

PROBLEM OF EVIL

Part 2

Review of Part 1

- We used Presuppositional Apologetics to determine that when the question, “How can you believe in God when there is so much evil in the world?”, is asked the existence of Objective Evil is usually assumed.
- We determined that in Atheism, there are no good reasons to think that Objective Evil & Objective Moral Values and Duties exist.

Review of Part 1

We then turned our attention to using the **Moral Argument** for God's existence as a response to the question.

1. If God does not exist, then Objective Moral Values and Duties do not exist.
2. Objective Moral Values and Duties do exist.
(Namely Evil, assumed in the question)
3. Therefore, God exist.

A More Rigorous Question Remains!

Now we have to deal with this question for *our own* worldview.

Logical Problem of Evil:

1. An All-Powerful and All-Loving God exists.
2. Suffering exists.
3. Therefore, an All-Powerful and All-Loving God does not exist.



Analyzing the Argument

1. An All-Powerful and All-Loving God exists.
2. Suffering exists.

“Now the obvious question is, why think that these two statements are logically inconsistent? There’s no explicit contradiction between them (one statement is not the opposite of the other). So if the atheist thinks there’s some hidden, implicit contradiction between them, he must be making some hidden assumptions that would serve to bring out the contradiction and make it explicit.”

Analyzing the Argument

1. Are the first two premises logically inconsistent?
2. Is one statement the opposite of the other?
3. What are the hidden assumptions behind this argument?

Devil's Advocate

1. An All-Powerful and All-Loving God exists.
2. Suffering exist.
3. If God is All-Powerful, He can create any world He wants.
4. If God is All-Loving, He prefers a world in which no suffering exists.
5. Therefore, an All-Powerful and All-Loving God does not exist.

Syllogism Requirements

- In order for this syllogism to carry, it must not only be plausible, but it must be necessarily true.
- That means there cannot be even a *possibility* of it being false.
- So all we must do is imagine a case in which it would be possible that premises 3 and 4 would not be true.



Bear Your Own Burden!

- Remember this is the *skeptic's claim*, therefore it is *their burden to bear!* They must give us reasons to believe the claim is true.
- Do not be tricked into thinking its your job to prove the opposite, rather its *their job to prove their own claim.*



Premise 3

Is the premise “If God is All-Powerful, He can create any world He wants.” *necessarily true?*

Omnipotence

- God's attribute of Omnipotence means that God can do whatever is logically possible.
- God cannot do some things!
 - He cannot make a round square.
 - He cannot make a married bachelor.
 - He cannot make a one-ended stick.

Freedom

- In the same way, even though God is omnipotent, He cannot make someone freely choose to obey Him.
- If an unbeliever insists that God *can* do the logically impossible, then the whole problem dissolves on itself, since then there would be no problem in God creating a world in which He and suffering exist simultaneously.
- Therefore, since it's possible that people have freedom of the will, and use that will to disobey Him, it follows premise 3 isn't necessarily true.

Premise 4

Is the premise “If God is All-Loving, He prefers a world in which no suffering exists” *necessarily* true?

Limited Knowledge

- It seems that we are simply not in a position to say whether or not God has morally sufficient reasons for allowing the amount of evil and suffering in the world.
- It could be, given freedom of the will, that God could only achieve the salvation of the maximum number of people versus the least amount of lost by permitting much suffering.
- So given our limitations and this possibility, it doesn't seem premise 4 is *necessarily* true.

The Argument Fails

1. An All-Powerful and All-Loving God exists.
2. Suffering exist.
3. ~~If God is All-Powerful, He can create any world He wants.~~
4. ~~If God is All-Loving, He prefers a world in which no suffering exists.~~
- Since 3 & 4 aren't necessarily true, then the conclusion (5) doesn't follow from 1 & 2 and thus, the argument fails as a proof against God.
5. ~~Therefore, an All-Powerful and All-Loving God does not exist.~~

Progress

- So it is safe to say that the Logical Problem of Evil has been decisively dealt with in Philosophy.
- However, this problem is still alive and well in the world today and comes up from time to time as we share the Gospel so *we must be ready!*

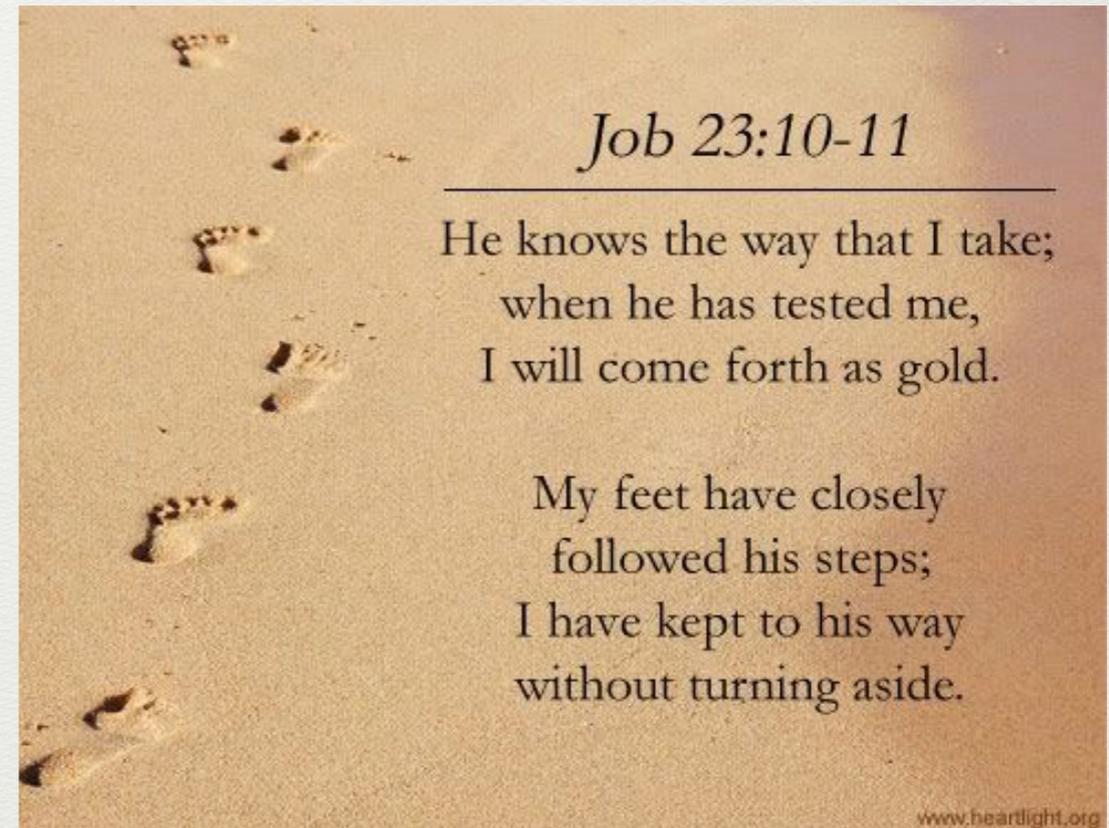


Why doesn't God tell us?

- This question may come to your mind...or others you talk with. “Why doesn't God tell us the reasons He has for permitting evil in the world?”
- It could be impossible, could you imagine WW2 and the soldiers all getting telepathic messages from God telling them the reasons for all the suffering.
- It could be counterintuitive for God to do so.

What should we do?

- I think what the Bible teaches is that in the midst of sufferings, we are to trust God and lean on His grace.
- *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him because he cares for you."* **1 Peter 5:6-7**



Christian Doctrines

- There are certain Christian doctrines that support the idea of a world in which there is suffering.
- Mankind is in a state of rebellion. **Romans 3:10**
- The chief purpose in life is not happiness, but the knowledge of God. **Ephesians 4:12-13**

