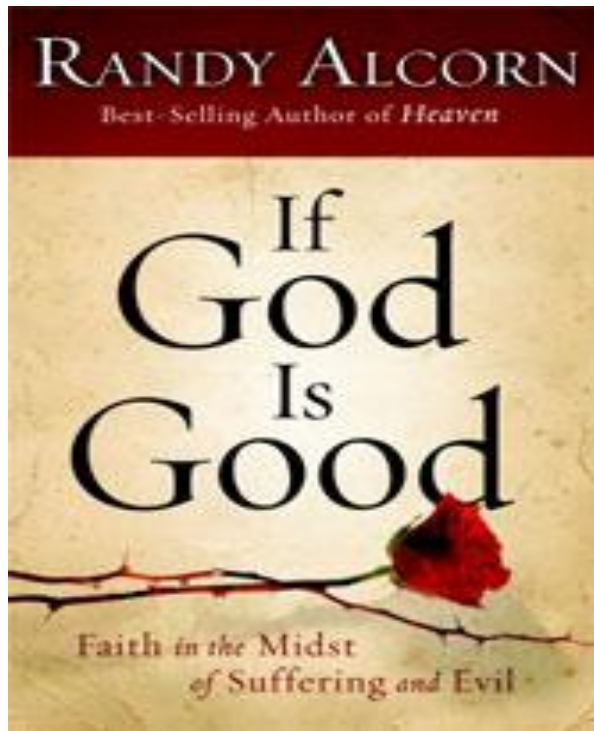




Love God. Love People. Change the World.



If God is Good.

Lesson #6

**Christian Life Assembly
Winter 2010 ABF
Jim Hoffman**

Evils Entry into the Universe

- Our dilemma – we know from scripture that sometime between creation and Genesis 3 that evil entered the universe and we know the event, but not the time.
- One of several attempts to plot the time of evil's entry is called the Gap theory. This theory postulates there was an indefinite 'gap' of time between Gen 1:1 and Gen 1:2 and it was in this gap that evil entered the universe.

The Gap Theory

- **Gen 1:1-2** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.
NIV
- The wording of verse #2 is such that one has to wonder what God had in mind in verse #1 unless there was some chaotic event that happened between the verses.

The Gap Theory

- **Without form – Hebrew ‘tohuw’ – translated as to lie waste; a desolation (of surface), i.e. desert; figuratively, a worthless thing; adverbially, in vain:**
- **Void – Hebrew ‘bohuw’ - translated as (meaning to be empty); a vacuity, i.e. an undistinguishable ruin.**
- **Dark – Hebrew ‘choshek’ – translated as dark, misery, destruction, death, ignorance, sorrow, wickedness.**

The Gap Theory

- **Isa 14:12** How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! **13** You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. **14** I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." **15** But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit. **16** Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: "Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, **17** the man who made the world a desert, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?" NIV

The Gap Theory

- **And so, the theory goes like this:**
 - **The words of Gen 1:2 are inconsistent with God's perfection.**
 - **The verbs of Gen 1:3 through 1:31 are just as indicative of a renovation as they are a new creation.**
 - **Isaiah 14:17 seems to point to a time when Satan destroyed the earth. (if it wasn't between Gen 1:1 and 1:2 then when was it?)**

The Gap Theory

- The bottom line – if the ‘Gap’ theory is correct man is still in the same sin predicament he is if the theory is incorrect.
- It does allow for millions of years to pass between Gen 1:1 and 1:2 – some say this allows for all of the geological ages modern science points to. (or was it the flood that makes things seem older than they are?)
- I find it interesting, but not transforming. 😊

We Have Enemies

- **John 10:10 "The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; NASB**
- **1 Peter 5:8 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. NIV**
- **Rev 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. NIV**

We Have Enemies

- Satan is not the opposite of God – his opposite is Michael the righteous angel. God has no equal or opposite.
- In the movies good and evil engage in battle with one side winning for awhile and then the other – not so in the Heavens.
- Do not make the mistake of making God so small that He is only ‘lucky’ to win the battles he does. He wins anytime He wants.

We Have Enemies

- **The devil is more powerful than we are, but is not even in the same league as God.**
- **He is not omnipotent, omniscient, or omnipresent. He should not be under-estimated as a foe of ours, but he is no match for God.**
- **James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. NIV (don't expect him to flee if you do not submit and resist)**

Our Enemy Exposed

- The devil goes about the world seeking to keep people from Christ, harm them when he can, steal away their joy and generally do evil to all.
- So we should not be surprised when he uses his own work (sin, sickness, and destruction) to get us to question the goodness of God.
- He specializes in, and causes the very things he accuses God of not caring about.

Our Enemy Exposed

- He may be a roaring lion, but he is a roaring lion on a leash held by God.
- So back to the question of the study – “If God is good why does He allow _____?”.
- He could shut Satan down today, but everyday he delays his final judgment is another day of grace and mercy extended to a fallen world who will perish without Him.

We have a Defender.

- **Heb 2:14** Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— NIV
- **Col 2:15** And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. NIV
- **1 John 3:8** He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. NIV



Questions / Comments