

IN WHAT SENSE DOES GOD CREATE EVIL?

Text: Isaiah 45:7 (KJV)

INTRO: Several years ago while I was working with the church in Exton, PA, we had a taped message that folks could call to hear a 3-minute Bible lesson. One caller left a message asking us to comment on some Bible passages (in the King James and American Standard Versions) that connect God with "evil." I feel many of us might benefit from a study of those passages.

We note that Webster defines the English word "evil" to include such synonyms as "disagreeable, calamitous, and unfortunate" as well as definitions regarding evil in a moral sense. Gesenius' Hebrew-Chaldee Lexicon defines the Hebrew word RA to include "what is displeasing to anyone, unhappy, unfortunate, sad of the heart or mind" as well as words tending to the area of moral evil. Newer translations than the KJV and ASV usually if not always reflect these other meanings of the word "evil."

Now, let us look at some of the "problem" passages.

- I. ISAIAH 45:7, NKJ, "Calamity"
- II. JEREMIAH 45:5, "Adversity"
- III. 2 KINGS 21:12, "Calamity"
- IV. PROVERBS 16:4, "Doom"
- V. JUDGES 9:23, "A spirit of ill will"

- VI. 2 SAMUEL 12:11, "Adversity"
- VII. 2 SAMUEL 16:10 (Has to do with pronouncing a curse on someone. Has nothing to do with foul language.
- VIII. EZEKIEL 20:25, God gave Judah up to statutes that were not good. First He had given them a good law in a land flowing with milk & honey, but because they would not keep that good law, He caused them to go into exile in Babylon & have to submit to Babylonian laws that were not so good.
- IX. 2 CHRONICLES 18:22. READ vs. 18-22. This describes, not a literal event but a vision seen by the prophet. God did not lie to Ahab nor send the false prophets to him. Ahab surrounded himself with false prophets because they would tell him what he wanted to hear. God simply used Ahab's own devices to destroy him.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, March 9, 1997