

If there is a God,...

If there is a God, why is there evil? Why is there suffering? Man has grappled with this question through the ages. Gideon asked the angel of the Lord, “*O my lord, if the LORD is with us, why then has all this happened to us?*” (Judges 6:13) The prophet Habakkuk asked similarly, “*How long, O LORD, will I call for help, and You will not hear? I cry out to You, ‘Violence!’ Yet You do not save*” (Habakkuk 1:2). The universal problems of evil and suffering are real and practical.

This attack that strikes at the very existence and heart of God continues to be an obstacle to faith in God for many. The reality of evil supposedly is inconsistent with believing in an omnipotent, omnibenevolent God. Yet, the fact that men ask the question, that men make the challenge against God, infers the reasonableness of considering God’s existence. And then to use the argument of the presence of evil infers that there is something or someone good. Evil does not prove that there is no God.

What is evil? How do men define evil? Evil cannot exist without there being some kind of standard or measure that is recognized as good. To argue that certain conduct, treatment or circumstances are evil admits that there is a rule, a guide for calling one thing evil and another thing good. Evil is actually dependent upon the reality of goodness. It is the absence of or perversion of what is good. Questions that must be answered are: what standard does a person use to determine what is evil? Why is man even concerned about evil? Why do men seek justice in face of evil?

In other words, if there is no God, why is there evil? Man admits the reality of evil – even if the standards for determining its specifications may differ. Man holds to a moral code; he possesses a moral compass. He lives by and holds others accountable to something more than animal instincts. Earthly matter has no awareness or knowledge of good and evil. Human beings are unique creatures. They care. They struggle. They judge. They hope. Men are intricately connected to the One who created and “*set eternity in their heart*” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). The innate ability to choose to “*abhor what is evil; cling to what is good*” (Romans 12:9) should direct men’s hearts to the one God who is their Creator.