



SEEKERS of TRUTH

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Question:

Did the Lord create evil as it states in Isaiah 45:7?

Answer:

When we consider how great God is, and how infinitesimal man is, we do well to think twice before questioning what God did and did not do. God said, "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things" (Isa. 45:7).

One can take a text out of its context and prove almost anything. This passage of Scripture pictures Jehovah enduing Cyrus with power to subdue nations and to release God's people Israel from captivity. Cyrus was the leader of the Medes and Persians, whom God used to punish Babylon and to free Israel. He was a scourge in God's hand, testifying to God's sovereignty. In this sense God did create evil (calamity, judgment, punishment) to come upon a wicked people. (See Dan. 5:1-6,17-31.)

Evil and darkness in this scripture portray God's judgment. God brought peace (national well-being) to Israel through this act of judgment. Evil (moral) proceeds from the will of man. Evil (calamity, judgment) proceeds from the Lord.

One of the meanings of the Hebrew word *ra* carries the thought of adversity or calamity, and it is evidently the meaning intended in this verse. The evil here is in contrast with "peace," not "righteousness." It conveys the sense of "adversity" (punishment), not the evil of "sin." Consider Moffatt's translation. "I form light and I make darkness, I bring bliss and calamity; I the Eternal, the true God, I do it all" (Isa. 45:7).

God is not the author of sin. (See Hab. 1:13; 2 Tim. 2:13; Titus 1:2; Jas. 1:13; 1 John 1:5.) Evil (sin) is abhorrent to God. God causes his purposes to come to pass, regardless of man's sinful acts. The natural order of God is good, very good (Gen. 1:31). *God did not cause man to sin!* He created man with a free will. Man chose to disobey God, thus causing the curse (judgment of God) to fall not only upon man, but upon his world.

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