

## 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 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. 神利用邪惡來成就良善

我們現在需要思考一個非常重要的問題。如果罪惡是從天使長路西法的墮落開始的，神為什麼沒有馬上毀滅它？神是完全可以辦到的。如果撒但是這個世界所有罪惡的起因，神為什麼不直接消滅了撒但？為什麼不消滅所有的魔鬼？這樣我們就不會被騷擾。人為什麼必須要遭受各種痛苦？

我們可以肯定的是，神沒有這麼做，必定有非常好的理由。神的很多很多事情，我們都無法完全理解。如果說神的智慧像海洋，那我們的頭腦就像一個小碗；小碗只能裝整個海洋裡的一點點水。我們能理解一點點，但不能理解全部。借著這一點點智慧，這一點點神給的智力和理解力，我們可以稍微的明白一點兒為什麼神還沒有消滅撒但；為什麼神允許在世上的生活如此艱難、如此沒有安全感，在很多方面如此危險？

原因之一是，如果神讓世上的生活非常舒服又容易，人就不會去關心不朽的永生。神造人，不止是為了世上這短短的生命。就算你在世上活一百歲，對永生來說，都是轉瞬即逝。而植物與動物是沒有不朽的存在性的。但當神造人的時候，祂將人造為永生之物。一個人的身體會腐壞（可能 70 年、80 年，或即使 100 年），可人的魂是不朽的，魂永遠永遠不會死。只要一出生，你的魂就不會死，而是永遠存在著。這你一定要知道。

有一件事我們可以非常肯定，就是神用祂無限的智慧，

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

允許世上的艱難,這樣人就會想起祂。就連撒但和邪靈們帶來的各種麻煩、疾病、磨練和困境,慈愛的神都允許,為的是要我們轉向祂。這些磨練和困苦,其實是因著神對你的愛(譯者:祂渴望你不至喪失那不朽的永生)。你看,神如此大能全能,祂利用邪惡,來達成祂的目的。我們現在還不太能理解這個。我們覺得,好事是好事,壞事是壞事,感覺神只能用好事來成就下一步的目的。事實卻不是這樣,因為神是如此全能,可以利用邪惡,來成就祂對人類的最良好的用心。

讓我來給你舉個例子。實際上,這是整本《聖經》所傳達的資訊——神利用撒但和邪靈來實現祂的目的。這就是為什麼神沒有直接消滅他們。這世上所有的邪惡和不幸,最後我們都將會發現,神以絕妙的方式利用了它們,實現最後美善的目的。神沒有創造邪惡。是墮落的天使和人,自己決定要作惡,而神決定要利用這邪惡來實現祂的目的。從這裡,我們看到神的大能。每當看到神的大能,我們的信心就會被堅固,爾後我們會發現自己不再那麼畏懼邪惡了,因為神在利用那邪惡來實現良善的目的。

我聽說過的一個生意人,曾經非常近神。然而,隨著生意日漸興隆,他開始逐漸疏遠了神。去教會的時候,那個教會的長老反復規勸他,歸回神,將生命重新交給基督。但生意把他的心佔據得太厲害了。他甚至不能保證每個周日的聚會。他的生意還在繼續擴大。後來有一天,他三個兒子裡最小的那個,被毒蛇咬了,爾後病得要不行了。醫生也放棄了希望,這位父親非常擔憂。他請來了教會的長老為孩子禱告。這位長老很有智慧。他去了之後是這樣禱告的:「主,感謝你讓一條毒蛇咬了這孩子,因為已經六年了,我一直在試圖讓

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.

這家人想起你,卻一直不成功。然而我用六年時間做不到的事,你用一條蛇一下子就辦到了。現在他們已經吸取了教訓,主,請你醫治這個孩子,並答應這家人永遠不再需要蛇來提醒他們歸於你。」

你覺得被蛇咬是好事還是壞事?我們都會說,是壞事。可這個家庭的特殊例子,不是壞事成就了好的目的嗎?神就是這樣的。那家人曾經開始疏遠神,追求金錢很可能毀了他們的生活。但是通過一條蛇(邪惡的)咬了他們的兒子,他們重新歸向了神,這樣他們屬靈的生命可以得到祝福,他們可以活出不朽的價值。這是神利用邪惡來成就良善的一個例子。這世上如果沒有蛇,就不會有蛇咬這孩子,他們可能全家都會喪失永生。這樣我們看到神如何利用邪惡的事物,諸如蛇,還有疾病之類的。很多人從不相信有神,直到有一天突然進了醫院,發現自己得了癌症或其它的嚴重疾病。爾後這些以往從沒想過神的人們,忽然之間,開始思考和神有關的問題了。

那麼接下來我們需要先確定一件事:思索關於神的問題,到底是不是件好事?答案是,當然是好事。因為沒

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

有神的人生,不具有意義和目的。一個人可能賺很多錢,但最終還是會沮喪的死去。死得非常空虛。神造人的方式,是要在人生命中占最重要的地位,如果我們沒有祂,人生則失去全部意義和目的。所以,若是一個人活了四五十年,爾後得了癌症,他開始尋求爾後歸向了神,那癌症是好還是壞?當然,如果你只看癌症本身,所有人都會說癌症是邪惡的。但有好多好多例子,神利用了癌症使人歸向祂。癌症本身是邪惡的,就如同那條蛇,神如何利用它來成就良善的目的?

當耶穌基督重返這個世界的時候,我們將會瞭解每個人的全部經歷。當我們站在祂面前時,會看見這世上所有生活過的人,從最初那第一個人,每個人的故事,我們將看到神怎樣利用各種途徑,使他們從充滿了罪的人生,轉向了天國;絕症、疾病、野獸、蛇,甚至貧窮和患難,和其它各種邪惡與不幸,我們將看到神如何利用一切,使人從罪中解脫,歸向天國,並在天國裡找到永恆的家。通過所有這些例子,我們看到,神利用撒但做的惡,去解救人們脫離撒但的鉗制。有的人曾經活在罪惡裡,將要被拋棄于無盡的地獄,遠離神,撒但在他身上一直做工。然而因為類似疾病這樣邪惡的事物,這個人回到了神身邊。我們看到,神正是利用撒但帶給這個世界的邪惡,來拯救人脫離撒但的鉗制,並帶給他們永恆的救贖。這裡我們看到神無限的全能。我們也可以說,神一次又一次愚弄了撒但。這是《聖經》絕妙的啟示。《聖經》說,耶穌基督來世上除滅一切撒但的作為(約翰 1 書 3 章 8 節)。

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.'

我們每個人的人生在開始時,都像一個纏繞整齊的線團。若干年過去,線打了成千上萬個結。現在我們看著這團線,感覺非常沮喪、洩氣,想著我們到底該怎麼辦呢?然後我們看到《聖經》的訊息——耶穌基督可以打開所有的結。我不知道你的人生打了多少結,我的朋友,但我可以告訴你這個好消息——耶穌可以打開每一個結。祂可以把一團重新纏繞整齊的線交到你手中,就像生命才剛剛開始。如果你歸向耶穌基督,就可以重頭來過,求拜祂的名,說「主耶穌,請你來到我的生命中,除滅魔鬼曾做過的一切。阿門。」