

02. God Makes Evil Work for Good

We want to look at a very important question. If evil originated with the fall of Lucifer, the head of the angels, why didn't God destroy it immediately? God could have done that. If Satan is the cause of all the evil in the world, why doesn't God destroy Satan? Why doesn't He destroy all the demons, so that we would not be harassed by them? Why should people suffer in so many ways?

If God does not do that, we can be certain sure that He has a very good purpose. There are many things about God that we cannot fully understand. God's wisdom is like that of an ocean, and our mind is like a little cup; it can contain just a little bit of the water of the ocean. So we can understand a little bit, but we can't understand it fully. And with that little bit, with that little intelligence and understanding that God has given us, we can understand a little bit of the reason why God has not destroyed Satan; why God permits life on earth to be so difficult, so insecure, so dangerous in so many ways?

One reason is, if God had made life on earth extremely comfortable and easy, people would not think of eternity. Man was not created only for his short life on earth. Even if you live a hundred years on this earth, that is a very short period compared to eternity. Plants and animals do not exist eternally. But when God created man, He created man to be a creature of eternity; to live endlessly. His body may perish on earth, after he has lived, say, 70, 80 or 100 years, but, that soul within him is eternal; it will never, never die. Once you are born, that soul never dies; it exists eternally. It is important for you to understand that.

One thing we can be sure is that God, in His infinite

02. 神利用邪恶来成就良善

我们现在需要思考一个非常重要的问题。如果罪恶是从天使路西法的堕落开始的，神为什么没有马上毁灭它？神是完全可以办到的。如果撒但是这个世界所有罪恶的起因，神为什么不直接消灭了撒但？为什么不消灭所有的魔鬼？这样我们就不会被骚扰。人为什么必须要遭受各种痛苦？

我们可以肯定的是，神没有这么做，必定有非常好的理由。神的很多很多事情，我们都无法完全理解。如果说神的智慧像海洋，那我们的头脑就像一个小碗；小碗只能装整个海洋里的一点点水。我们能理解一点点，但不能理解全部。借着这一点点智慧，这一点点神给的智力和理解力，我们可以稍微的明白一点儿为什么神还没有消灭撒但；为什么神允许在世上的生活如此艰难、如此没有安全感，在很多方面如此危险？

原因之一是，如果神让世上的生活非常舒服又容易，人就不会去关心不朽的永生。神造人，不止是为了世上这短短的生命。就算你在世上活一百岁，对永生来说，都是转瞬即逝。而植物与动物是没有不朽的存在性的。但当神造人的时候，祂将人造为永生之物。一个人的身体会腐坏（可能 70 年、80 年，或即使 100 年），可人的魂是不朽的，魂永远永远不会死。只要一出生，你的魂就不会死，而是永远存在着。这你一定要知道。

有一件事我们可以非常肯定，就是神用祂无限的智

wisdom, has permitted life on earth to be difficult, so that people think about Him. Even the problems, the sicknesses, the trials and difficulties that Satan and evil spirits bring into your life are permitted by a loving God to make you turn to Him. In that way, even those trials and difficulties are an expression of God's love for you. See, God is so powerful and so almighty that He can make even evil work for the fulfilment of His purposes. Now, we can't understand that. We can only think that good is good and evil is evil, and only good things can further God's purposes. No, God is so almighty that He can make evil work to further the purposes of good for us as human beings.

Let me give you an example. In fact, this is the whole message of the Bible - how God uses Satan and evil spirits to further His purposes. That is why He does not destroy them. All the evil that is going on in the world, we will discover finally, that they fulfilled God's purposes in some wonderful way. God did not create evil. But when the angels and man decided to be evil, God decided to use it to further His purposes. And there we see something of the almighty power of God. When we see that, our own faith is strengthened, and we discover that we are not afraid of evil anymore, as God can make it to work for our good.

I heard a story of a businessman, who had been very close to God at one time. But, over a period of time, he drifted away from God as his business prospered. He was going to a Christian church, and the elders in that church tried speaking to him repeatedly to turn him back to faith in God, to surrender his life to Christ again. But he was too occupied in his business. He didn't have time anymore to come for meetings even on Sundays. His business was prospering. Then one day, a

慧，允许世上的艰难，这样人就会想起祂。就连撒但和邪灵们带来的各种麻烦、疾病、磨练和困境，慈爱的神都允许，为的是要我们转向祂。这些磨练和困苦，其实是因着神对你的爱（译者：祂渴望你不至丧失那不朽的永生）。你看，神如此大能全能，祂利用邪恶，来达成祂的目的。我们现在还不太能理解这个。我们觉得，好事是好事，坏事是坏事，感觉神只能用好事来成就下一步的目的。事实却不是这样，因为神是如此全能，可以利用邪恶，来成就祂对人类的最良好的用心。

让我来给你举个例子。实际上，这是整本《圣经》所传达的信息——神利用撒但和邪灵来实现祂的目的。这就是为什么神没有直接消灭他们。这世上所有的邪恶和不幸，最后我们都将会发现，神以绝妙的方式利用了它们，实现最后美善的目的。神没有创造邪恶。是堕落的天使和人，自己决定要作恶，而神决定要利用这恶来实现祂的目的。从这里，我们看到神的大能。每当看到神的大能，我们的信心就会被坚固，尔后我们会发现自己不再那么畏惧邪恶了，因为神在利用那邪恶来实现良善的目的。

我听过的一个生意人，曾经非常近神。然而，随着生意日渐兴隆，他开始逐渐疏远了神。去教会的时候，那个教会的长老反复规劝他，归回神，将生命重新交给基督。但生意把他的心占据得太厉害了。他甚至不能保证每个周日的聚会。他的生意还在继续扩大。后来有一天，他三个儿子中最小的那个，被毒蛇咬了，尔后病得要不行了。医生也放弃了希望，这位父亲非常担忧。他请来了教会的长老为孩子祷告。这位长老很有智慧。他去了之后是这样祷告的：“主，感谢你让一条毒蛇咬了这孩子，因为已经六年了，我

poisonous snake bit the youngest of his three sons, and the child became seriously sick. When the doctors gave up all hope, the father was really worried. He sent for one of the elders of the church to pray for the child. The elder was a wise man. He came and prayed like this: Lord, thank you for sending this snake to bite this child, because I tried for six years to get his family to think about You, and I never succeeded. But what I couldn't do in six years, this snake has done in a moment, it has been more successful. Now that they have learnt the lesson, Lord, heal this child and grant that this family will never need any more snakes to remind them of You again.

Now do you think a snake bite is good or evil? All of us would agree it is evil, definitely. But in this particular family's case, did God use it for good? He certainly did. That family was drifting away from God and they would have destroyed their lives in the pursuit of money. But it was through a snake (that did something evil) biting one of their sons made them turn back to God, so their life could be spiritually blessed; they could live for eternity's values. This is an example of how God uses evil to accomplish good. If there were no snakes in the world, there would be no snake to bite that child, and they probably would have destroyed themselves eternally. So we see how God used an evil thing like a snake. And, very often, it is the same with sickness. There are people who don't think about God at all in their life, until one day, they are suddenly taken to hospital with cancer or some other serious sickness. All of a sudden, these people who have never thought about God for forty years suddenly start thinking about God.

First of all, we need to establish one thing: is it a good thing to think about God or not? Certainly it is.

一直在试图让这家人想起你，却一直不成功。然而我用六年时间做不到的事，你用一条蛇一下子就办到了。现在他们已经吸取了教训，主，请你医治这个孩子，并答应这家人永远不再需要蛇来提醒他们归于你。”

你觉得被蛇咬是好事还是坏事？我们都会说，是坏事。可这个家庭的特殊例子，不是坏事成就了好的目的吗？神就是这样的。那家人曾经开始疏远神，追求金钱很可能毁了他们的生活。但是通过一条蛇（邪恶的）咬了他们的儿子，他们重新归向了神，这样他们属灵的生命可以得到祝福，他们可以活出不朽的价值。这是神利用邪恶来成就良善的一个例子。这世上如果没有蛇，就不会有蛇咬这孩子，他们可能全家都会丧失永生。这样我们看到神如何利用邪恶的事物，诸如蛇，还有疾病之类的。很多人从不相信有神，直到有一天突然进了医院，发现自己得了癌症或其它的严重疾病。尔后这些以往从没想过神的人们，忽然之间，开始思考和神有关的问题了。

那么接下来我们需要先确定一件事：思索关于神的问题，到底是不是件好事？答案是，当然是好事。因为

A man who lives without God in his life lives without meaning and purpose. He may make a lot of money, but ultimately, he will die frustrated. He will die with emptiness. God has created us in such a way that He is the most important factor in our lives and if we don't think about Him, we miss the meaning and purpose of life altogether. So, if a man lives for 40 or 50 years without thinking about God, and then he gets cancer, and he begins to think about God and turns to Him, would that cancer be good or bad? Of course, if you look at cancer by itself, all of us would say cancer is evil. Sure, but there are examples of how God has used cancer to make people turn to Him. How is it that even though the cancer itself was evil, it was used for a good purpose, just like the snake?

One day we will discover the full story of every man's life, when Jesus Christ comes back to this earth. When we stand before Him and we see all the people who have lived on this earth from the very beginning, from the very first man, and we hear their stories, we will see that God used many things to turn people away from a sinful life towards heaven; incurable diseases, sicknesses, wild animals, snakes, even poverty and suffering and many other evils were used by God to get people to turn away from their sins towards heaven, and thus to find an eternal home in heaven. So we see, through all these examples, how God uses these evil things that Satan does to save people from Satan's clutches. There is a man living for the devil, doomed to an eternal destiny in hell, away from God, and Satan is working on him. Then through some of the evil things like sickness, the man turns to God. So we see that God uses the very things that Satan brings into the world - evil to deliver people from Satan's clutches and to bring them into eternal salvation. There we see the wonderful way in which

没有神的人生，不具有意义和目的。一个人可能赚很多钱，但最终还是会沮丧的死去。死得非常空虚。神造人的方式，是要在人生命中占最重要的地位，如果我们没有祂，人生则失去全部意义和目的。所以，若是一个人活了四五十年，尔后得了癌症，他开始寻求尔后归向了神，那癌症是好还是坏？当然，如果你只看癌症本身，所有人都会说癌症是邪恶的。但有好多好多例子，神利用了癌症使人归向祂。癌症本身是邪恶的，就如同那条蛇，神如何利用它来成就良善的目的？

当耶稣基督重返这个世界的时候，我们将会了解每个人的全部经历。当我们站在祂面前时，会看见这世上所有生活过的人，从最初那第一个人，每个人的故事，我们将看到神怎样利用各种途径，使他们从充满了罪的人生，转向了天国；绝症、疾病、野兽、蛇，甚至贫穷和患难，和其它各种邪恶与不幸，我们将看到神如何利用一切，使人从罪中解脱，归向天国，并在天国里找到永恒的家。通过所有这些例子，我们看到，神利用撒但做的恶，去解救人们脱离撒但的钳制。有的人曾经活在罪恶里，将要被抛弃于无尽的地狱，远离神，撒但在他身上一直做工。然而因为类似疾病这样邪恶的事物，这个人回到了神身边。我们看到，神正是利用撒但带给这个世界的邪恶，来拯救人脱离撒但的钳制，并带给他们永恒的救赎。这里我们看到神无限的全能。我们也可以说，神一次又一次愚弄了撒但。这是《圣经》绝妙的启示。《圣经》说，耶稣基督来世上除灭一切撒但的作为（约翰 1 书 3 章 8 节）。

God works His almighty power. We can also say that thus God makes fool of Satan again and again. This is the wonderful message of the Bible. The Bible says that Jesus Christ came to undo the works of Satan in 1 John 3:8.

We can say that we all started off life with a ball of string neatly rolled up. But through the years, we have ended with that string tied up into ten thousand or even ten million knots. Now, as we look at this ball of string, we are frustrated, we are discouraged, we are wondering what we can do? Then comes to us this wonderful message of the Bible - Jesus Christ can untie every knot. I don't know with how many knots you have got your life tied into, my friend, but I want to tell you the good news - Jesus can untie every single knot. He can give you back a whole roll of new string with your whole life just as though you were born now, and you can start life all over again, if you turn to Jesus Christ, call upon His name, and say, 'Lord Jesus, you came to destroy the works of the devil, destroy those works in my life. Amen.'

我们每个人的人生在开始时，都像是一个缠绕整齐的线团。若干年过去，线打了成千上万个结。现在我们看着这团线，感觉非常沮丧、泄气，想着我们到底该怎么办呐？然后我们看到《圣经》的讯息——耶稣基督可以打开所有的结。我不知道你的人生打了多少结，我的朋友，但我可以告诉你这个好消息——耶稣可以打开每一个结。祂可以把一团重新缠绕整齐的线交到你手中，就像生命才刚刚开始。如果你归向耶稣基督，就可以重头来过，求拜祂的名，说“主耶稣，请你来到我的生命中，除灭魔鬼曾做过的一切。阿门。”