

Thine is the glory!

- I. We live in a time of upheaval and instability. Life is fragile. (Give examples.)
- II. Increase in interest in evil, yet evil is psychologized away. (An example: Ian Church, "Covid-19, the Problem of Evil, and the Role of Psychology," available online.) Technological "progress," but not moral progress. Even technological advances are used for evil.
- III. The question of evil is nothing new
 1. Volcanic winter of 535-36 A.D. over the northern hemisphere. Few crops worldwide, famine, widespread sickness, and death.
 2. The Black Death, 1331-1770
 3. 1755 Lisbon earthquake, fires, tsunami.
 4. Thomas Hobbes: 1651: life outside of society is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."
- IV. Biblical perspectives on evil
 1. Joseph, Gen 50:19: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...." (tell the story of Joseph, 14 chapters in Genesis)
 2. Lazarus. John 11:4: "This illness is not unto death; it is for **the glory of God**, so that the Son of God may be **glorified** by means of it." Also 11:40
 3. Man born blind John 9:3: "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be **made manifest** (evident) in him."
- V. The problem of evil is beyond us. God is hidden. You can't bind God.
 1. Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways"
 2. Isaiah 45:5-7: "I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe..." Also 45:15: "Truly, thou art a God who hidest thyself..."
 3. 1 Cor 1:21-22, 25, 28: "Where is the wise man?...For the foolishness of God...so that no human being might boast..."
 4. The solution to evil is outside of us, in spite of us.
- VI. What is God doing?
 1. Isaiah 40:3-5: "A voice cries: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord....Every valley shall be lifted up...And the **glory** of the Lord shall be revealed...."
 2. Again, John 11:4 (see IV.2), 40: "Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"; Also John 9:3 (see IV.3).
 3. **The key to everything: The cross and resurrection.** John 12:31: "**Now is the judgment of this world....**" John 12:23-24: "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be **glorified**. Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." John 12:28: "'Father, glorify thy name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.'"
 4. Luke 10:18: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven."
 5. "**Thine is the glory**, Risen. Conqu'ring Son; Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death has won!"
- VII. "Hold to Christ, and for the rest be totally uncommitted." (Herbert Butterfield, *Christianity and History*, 146.)