction. I don't believe it. You can't love a church so much that you destroy a pastor. You can't love a person so much that you destroy a marriage. You can't love a denomination or a doctrine or a teaching so much that you destroy a student. Lovers create. Haters destroy. Lovers don't destroy; and haters don't create. Whenever you feel that something stands in the way of your love, happiness, completeness or your fulfillment, you are best advised to never destroy the thing yourself. Let our GOD send the destroyer. Don't let the devil trick you into helping him.

Our great example of a lover is in King David. Let's see how he handled the chance to destroy his enemy.

"Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily...David said, I will not put forth mine hand against King Saul, for he is the Lord's anointed. Moreover, King Saul, see the skirt of thy robe in my hand, and I killed thee not, know thou and see that there is neither EVIL nor transgression in mine hand, and I have not sinned against thee; yet thou huntest my soul to take it." (I Samuel 24:1-15).

Even though EVIL was created by God, David said that he would have nothing to do with EVIL.

David was a lover; a man after GOD's own heart. So he learned to leave destruction to the hand of someone else, no matter if he had the chance to destroy or not.

David had a chance to kill his enemy Saul, another time.

"Saul lay sleeping...and his spear stuck in the ground at his bolster...then said: Abishai to David...let me smite him...and will not smite him the second time...And David said...the Lord shall smite him...The Lord forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand...So David took the spear and the cruse of water from Saul's bolster...And David said (to Saul), see where the king's spear is, and the cruse of water that was at your bolster...And Saul said, Is this thy voice, David...And David said, It is my voice, O king,...what Evil is in my hand? Then said Saul, I have sinned... ." (I Samuel 26: 7-25).

David could have accepted the erroneous idea that GOD gave Saul into his hand so that he could kill Saul.

Many people mistakenly feel that way. They feel that if they have the chance to destroy their enemy, then God gave it to them and they should exercise it.

DESTRUCTIVE TONGUE.

A preacher who I know has received the erroneous idea that he should attack the personality of other ministers who disagree with him, theologically. He finds scandal in the lives of others and then gleefully reports the problem to the whole Christian community. He recently published a personal attack on a great Bible theologian of the past century. He erroneously reasons that his attack on the personality of the great man will result in weakening or destroying the man's theology. I think that is very wrong. I think that he has aligned himself with the destroyer, the devil. I think that the destroyer shall be destroyed.

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and false prophet are." (Revelation 20:10).

DESTRUCTION OF THE FIG TREE.

The only argument that I receive when I teach this lesson is when a student says, "But, brother Dave, Jesus DESTROYED the fig tree. And he surely wasn't tricked into working for the devil. How do you answer that?"

I think the idea is wrong. Here's why. The account in Mark does not tell us that JESUS ever DESTROYED the fig tree. It says "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter, forever." (Mark 11:14). That was a prophecy.



May I call your attention to the fact that the DESTRUCTION took place sometime later, after JESUS was gone. When JESUS walked away, the tree was still green.

Peter was shocked to see the dried up tree in the morning (not right away).

I submit to you that the DESTROYER came and worked on the tree that JESUS allowed him to work on. You will probably agree that JESUS did not DESTROY the fig tree after you review the story in Mark 11:12-27.



I think that both David and JESUS proved my point, that it is better to let someone (something) else do the DESTRUCTIVE dirty work, and not become involved in DESTRUCTION yourself.

AGENT OF DESTRUCTION.

Don't allow your desire to love someone (something) or to be loved by someone (something) to become so overwhelming that you become willing to be an agent of DESTRUCTION in order to accomplish your desire for fulfillment. If you have been a DESTROYER (like a homebreaker) then ask for forgiveness in JESUS' name. Whenever you find it necessary to DESTROY something in order to complete your plans - resist the idea. Pray about it and let someone else be the DESTROYER.

HOW TO DESTROY.

The lesson of the fig tree is really a lesson of how to release the DESTRUCTIVE powers of Satan, so that a good purpose can result.

FIRST, there was the prophetic pronouncement by JESUS. "No man eat of thee hereafter, forever." JESUS did not DESTROY the tree, He prophesied that it would be DESTROYED. Then JESUS left the tree and acted like the prophecy had already been fulfilled. (Mark 11:12-14).



SECOND, there was the overturning of the money tables in the temple. This was a prophetic act of DESTRUCTION by JESUS. The money changers obviously reassembled their wares, with the blessing of the priests. This prophetic act showed what would happen in 35 years, the DESTRUCTION of the temple in 70 AD. So we note two forms of prophecy. 1.) a pronouncement (v. 12-14) and also 2.) an act (v 15-17). Ezekiel acted out a prophecy by lying on his side a day for a year in Ezekiel 4:4-6, an example of a prophetic act.

THIRD, came the plot of the scribes and chief priests to DESTROY JESUS. And they sought how THEY might DESTROY Him. The religious leaders entered into the DESTRUCTIVE process themselves. JESUS did not. He prophesied that it would take place, but He did not enter the DESTRUCTIVE process Himself. JESUS also prophesied that whenever anyone, even now, touches the money flow of the church, they touch the sacred panic button. The love money will even make a preacher kill. (v 18-19).

I believe that JESUS knew full well what the result would be when He tipped those tables. In a sense, He signed His own death warrant.

FOURTH, the fig tree withered away as a result of the prophecy of JESUS. He never touched the tree. While JESUS attended to other business, DESTRUCTIVE forces were released by the DESTROYER (the devil) against the tree. If JESUS would have lifted one finger (made one phone call) to help the DESTRUCTIVE process, then he would have become an agent of the devil. In fact, the DESTRUCTIVE devil acted as an agent of JESUS, like the story in Job. (Job 1:6,2:1) Dear Bible student, you are now learning secrets of power that heretofore were mysteries of the Kingdom. (v 20-21).

FIFTH, JESUS taught on proper Christian prophecy that brings about DESTRUCTION or cursing. The idea of Christian cursing is rather foreign. But Peter said, "Master, behold the fig tree which thou CURSEDST is withered away." The KJV says JESUS' answer was, "Have faith IN God," but the YOUNG'S LITERAL TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE gives the passage a completely different and more plausible meaning. YOUNG'S says "Have (the) faith OF God. Notice the "IN" and the "OF."

A play in verb tense follows. Say (present tense) to the mountain (problem) "Be removed." Do not doubt (present progressively) in your heart (SPIRIT - not soul). Believe (present progressively) that what you said (past tense) shall come to pass (in the future) and you shall have (in the future) what you said you got (in the past).

A whole new movement, called the "FAITH MESSAGE" has recently sprung up - based on this passage in Mark chapter 11, verse 22. They probably would agree with this explanation of verb tense and the change of the word "IN" to "OF." I'm not sure if

they would agree to changing the context from a "BLESSING PRAYER" to the context of a "CHRISTIAN CURSING PROPHECY." Look over the whole chapter yourself to see if you think the context is "BLESSING & PROVISION" or if you think the context is "CURSING & DESTRUCTION." The fig tree was DESTROYED. The temple DESTRUCTION was prophesied. The DESTRUCTION of JESUS' authority was attempted (v 22-24). Teaching on the proper way to commission DESTRUCTION was given. The DESTRUCTION of Israel as a nation was prophesied. (Mark 12:1-12).

SIXTH, "FORGIVENESS" determines what the mountain is. Christians commit a very big error in wrongly identifying the problem (mountain) in their life. It won't work if you curse the wrong mountain. A man tried these ideas against his unfair boss. He demanded that GOD remove his boss from influencing his life (cast into the sea). Forgetting the test of forgiveness, the man declared that the prayer didn't work. If he would have forgiven his boss then he could have seen clearly enough to identify the problem (mountain) as poor communication between them. He is still ignorantly cursing his boss instead of the real problem. His boss got that position of authority because our GOD gave it to him. GOD will not take it away because of some unforgiving ignorant Christian's prayer. Ignorant wives ask GOD for relief from husbands, husbands from wives, congregations from pastors, pastors from boards, etc. They don't get it, because they curse the wrong mountain. (v 25-26). The mountain is never a person. It is an idea.

The allegory of a mountain in your life should be obvious. It could be a mountain of sickness, of poverty, of lack, of need. It is never a person. It is usually the attitude of your enemy, or perhaps your own attitude.

Do you think you need a Cadillac? Many people have claimed that they had a Cadillac, only to have it repossessed. Speak to your mountain of lack of ability, training, opportunity, etc. Some people want to cast poverty out of their life but they don't want to pay the price of abundance which is training, hard work, initiative, etc. First, forgive everyone involved and then identify the real mountain that prevents your progress. If you can't forgive the people involved, then don't bother to pray. (Matt. 6:12-15, Matt. 18:35).

Pray the way JESUS taught you. Speak to the mountain, the problem in your life that should be DESTROYED. Then turn from the problem and believe and act like it has been DESTROYED. At that time the mountain will still be there; the fig tree will still be green. But act like it has already been accomplished. Go about your other business. Some day you will return to find the tree dried up and/or the mountain gone. Others, like Peter, will wonder how it happened. You'll know that our GOD sent the DESTROYER, or one of his agents, to remove the thing that has been in your way. You'll feel good and happy about it because you didn't have to DESTROY it yourself.

SEVENTH, JESUS summed up the teaching about DESTRUCTION with the parable of the vineyard. (Mark 12:1-12).

The vineyard owner (GOD) let it (the Kingdom) out to the husbandmen (the religious leaders-priests). The priests DESTROYED every prophet that GOD sent. Finally GOD sent His only Son to receive the vineyard (Kingdom). The priests DESTROYED the Son, referring to the crucifixion of JESUS. The owner, GOD, will in turn DESTROY the priests, and the religion of Judaism, the nation of Israel. And He will give the vineyard (Kingdom) unto others. The whole passage is on the subject of who DESTROYED what.



But we should remind ourselves that our GOD Himself does not perform the DESTRUCTION. Our GOD sends the devil to perform the dirty work.

David and the son of David, JESUS, taught us to recognize that there are things in our lives that should be DESTROYED, removed. But they both taught us that we should not DESTROY the influence ourselves.

Sure, it is hard to not strike back at someone who is cursing you.

King David gave up the chance to kill the man who was cursing him.

"Shimei...cursed as he came, and he cast stones at David...Then said Abishai...Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king?...let me take off his head...King (David) said, so let him curse, because the Lord hath said unto him, Curse David...let him alone, and let him curse; for the Lord hath bidden him. It may be that the Lord will look on mine affliction, and that the Lord will requite me good for his cursing this day." (II Samuel 16:5-14).

The next time some EVIL DESTRUCTION comes your way, it would be a good idea to hold your hand from hitting back, and it would be good for you to say, "It may be that the Lord will look on mine affliction, and that the Lord will requite me good for his cursing this day."



WHOSE ENEMY?

Most of us were erroneously taught that the devil was in a fight with GOD. We believed that the devil was an enemy of GOD. These scriptures seem to place the devil more as an employee of GOD rather than an enemy. No, the devil is not an enemy of our GOD. He is our enemy, not GOD's enemy.

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (I Peter 5:8). The devil is our adversary, not God's.

Yes, the devil is the enemy of our SOUL and the enemy of our BODY.

JESUS said, "Fear not them which kill the BODY, but are not able to kill the SOUL: but rather fear him which is able to DESTROY both SOUL and BODY in hell." (Matthew 10:28).

JESUS told us that the devil is a fearful enemy of both our SOUL and of our BODY.

The goal of the devil is to DESTROY both our SOUL and our BODY.

Our goal is to keep him from doing it.

GOD's purpose is to allow the devil to tempt us, to test us until it is apparent to all - THAT WE CAN PASS THE TEST.

Those people who pass shall be the overcomers, spoken of often in prophecy. Those people shall rule and reign with CHRIST.

MAILING LIST

We have never removed any names from the mailing list (unless requested). The Post Office does tell us to remove some when they move away and no one can find the new address.

Several people wrote recently to ask if they had been removed because they have not contributed to the ministry. No! We never do that. The reason that no one received a MONARCH for a short while is that I could not send it.

This ministry does not exist apart from the gifts of our friends and our students.

