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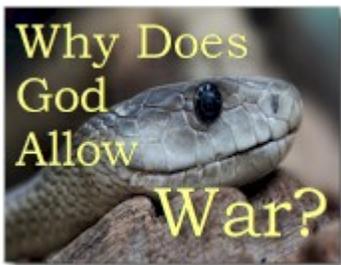
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## Why Does God Allow War?

by Ernest L. Martin, Ph.D., May 1994

Audio Tape Transcribed and Annotated by David Sielaff, May 2017

Read first the accompanying [Newsletter for May 2017](#)



**Dr. Martin: The title of this lecture for May 1994 is, “Why Does God Allow War?” If I were going to be accurate from a biblical point of view, the title would have to be changed to “Why Does God Cause War?” or more appropriately, “Why Does God Order War?” The reason I chose the rather benign title with the word “allow” in it, was to not shock people too much. It is best for people who do not understand the basic teachings of the Holy Scriptures to be dealt with in a more gentle way because they do not know what the Bible actually teaches.**

Indeed, most people have such ignorance of the biblical revelation about God and His ways, that one must be careful even teaching the fundamental truths of the Holy Scripture, lest one be reckoned a heretic or worse yet, as an evil person. When you really look at the Holy Scripture, you will be amazed at what it actually says on this matter of war.

Let me give you an example of how far off even well-meaning people can be in their appraisal of God and His teachings of the Bible. Let me give you the conclusions of two prominent men in the theological field, who have a great deal of influence in the thinking, and I mean the erroneous thinking of Christian people today. Were they not an American institution I would not mention their names, but let me say that because I believe both of them to be honest in their opinions, and because I believe they truly have a basic love of Christ Jesus and His teachings, I can mention them and I believe they would not mind if I do so. I believe I am giving an accurate account of their teaching they said many times on television.

I am talking about Oral Roberts and his son Richard. They are symbolic of a group of Christian believers who have a totally wrong view of the God of the Bible and His basic teachings concerning the sovereignty of God in all matters on earth. I have seen and heard them repeatedly preach on television that all evil on earth is engendered by the wrong actions of mankind, or most specifically by Satan the Devil and his evil angels. These entities cause man to commit evil.

They have consistently taught that God does only good while all evil, every vestige of it, comes from Satan the Devil, his evil angels, or evil men on this earth, but under no circumstances from God, never from God. God has nothing to do with evil. Under no circumstances will these theological men allow God to be the creator of evil. They have stated it time and again on their television programs. So I am not in any way denigrating them or saying things that they have not stated themselves. In one way I really should not single

them out because almost every preacher, minister, teacher, theologian, priest or whoever today who claims to be Christian, will tell you that God has nothing to do with evil. That is wrong because it is not biblical.

### ***Who Is Responsible for Evil?***

This concept is totally at variance with the teachings of the Holy Scripture, whether the Old or the New Testament, it makes no difference, it is absolutely contrary, and the reason is because God explains in the Bible, both in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament, that God is sovereign in all things. Not only is God the Father sovereign, but He has given to His Son, Jesus Christ, the sovereignty over this world and universe, and He exercises it, whatever it be, throughout the entire universe.

That includes everything that is on earth today. That includes every activity you find on earth today. That includes everything associated with you personally or me personally, or any government official anywhere in the world, it makes no difference. God and Christ Jesus, as the respective Father and firstborn Son, are the sovereigns of this universe. There is not a thing that happens in this universe that does not occur by their express allowance or by their express commitment, they are the ones responsible for everything in the universe going on at the present time.

That includes evil as well as good. That sounds almost like a contradiction of the teachings that you and I have had from childhood. We always have wanted to believe, and rightly so, that God only associates Himself with good, whereas there has got to be someone else, some other group of people, some other source of evil in the world today. By the way, do we not find evil in the world? Yes, we do.

Let me say at the outset that the word *evil* in the Bible does not necessarily mean sin. All sin is evil, but not all evil is sin. Let me explain what I mean. In the Bible it says that the calamity that can hit a nation that God actually uses in judgment can be called evil, but you cannot say that God is a sinner because of what He does. He can send drought. He can send floods. He can send earthquakes. He can send all types of plagues and calamities, which in the Scripture are described as evil. He is the one who engendered them.

He did it with the Egyptians. At the time of the Exodus, the ten plagues on Egypt were not manufactured by Satan the Devil or manufactured by Pharaoh or Moses. They were manufactured by God Himself. He showed His power to the Egyptians, the Israelites, and to the nations who were observers to these demonstrations of God's sovereign power. The plagues He put upon the Egyptians came from Him because He felt the Egyptians needed it. When Pharaoh wanted to repent, He sent more plagues. That is what the Scripture says, both in the Old Testament and the apostle Paul who says in Romans 9:15–23 that God has the right to do as He pleases. As Paul says quoting Isaiah, God is the potter and we are the clay. You cannot say to the potter, why doest thou? We are not the ones with the power and the authority to do these things.

Good should be associated with every one of us. I will give you scriptures that show commands from God, how we are not to do evil, and certainly not sin if we can help it. Not one of you (or me), is free of sin or can keep from sinning. We are imperfect. We later will be like God is; we will be in the perfection that He is. We will understand what evil and good really are in the future. We are learning even now what they are. That is the reason for our 70, 80, or 90 year experience here on this earth, less in some cases. We are here to learn lessons because we are God's children. He is accomplishing good things in us by allowing us to see results of both good and evil. Who is in charge of it all? God Almighty is, and He has given to His Son, Jesus Christ, the sovereign power to exercise anything, whether it be good or evil in this world.

### ***The Limits of Satan's Power***

Our theological friends that mean well, actually intend to exalt God by saying that He is someone only associated with good. What they have done by doing that is to lessen the sovereignty of God to the level of Satan the Devil, believe it or not. Satan is a powerful individual, but he is only powerful because of the power God gives to him.

Satan the Devil has reflected power. It is like the moon in relationship to the sun. Our sun is shining in its full strength, giving power and light to the whole of the solar system. The moon itself is a dead body. It

has no power of itself to emanate or to give anything to the earth, with the exception of the tides and things like that which keep the oceans clean and things of that nature. Of itself it is a dead satellite.

How many of us see the beauty of the moon at night when you see a full moon up there, and it is shining down on the earth. When you have a cloudless sky, especially when you have an autumn moon, if you have good 20/20 eyesight, you can actually read by the light of the moon. It is beautiful, wonderful, but all the light that comes from the full moon at night is reflected light. In the Bible, Satan the Devil is equated with the moon and the moon's movements. You find it in the Book of Revelation and in the Book of Daniel.

He is equated with the night. But there is light associated with the night. The moon does give light, but that is reflected light; the light actually comes from the sun. The sun in this case represents God the Father. We find that in Malachi chapter 4 [verse 2] when he said that God the Father, YHWH Himself, is the **“sun [s-u-n] of righteousness.”** He is not like a sun-god manufactured by man, but in the analogy He is like the sun that gives light to the earth and to the moon.

Satan the Devil and all the evil angels that are in his bailiwick are still under the control of God. They can do nothing unless God Almighty gives them the authority to do so. Their light is like the light of the moon. It is reflected light coming from God, and so is their authority. It is exactly the same way.

What our friends in the theological world ought to do is get back to the Bible. They abandoned the Scripture to what they consider (with their own emotions) to be an appraisal of how God acts and how He does not act. They ought to go back to the Holy Scriptures. If it was just the emotions of Ernest Martin and most humans, I would be on their wavelength. I could not imagine God would have anything to do with evil. I do not want Him to have anything to do with evil. I do not want him doing the things we see happening in the world today. All you have to do is to turn on television. Though we are in a time when the Cold War has been won, now it seems we have ethnic disturbances, which I said would exist, and the Bible shows it at the end of the age, and not only ethnic and racial differences, but religious differences between people. They are just butchering each other in certain areas of the world.

In Rwanda [a central African nation before and in 1994] it is nothing more there than a complete blood-bath. The only color you can find in Rwanda is red. That is from the blood being spilled from the people, men, women, and children who are being slaughtered. God could step in right there if he wanted to, and stop that in a moment if He wanted. But why do we look at Rwanda?

What about the other African countries where these things are happening, and even in South Africa which just now has gone into an independent state, where blacks and whites are governing together. That is excellent; that is wonderful, but much of the bloodshed happening in South Africa has been between various black peoples that cannot get along with one another. Do not blame the black peoples, because what about white peoples in various places. What about the yellow peoples? We slaughter each other all over the place. We have done it in the past and it seems it is in our nature, and continues right now.

All you have to do is go up to the former Soviet Union, and in certain provinces, why they are battling each other at this very moment, between the Armenians and the Azerbaijanis south of what was formerly the Soviet Union. In the small country of Georgia in the former Soviet Union, they are battling there. Let us not forget Bosnia. The Muslims there are having difficulty with the Serbs and Croats, and all types of difficulties are coming up, mainly ethnic, or religious. There is where the difficulties at the present time are showing themselves in the wars where mankind is slaughtering mankind.

We can say that Satan the Devil is involved in that, and you would no doubt be correct, but at the same time, God could stop it if He wanted to — instantly — without a shadow of doubt. He has the power and the sovereignty to do it, but He continues to allow it to exist.

The first place to start in understanding how God acts, and what He does, and the vindication for what He does, is to look at the state of affairs we find in the world today. I mean at this very moment. Turn on the news on television or read it in your newspapers or in *Time Magazine* or *Newsweek*, or wherever, just look at what is going on in the world today. Most of us would say, “I wish God would step in and I wish He would stop this stuff that is going on.” I say the same thing; I say it almost daily. The thing is, God could do so if He wanted to do so.

God is sovereign. He could stop evil if He wanted. What we have to ask ourselves, in a way that makes sense to us, WHY does God allow these things to exist? Why does God cause them in some cases as you find in Scripture, as He told Moses when they were liberating the land of Canaan from the resident Canaanites. Many have objected to that. Why, God not only causes them, but orders certain wars to take place as He has done in the past. You will say, oh, that's the Old Testament God. That is not the New Testament God; that is not Jesus. I beg your pardon. We are making a big mistake there.

If we want to get Jesus into it, do you know who wrote the Book of Revelation? In many Bibles the non-textual title says the Revelation "of John." It is really not of John, but "**The Revelation of Jesus Christ**" (Revelation 1:1). Do you know what He says will exist at the end time? Look in chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16, let alone 17, 18, and 19. Look at those chapters and you will see mayhem galore, and it is in the Book of Revelation written by no less than our elder brother Jesus Christ. He said it will happen.

Do you know something? He could change His mind if He wanted. Will He change His mind? That is what we have to ask. Are we powerful enough to even influence God on some of these things? Well, that is an interesting question, isn't it? Do you know something else? Our elder brother, believe it or not, will listen to us and still be able to exercise His divine sovereignty.<sup>1</sup> As far as God is concerned we need to start not in the Old Testament, or even to the New Testament to try to find out what He said there, or what He will do, or what He did do with the prophecies He says will take place. Some of them are pretty dramatic and horrendous in some cases. No, we should not start there.

As I said before, you ought to start right here and now and see what is going on. Since we know that there is a God, and by the way, a fool says there is no God (Psalm 14:1, 53:1). You don't even have to have the Psalms telling you that. Anyone with any sense knows there is a God. Now, just who He is, what His name is, and things of that nature, you must have divine revelation to figure that out. This world could not have come into existence and have its ability to sustain itself today, with all the symmetry and harmony in nature without a God who determines beforehand and sustains everything at present, with a mathematical precision that is fantastic and wonderful.

Surely, God is doing all this, and He has made many beautiful things in the world, wonderful things. Most of the things that we see in the world, as long as mankind is not a part of them, are beautiful and wonderful. However, even in nature we find trauma between various species of animals because it seems one animal feeds on another, and another feeds on another, and so on. We sometimes wonder, we see the food chain in existence and it seems like one animal has to die, or one plant has to die for the other species to exist, so forth and so on, and that is true.

That is the place to start, looking around us at the present time. That is what the apostle Paul said to do in Romans chapter 1. He said, if you want to find out about God, look at nature that surrounds you. Do not try to get rid of God or even vindicate God, or try to blame God necessarily, not at first. Just look around you and see [creation] as it exists. You see the beautiful things that please you, and you see much that does not please you. Do not tell me you are pleased with everything in this world. You are not. If you were you would be crazy. No, God still is in His sovereignty, in control and in charge. What you and I need to realize is there is a purpose for Him doing the things that He is doing right now.

### ***Our Example***

God has given us one example of what He did to someone who voluntarily decided to go through this before the creation of man was ever on this earth. That person was His own Son, Jesus Christ, who, in order to show something to us, was able to come to this earth, live for some 30 odd years, and die in the most ignominious form of a most painful death in complete humiliation, as far as the world was concerned. God is willing to go through degradation Himself to prove something to us.

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<sup>1</sup> Two of Dr. Martin's articles discuss these questions: "[The Repentance of God in the Bible](#)" (August 1995) and "[How You Can Influence God](#)" (June 1998). *DWS*

What He is proving to us is He is exalting humanity — you and me — to the highest position of power in the entire universe. He wants us to experience both the good and the bad, so we will be able to understand how the good will prevail in the future. Even though the bad will always be here, we will know how to overcome it, live above it, and live within the realm of peace and harmony. The only way we will appreciate the power and the authority we will have in the future, is for us to experience evil right now, and God allows us to do it under His supervision.

### *The Truth of Scripture*

That is philosophically, you might say, what the truth is. Not only philosophically, that is the absolute truth of the Scripture. We are here to gain experience on becoming like God. I tell you, God is very different than the theologians of this world believe He is. The theologians cannot help it in some cases because they look at things only in a horizontal way. They look at things around them and they look upward somewhat, but in looking upward to God, they manufacture a god that is not the God of the Bible. They manufacture a god who is not the God of our present environment. They manufacture a god who is part of a Walt Disney movie of some kind. He may just as well be Mickey Mouse or Goofy — more Goofy than anybody else.

They manufactured a god that pleases their senses, that pleases everyone who comes to their congregations on Saturday, or Sunday, or Friday. Yes, it pleases the senses of the people, but they are not given the truth about the Almighty God who created the heavens and the earth, or the truth of the family we will be born into. They are not giving any teaching along those lines because they abandoned the teachings of the biblical revelation, which explains why things are as they are right now on this earth. Even with the problems and difficulties and all of that, the Bible explains it, and explains it in a way which any intelligent person can see and understand if he or she just begins to realize that there is a purpose.

As Winston Churchill said years ago, a **“great purpose and design is being worked out here [on this earth] below.”**<sup>2</sup> He had enough sense to see that truth, and that is exactly the case. These theologians have manufactured a god that does not exist. He is a very weak god, as a matter of fact. He is so weak he cannot find a way to overcome Satan the Devil, who they claim is very much alive in the world, in Rwanda, in Malawi, in South Africa, in Indochina, in Bosnia, or in the inner cities of the United States. They created a god who does not exist.

The god they created is a very weak personality. Who is stronger than this god that they claim to worship? Satan the Devil, because Satan seems to be winning the case everywhere, and always has. Everywhere you look they say, look what Satan has done here, look what Satan has done there, Satan has done this, Satan has done that. Satan is doing all the work, it seems like. They never say God is doing these things. They do not want to associate God with three quarters to ninety percent of the evil things happening in the world today. They just shunt God off into His heaven, and put Him up there and forget all about Him. They say, we need to be good like God is, that God is so far away from this world, we want to escape to heaven to be with Him, and get rid of this world down here.

They do not realize, if they would read in the Scripture, God loves this world so much that God the Father and Jesus Christ are coming down to this earth to put their headquarters here one of these days. What do we want to do? We want to escape off to heaven somewhere. We want to get rid of this world. This world has nothing wrong with it, but it does need to be straightened up. God will straighten it up in His time and He wants us to be a part of it. He wants us to learn some lessons.

God chastens every son that He loves, every daughter too. The apostle Paul says in Hebrews:

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<sup>2</sup> Winston Churchill, [“Address to Joint Session of US Congress, 1941.”](#) The full quote in Churchill’s final paragraph of his December 26, 1941 speech is:

**“If you will allow me to use other language, I will say that he must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below of which we have the honor to be the faithful servants. It is not given to us to peer into the mysteries of the future.”** DWS

**“And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks unto you as unto children,**

**‘My son, despise not you the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when you are rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives.’**

**If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chastens not?”**

**• Hebrews 12:5–7 (quoting from Proverbs 3:11–12)**

This is throughout all the Old and the New Testaments. He is teaching us lessons, teaching us to be like He is. He wants us to dabble in this evil for a while, to learn that when the stove is hot, don't put your finger on the grill, because we will do it enough times that finally we won't do that any more. It seems the only way we learn lessons is not by instruction, we have to go through it to be able to learn it. God knows that and it is why He allows us to go through things in life. He gives us good times, but He also gives us bad times, at the end leading to death. He knows what He is doing because it is all under His control.

### ***The Purpose of Evil***

Listen, it will all work out for good, because God is in control. His Son Jesus Christ is in control. They are pulling the levers and pushing the buttons. They know what is going on. If you have gripes about what is going on in this world, take it up to God the Father and Jesus Christ, because they are in charge. They have told you all things good will finally result. We need to realize it. God is sovereign in everything. There is no such thing as Satan the Devil being more powerful than God. His power is reflected power like the light of the moon. The sun represents God the Father in Jesus Christ, the power emanates from them.

We are destined to become just like God the Father and Christ are now, with their bodily composition, with their mental powers, with their physical powers, with their spiritual powers, once we learn how to deal with them. When He brings the center of the universe, the headquarters to this earth (Revelation chapter 21), you and I will be part of His divine family — as we are legally right now — but right now we do not have His spiritual power, His spiritual composition, and all of that. Once we do, we will be just like Jesus Christ and God the Father, male and female, in the very family of the living God (1 John 3:1–2). We will know how to properly deal with evil and with good. Good will be manifested supremely in the future, but you cannot understand good unless there is evil to show you what is good.

Good in fact is a relative term. Evil is a relative term. Evil is relative to something, and that something is good. Good is relative to something that is less good or evil. These things exist in the world. You know who is in charge of everything? God the Father, and He has given that charge and that authority to Jesus Christ. Look at what Isaiah says.

**“I am YHWH, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded you, though you have not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am YHWH, and there is none else.”**

**• Isaiah 45:5–6**

Where it says, **“I girded you,”** it means the man prophesied to come. This was written under divine inspiration. Our theologian friends, Oral and Richard Roberts (I could have picked Billy Graham, or anyone else. They also need to read these verses and believe them. They not only need to believe them, and they say they believe the Bible, but they need to teach them.) Once they start teaching them, they will learn that the god they manufactured is not the biblical God and not the God of reality at all. They must begin to understand what the Bible says. I have given you the context. Here is what YHWH says:

**“I form the light, and create darkness:**

**I make peace, and create evil:**

**I YHWH do all these things.”**

**• Isaiah 45:7**

There you are. You think I am going to argue with Isaiah? Jesus Christ did not argue with him. He said Isaiah was part of the Holy Scripture. Every word that you read right there is the inspired word coming directly from the God of the universe. It says, **“I form the light.”** Does He? Yes He does. **“I create darkness.”** Yes, He does. **“I make peace”** and look at the opposite of peace, **“evil,”** war, calamity, what you might call hurt, misery, woe, wickedness. The very word **“evil”** here throughout the Scripture is translated by those various terms. It means bad and it is in contrast to **“peace.”** So what is the title of this lecture: “Why Does God Allow Wars” or as I said more appropriately, He even sometimes causes them and orders them.

He is the creator not only of peace but also of evil. Why? It is because He is sovereign in all things. He created this universe the way it is. He created this earth the way it is. He created you the way you are. He has told you certain principles He expects you to live by, and you can have knowledge and understanding and truth, I will read you some things He tells you, that you should walk in. He has the power and the authority to create evil, though He has told you and me not to do it. Isn't that interesting?

He creates evil all the time, then turns right around and tells us not to do the same. Does He have a right to tell us not to? You bet He does. He expects something out of us because He can control evil in a way that will benefit everyone for good in the future. You and I do not have the power to utilize evil in the way He can. So He tells us to stay away from it, and I will give you some scriptures on that shortly. You have no excuse to do evil. I do not ... for anything. But God is not only the Creator of peace, He is the Creator of evil, and evil is in contrast to peace, which is war.

[Yes, only with God does the end justify the means. *DWS*]

Some might say that is the Old Testament god, that is not Jesus Christ. It would not take me long to give you a lecture from the New Testament to show that the God of the Old Testament was none other than Jesus Christ, or His representative, clearly and plainly. Let's go to the New Testament. Go to Revelation, the last book of the Bible, and turn to chapter 6. It mentions seven seals that are opened up to show what will happen at the end of the age. He starts off saying,

**“And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, ‘Come and see.’”**

• **Revelation 6:1**

Who is the Lamb? The Lamb is Jesus Christ, the son of David, son of Jesse (Romans 15:12; Revelation 5:5, 16). In other words, it is Jesus Christ. He is the one who is writing this.

- He opens the 1<sup>st</sup> of the seals (Revelation 6:1–2).
- Then going on, He opens a 2<sup>nd</sup> seal (Revelation 6:3–4).
- Then He opens a 3<sup>rd</sup> seal (Revelation 6:5–6).

When you read these seals, it is not a pretty picture. When He gets to the 4<sup>th</sup> seal (Revelation 6:7–8), it seems like famine is coming along, and death and hell (*hades* in Greek) are coming out.

Who is opening the seals? Jesus Christ is opening the seals. You could say, well He is just showing what Satan the Devil is going to do, and He is not involved in it. Wait a minute, He comes to the 5<sup>th</sup> seal. That seal is a persecution of the saints of God. Now we come to the 6<sup>th</sup> of the seven seals:

**“And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.”**

• **Revelation 6:12**

This is because of Jesus Christ opening the 6<sup>th</sup> seal. Some of us could say, well, I don't like Him doing that. You may not, and I may not, but I am afraid that is how it is. The Lamb is doing it. This was written long before Ernest Martin came along, so do not blame me for any of this. I am explaining what it says.

**“And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casts her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.”**

• **Revelation 6:13**

Earthquakes, floods, stars falling from the heavens, and the sun becoming black. That is a lot of evil going on, a lot of calamity, a lot of woe and misery. If you will be part of this, I guarantee you will be in a pretty sad shape unless you have protection. By the way, God can give you protection.<sup>3</sup> Going on in verse 14:

**“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.”**

• **Revelation 6:14**

You talk about seismic disturbances. If you say this is just a figure of speech, well, let it be and wait until it happens. You will see that it is not a figure after all. Verse 15:

**“And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks,**

**‘Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb.’”**

• **Revelation 6:15–16**

Wrath. That is an Old English word that means anger. You know what it means, **“from the anger of the Lamb.”** Who is the Lamb? It is Jesus Christ. Now read this last verse in chapter 6: **“For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”** (Revelation 6:17). Do you want to know what the **“wrath of the Lamb”** is? The wrath or anger of the Lamb told here as an introduction in the 6<sup>th</sup> seal is delineated in its fullness when He opens the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, which happens in chapters 7, 8, 9, 10, (11, 12, 13), 14, 15 and 16. I will stop with chapter 16. There are chapters in between, chapters 11, 12, and 13 which are intrusion chapters (parenthetical chapters) that explain situations leading to this wrath of God, but those chapters from 7 to 16 inclusively of Revelation represent not the wrath of Satan the Devil, not the wrath of Ernest Martin or you, not the wrath of anybody on earth. It happens to be the wrath of the Lamb and of God the Father.

If you want to see evil being put forth, not by Satan, but by God, just open that 7<sup>th</sup> chapter and start to read, and carry on through the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter. When you get to the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter, things will be pretty bad. We already experience certain things when the 6<sup>th</sup> seal is opened. But when you get into the 7<sup>th</sup> seal, it carries right on through. Things really begin to happen when the armies gather at Armageddon and begin to go toward Jerusalem and to make war against the Lamb.

After the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter, we have chapters 17 and 18 which give the overall history of events at the end of the age, and then chapter 19 picks up where 16 leaves off and tells you about the gathering of the armies around Jerusalem and the area south of Jerusalem, and what God does to them. I want to tell you, it is pretty dramatic. Power is being shown by Jesus Christ, with the authority of God the Father backing Him up.

What we are talking about is, why does God cause wars. When you look at this, why does God order wars, because you see, in this section when the 7<sup>th</sup> seal is opened, do you know who orders the wars and things going on? This is the wrath or the anger of Jesus Christ and of God the Father. You can complain to them if you want to, it will not make any difference.

Do you know what they are showing here? Their divine sovereignty. That is the key you need to understand. This is what Oral and Richard Roberts need to know. This is what Billy Graham and all the theologians in the world need to know. This is what Ernest Martin needs to know and to realize. This is what you need to know and to realize, that God and His Son Jesus Christ are sovereigns in their creation and there is nothing that happens in this world that is not under their direct supervision. They know what they are doing and they are trying to tell you, their children, how much He, God the Father, loves you and me and everybody in the world because they are teaching us lessons here below. Those lessons can be quite traumatic.

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<sup>3</sup> These four articles will be helpful regarding God’s protection: [“How to Prepare for the Future,”](#) [“Personal Safety During End-Time Prophecy,”](#) [“The Place of Safety,”](#) and [“How to Fully Escape the Great Tribulation.”](#) DWS

The point is, what we are talking about here is the issue of God's sovereignty. Is God in charge? Or, is Satan the Devil? Most of the world thinks Satan the Devil is in charge, and they give some kind of lip service to God that He is up there somewhere, so far away He cannot even handle Satan, who is the one in charge and doing most of these things. The Bible from the beginning to the end, shows you, and me, and without any doubt that God the Father and Jesus Christ are in charge of everything above, on, and under this world. They are in charge of you and of me. Do you know what they will do? They are going to bless us.

To understand why wars exist on earth, or why we have evil, we must recognize God's sovereignty in all things. The Bible is filled with information that shows this. This is what we have to believe that this is the truth of God, and not some of these namby-pamby, Pollyannaish ideas that God is so far in space that He cannot be touched with evil in any way. Listen, the Scripture is quite clear that He not only touches evil, he uses it and creates it on occasion. God also produces and creates good and peace and love also. Let us not forget that aspect and concentrate just on the negative. There is also the positive.

We are talking about God's sovereignty. God is completely in charge. If He were not, I would be mighty scared about what the future might hold. If I realized that God really was not in charge, I might conceivably and pragmatically say we ought to worship Satan the Devil because he seems to be getting the upper hand in most things. I am not saying that, but who is getting the upper hand nowadays, as far as most people are concerned. It is not God. Theologians don't realize, nor do they teach, His sovereign power.

The Old Testament prophets did not do that, nor did the New Testament apostles, nor did Jesus Christ Himself say such nonsense. It is absurdity to believe such a thing, but here is what the Scripture says. Moses wrote in Deuteronomy 10:14: **"Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is YHWH's your God, the earth also, with all that therein is."** He has it all and **"all that therein is"** is in His possession. He not only made it, He controls it, He sustains it, and He supervises it.

Deuteronomy 32:39: **"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand."** Why don't our theological friends quote these verses? They ought to because they are in the Scripture. They are teaching a god who is not the biblical God. They manufactured a Pollyannaish god that comes directly from the Walt Disney Studios, and it absolutely is not from the Scriptures.

Look at 1 Samuel 2:6: **"YHWH kills, and makes alive: he brings down to the grave, and brings up."** Notice that, **"He brings up."** He can, and He has in the past. And He will in the future. He will bring you up in the resurrection, and will make you one of the most resplendent individuals that you could imagine. That is what He will do with you. He also will do the same with me, but He will do that with you reading this, and everybody in this earth.

**"YHWH makes poor, and makes rich: he brings low, and lifts up. He raises up the poor out of the dust, and lifts up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are YHWH's, and he has set the world upon them."**

• 1 Samuel 2:7-8

That is an antiquated way of explaining that He is the one who set the earth in motion and created it. Someone may say, that is an old way of expressing it, and whoever heard of the earth being pillars? Another verse in the Book of Job says God **"hangs the earth on nothing"** (Job 26:7). In Isaiah 40:22 it says, **"on the circle of the earth."** These are literary forms used to explain to people who did not completely understand the scientific aspects of how God's creation actually works.<sup>4</sup> King David said:

**"Yours, O YHWH, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the**

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<sup>4</sup> Don't laugh at these illustrations. Scientists tell you when sunset and sunrise is any place on earth. The sun does not set or rise. The earth turns on its axis and gives the illusion it sets, the illusion that it rises. So let's not accuse God of using archaic terms to show the silliness of the Old Testament prophets. That is not the case at all. We use such language ourselves today. ELM

**majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O YHWH, and you are exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come of you, and you reign over all; and in your hand is power and might; and in your hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.”**

• *1 Chronicles 29:11–12*

He can also kill. He can also bring down to the grave. He can also hurt. He can also do all of those things, which He does.

It says in Job 12:16, **“With him is strength and wisdom: the deceived and the deceiver are his.”** Who is the greatest deceiver of all? Satan the Devil. You know that Satan belongs to God? Satan cannot do one thing unless God gives him permission to do so. Sometimes God gives orders to Satan, as a matter of fact. All you have to do is read Job chapters 1 and 2. In the discussion God says to Satan, have you seen my servant Job? Satan says yes. Then Satan the Devil says it’s no wonder Job worships you because you give him everything under the sun. Take everything away from Job and he will curse you to your face. God says, go on down and take everything away from Job. God said, don’t touch Job. Satan does as commanded.

The second time in Job chapter 2, Satan comes as before. God says, have you seen my servant Job, that he is not cursing me? Yes, but though you have taken away everything from him, you would not allow me to touch Job himself. God says, go down and touch him then. You can plague him if you want to. Go and do it, but there is one thing, you cannot take his life. Satan went and gave Job the worst sickness possible. You know something? Job did not curse God. Job’s wife wanted him to do so. His friends were saying, something is wrong with you Job. Job replied I cannot figure out what is wrong with me, but I am seemingly cursed by God. Job never cursed God.

God came to Job to show him God’s sovereignty in chapter 38, God never once said Job was a sinner. What God said to him was this, where were you, Job, when I made the heavens, the earth, the trees, the flowers, the streams, the oceans, the animals. God went on and on. Never once did He accuse Job of anything. He just said, Job, where were you when all this was happening.

Job got smaller and smaller and smaller as he compared himself to God who got taller and taller and taller. Finally when Job was way down here, and he recognized that God was way up there, then God blessed Job tremendously because he learned the lesson. He learned God’s sovereignty in all things.

That is what you must learn. That is what I must learn. We learn of God’s sovereignty from the earlier Scriptures I told you about, that He is in charge of everything. Do you know what God will do? He will give you everything, just like He gave it to Job, plus an abundance, and far beyond. It may not be in this life (or maybe it will be in this life), but you will get it without any doubt. You have to learn who is in charge.

Our preachers will not give God His sovereignty. They will not allow him to be seen conducting evil on earth. That must be done by someone else. Who, Satan the Devil or some evil spirit? God will not touch evil? That is sheer nonsense. They have not learned the lesson of Job yet. That is why God in the Book of Revelation may put them through the agony of Job before they will finally understand who is the boss.

The Boss made us what we are now, and what we can be like in the future. That is the important point, to be a member of His very ruling family, and you being a part of it, and sharing in all of it. That is what He wants you to see and understand, so you can have a part of the sovereignty of the Almighty God. That is what we have got to learn. Job, you see, was a man afflicted by Satan the Devil. That is true, but who was it that gave the orders to afflict Job? It was God Himself who did it. Satan could not have done anything to Job unless God gave him the directions.

All of you who have problems today, and you might say, well, Satan the Devil is afflicting me. That could be, but I want to tell you something, if it is Satan the Devil, God is the one who is still in charge. He said in other Scriptures that I have not quoted, that He loves you with all His heart. Believe me He does. He will see you through. Now, He may not give you 120 years of life like Moses. That was for a particular reason. You will have to go the way of the world like I will probably before we reach 100 years of age, and maybe soon. Okay, but look, we will be resurrected as far as our consciousness is concerned — immediately — and be in the presence of God, no matter when it takes place.

Things will work out for good, brethren. Beautiful things are happening. He is teaching us lessons. He is teaching us to learn to be like He is. We need to take these powers that He has and not misuse them. I heard one man say, it seems almost like God takes us and here is a great container with all this evil in it like the grave. What He does is dips us down into it, gets us close to it, and drags us out before we absolutely go under. You know, in one way that is a proper illustration, because it helps us understand to stay away from bad and evil. He sometimes puts us through many trials and difficulties here, but He will not abandon us nor will He allow you to be tempted above what you are able (1 Corinthians 10:13). That is clear and plain.

God is sovereign. If you want to learn the lesson of Job ... If you want to learn the lesson of David ... If you want to learn the lesson of the apostles ... If you want to learn the lesson God wants you to learn, you have to learn that He is sovereign. That is the point, that He exercises His sovereignty both in good and evil. He has put you here and told you not to do evil. You can criticize Him all you want to, but it will not do any good. Only when you come to the place of doing like Job did and say, I didn't realize just how powerful You are at the present time or ever will be. When Job recognized that and he knew who he was dealing with, then Job was exalted to the highest level that any human could be exalted in the flesh in his time.

Go to Job 34:24 about God: **"He shall break in pieces mighty men without number, and set others in their stead."** That is what is happening in some of the countries of this world in the last five years [of 1994, DWS]. The Soviet Union has been overthrown and He raised up others to be in their place. The same thing is happening in Rwanda though there is a lot of bloodshed which I abhor, and I do not like it at all, but God knows what He is doing.

I don't approve of it necessarily. He told me not to approve of it, but I approve of God. Whatever He does, He knows what He is doing. He sets down some people, and raises up others. We find the same thing in the Book of Isaiah where He says in Isaiah 54:16, **"I have created the waster to destroy."** That is right. He did that. And how many times has God destroyed, even with His own people when they have gone astray.

- He destroyed the tabernacle that was at Shiloh when the people went astray.
- He destroyed the Temple in the time of Nebuchadnezzar.
- He destroyed the Temple again in 70 AD when the Jews went to war against Rome.
- He says He will destroy a future Temple.

All these things He says He will do, and He knows what He is doing. In fact, James says in Acts 15:18: **"Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world [aion, age]."** He knows what He is doing. He has not gone somewhere far off and asleep at the job. He knows exactly what He is doing.

In Lamentations 3:38 it says, **"Out of the mouth of the most High proceeds not evil and good?"** It is put in the form of a question, but of course, it can be evil or it can be good, because if you want to see the evil, the calamities that God did upon His own people Judah in the time of Nebuchadnezzar and just before read the prophecy of Jeremiah. About 30 to 35 times in there Jeremiah prophesied the evil that God was going to bring on Judah for their ways. He carried it out and accomplished it.

Absolutely, God is as much in charge of evil as He is in charge of good. That shows His sovereignty. If He was only in charge of good, and Satan the Devil was in charge of evil, I tell you, Satan has to be reckoned as the more powerful god, because it seems he has the upper hand at the present time. No, he doesn't, if you know where the sovereignty lies. This is where our preacher friends fail. They ought to get out their Bibles and read the Scriptures that I am pointing out, and find that the sovereignty of God is active.

### **God Chooses Our Leaders**

Daniel 4:17: **"the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will, and sets up over it the basest of men."** Notice that. The lowest men you can possibly imagine. You say, oh no, the only ones God would put up would be someone who is just absolutely righteous. They are in there, but I will tell you who really put them there: God did. You will say, well, some of them are pretty base. God put them there then. Some are pretty righteous. God put those there too. I am not giving any judgment one way or

another. If you don't like them, vote them out of office. That is up to you, but God is in charge. He sets up not the most righteous of men, but sometimes the basest of men. That is what the Book of Daniel says:

**“... your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, ... till you know that the most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomsoever he will.”**

• **Daniel 4:25**

God taught King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon what we need to learn. Who **“rules in the kingdom of men”**? You and I look and say, do you mean God rules in Japan at the present time? Do you mean God rules in China? Well, the United States is wondering about the human rights violations there. I would also. I don't want human rights violations. I don't want it in that country, I don't want it in our country, but I will tell you who rules in China. God rules in China.

If you don't like the way things are going, you ought to act the way of a Christian, avert evil, try to get rid of evil, try your best to do it. God might honor you. He loves peacemakers (Matthew 5:9). He might love you very much, trying to help if you possibly can. No Christian should use evil. God can use it, and don't you criticize Him. (Well, I often criticized Him in the past, to be honest. You don't know how many times Ernest Martin criticized God, but it doesn't take me long to get back to my common sense.)

Once and a while certain things happen, and you say, “Oh God, why did you allow that to happen.” Only later do you begin to see that it was probably for your good. I know it has been that way with me, and it will be that way with you, if we use common sense. I am human enough to admit that I do not like some of the things that have happened. I also know who is in charge. That is a lesson that I have learned.

I hope I continue to practice it. I hope nothing comes up that I have to be tested too much on it any more. I hope so for you. The thing is, if you understand the overall principles, then why should God have to deal with you in these matters. He has told you to be a peacemaker. Well, be a peacemaker. I'll tell you, where you start to be a peacemaker — in your own family — that's where you start, at your own job that you have. Is there someone you can't get along with there? Try to get along with them.

Jesus said that you could not get along with every single person. It is impossible, but try your best. In other words, you as a Christian have an authority to do good, not to do evil. So get in there and try to be the peacemaker. Do you know something? God could back you up. He could raise up somebody or you, and give you authority that will be wonderful to all people that come in contact with you. That is what you ought to be doing. In other words, God is showing His sovereignty.

James, the half brother of Jesus, in chapter 4, verse 12 said: **“There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy.”** That is in the New Testament, written by James, the firstborn son of Joseph and Mary. Jesus was born of Mary before James, true, but James was the son of Joseph and Mary. He became the head of the *ekklesia* in Jerusalem and he wrote the epistle bearing his name.

Jesus said in John 19:11: **“Jesus answered, ‘You could have no power at all against me, except it were given you from above.’”** Pilate was in authority as the Roman Procurator because God put him there. The decision Pilate made was God the Father's decision. The decision that the Sanhedrin made, the supreme court of the Jews to have Him crucified on the Mount of Olives was God's decision for that to happen. Jesus, according to prophecy had already made His arrangement with the Father that He was going to go through this, because as James said in Acts 15:18, **“Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world [aion, age].”**

You know, the decisions had to be made by those that God had placed in authority. So if you want to blame anyone for the crucifixion of Christ, I will say who to blame. If you want to blame anybody, blame God the Father. That is the greatest evil that any person could ever do to His own Son, to kill Him. But it was all arranged ahead of time.

That is why Abraham and Isaac, that illustration, when Isaac was almost killed. That is why it is such a beautiful archetype of Jesus being killed in actual fact by God the Father. That event actually took place with Abraham and Isaac on the Mount of Olives. The illustration is beautiful because Abraham almost killed Isaac and found a ram in the thicket in the same spot where Jesus was actually killed by God the

Father, by the Sanhedrin, and by the Roman government on the same spot on the Mount of Olives.<sup>5</sup>

That is a great evil when you think about it, God killing His own son. Abraham spared, and I get spared with mine, and you get spared with yours. God the Father did not spare His Son. Do you see the point? That is one of the greatest evils that you can think about, but look at the good that comes from it. The good in the final analysis means that every one of you are now reckoned as dying on that tree of crucifixion.

Even better, every one of you is recognized as being resurrected with Christ. As Christ was resurrected and went to heaven and sat down at right hand side of His Father's throne, so are you to be exalted, to be in the same position as He is now. That is Ephesians 2:6–7. You see the good that God can bring out of evil? Jesus knows that. You and I are not capable of doing such things. It is impossible for us. Read some Scriptures on the orders that God gives to you and to me.

- Romans 12:18: **“If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men.”**

That's an order! That is not just a suggestion. You are to live, if at all possible, peaceably with all men. You are not to create wars. You are not to create hostility. You are not to upset your own family or someone at your office under normal circumstances. That does not mean that you have to have someone wipe their feet all over you. No, it does not mean that either. There are other Scriptures that show that. But, **“If it be possible, as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men”** (Romans 12:18).

- Romans 14:19: **“Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things where-with one may edify another.”**
- 1 Corinthians 14:33: **“For God is not [~~the author~~] of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.”**<sup>6</sup> There is that term “peace” coming out again.
- 2 Corinthians 13:11: **“Be perfect [that means, be mature], be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.”**

It does not make any difference what race we are, what nationality, what sex we are. We are to treat one another on the same level. There are differences. There are differences in administration, differences in operation, differences in racial temperaments and things like that. It does not mean that you have to mix everything together into a big melting pot where you have nothing unique. We ought to take pride in our uniqueness, each one of us should.

God created all of us, the various races, colors, genes, cultures, temperaments, heights, whatever it might be, to give variety and individualism. We ought to appreciate and love the variety we have. This is what it means to learn to be at peace with one another.

- Ephesians 4:3: **“Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”**
- 1 Thessalonians 5:13: **“... be at peace among yourselves.”** God is giving you orders here.
- 1 Timothy 2:2: **“... that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”**
- 2 Timothy 2:22: **“... follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”**
- Hebrews 12:14: **“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.”** That is pretty strong right there. You have no authority to commit evil. I have no authority to commit evil. God uses evil as much as He pleases, and you should not criticize Him.

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<sup>5</sup> I am thankful to God for the understanding that He is giving on this. I have long had the feeling that it might be this case, but I was unable to prove it until now. You will be able to see that was even in the plan of God. *ELM*

<sup>6</sup> This is a King James Version mistranslation. The phrase “~~the author~~” is not in the Greek texts. God is indeed the author of all things, certainly, and the creator of everything, but His intent is clarity, not confusion. That is what that verse means. *ELM*

- James 3:17–18: **“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.”**

Notice that comes from James. We ought to be peacemakers. We ought to bring down hostility as it is in our capability to do so. Remember that every apostle had problems.

The apostle Paul said, **“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief”** (2 Timothy 1:15). He said that when he was an apostle that had been in the ministry for almost 30 years. He did not say he was the chief of sinners, he said **“I am chief”** of sinners. That is how he continued to look at himself.

I do not claim to be a man of God. I just plan to be a son of God, like you are, or a daughter of God. The lessons are these: If we depend upon men, none of us will be in happiness and joy in the long run. Man cannot solve the problems of the world.

At the end will come a man who will call himself the Christ. People will think he is the Christ, but He will be a man, inspired from evil forces. He will be called the antichrist. He will bring in a 666 kingdom. It will be the best that man has ever seen, but it will not itself be able to produce the happiness that man wants.

We have got to have the Kingdom of God. That is the point. We cannot have the kingdom of man. You cannot have the kingdom of Ernest Martin. You cannot have the kingdom of Bill Clinton. You cannot have the kingdom of John Major (Prime Minister of the United Kingdom). You cannot have the kingdom of any man and find it will work, because we do not have the powers to do it.

Like the apostle Paul said, the things I want to do, I don't do, and the very things I don't want to do, that is what I do, just the opposite (Romans 7:18–21). Now he did not mean his mind was constantly doing those things. It is just that Paul's temperament was such that he was a human being, that he could not possibly do things properly, though God continually tells us “Do good, do peace, don't have war,” and so forth.

We need to come to the great sovereign God to rule over us. That is the lesson we are learning. Mankind cannot solve his problems here, whether they are in Japan, in China, Russia, Germany, Rwanda, South Africa, the United States, Great Britain, or Australia. We cannot solve our own problems.

Winston Churchill said this about democracy: it is one of the worst systems of government that you could imagine, but it is the best we have until something better comes along. He was talking about the Kingdom of God. We will not have the Kingdom of God unless we first recognize what? His sovereignty! Not man's sovereignty, God's sovereignty.

Though Job had to go through all the calamity, all his trauma, his story was not an allegory. Some feel he was so persecuted it could not possibly be a real story. It was real. That man went through things he did not deserve. God did not say once that Job was a sinner. Job was an ordinary sinful man like all of us, but no specific sins brought on his condition. He was a man who did not deserve what happened to him, but God allowed him to go through that as an example, as most of the Old Testament personalities were examples, as was Jesus Christ Himself.

Jesus did not deserve what He went through while on earth and finally He had to go through the crucifixion on the Mount of Olives. He did not deserve any of it. God the Father let Him go through those things. That was a very definite evil. What father in the world would put any son through that? God the Father did.

You might say, well, I don't care for that. You may not care for it, but one of these days you will see the beauty of it. There is something beautiful in all of that when you get really down to it, because in the end, we will be able to contrast the evil from the good, and you know what we all will gravitate to? Just like bees to honey, we all will go toward the good and leave the evil behind. Why? Because we found out by experience that evil does not pay, even when God manufactures it. Get the point? Even when He manufactures it, it does not work out in the long run for good. The point is, what does work out for good?<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Those verses I listed above where you are going actively toward peace, actively toward love, actively toward goodness and righteousness. I give the preachers accolades to a certain extent. They tell Christians they ought to do that, and that is correct, but merely give lip service about the sovereignty of God, that He is in charge of everything right now. It leaves Christians who are

## Conclusion

Satan is not winning. God is very much in charge. Daniel showed exactly what will happen in the history of this world, right up until the Kingdom of God is established on this earth. The Book of Revelation shows exactly what God will do with all the evil and the wrath that He has to put out on mankind until the Kingdom of God is established. It is all there in the Scripture. God has given it to you and me, because He wants to instruct us as His intimate sons and daughters, and may I say as His mature sons and daughters so we might understand what He is doing here on this earth has a purpose. That purpose is to lead you in to being an individual just like God the Father and God the Son, with all the righteousness, goodness, and power and authority and composition that they have.

That is what basic Christianity is all about. Jesus Himself, knowing that mankind would object to this evil that is around, and criticize God for it, knowing clearly we would do so (as we all have done), knowing we tend to criticize God for the evil that He puts us through, would say, God sits in His ivory tower on His throne, and we go through all this mess here, and He says it is for us to develop, to be like He is. Why doesn't He go through it Himself?

Do you see the reason Jesus came to this earth? It was because God the Father knew that mankind would — rightly so in one way — criticize Him for allowing, in fact ordering or causing this evil in certain circumstances to exist, and that He would continually get criticized because mankind would say, you are God and we are mere men, and you have not gone through anything like that. You do not know what we have to suffer.

The point is, God has shown man He was willing to send His own Son, with His Son's own volition, according to the Scripture, who came down here, was born into the world just like everyone of you has been, having flesh and blood like you and I have been, having desires for this and that like you have. He had problems with pain, difficulties, having joys also, experiencing life here in an environment of mankind, in degradation in some ways, in exaltation in others. He finally came to endure the ultimate evil: being tried by the supreme court of the nation and by the Roman government, which meant the whole world symbolically. These were the authorities God put in charge. He was condemned to an excruciating death<sup>8</sup> on the Mount of Olives, and to stay in that condition for six hours, and finally to die. That was supposed to be for mankind.

That is right. It is not supposed to be for His sake, it was for mankind. God allowed His own Son, a member of His own family, to go through that to show you and me that the evil He allows even with His own Son, will produce good in the end. He is the only one that can do it. He and Christ Jesus.

What you have to do is what I have to do, learn what Job had to learn. In spite of all the problems and difficulties that we have here and now, God is teaching us that we will be exalted and have millions of times more blessings than Job ever got when he received double human blessings.

The apostle Paul said, it has not entered the mind of man what God has prepared for those who love him (1 Corinthians 2:9–10). You and I will be exalted to the highest level of power, authority, love, peace, concern, and righteousness that we can imagine — not through our own efforts — but through the efforts of God the Father and Christ Jesus by their grace, they will lead us into the top position, and we will learn what the sovereignty of God is all about. We will, in that condition, be able to understand what “good” really is, because we will be able to compare it to all the evil that has been on this earth through circumstances happening with mankind, but most particularly through what happened to Jesus Christ. When that evil is understood, then we will be exalted to the highest pinnacle of good. We will all say, God knew what He was doing. God is good. Always remember that.

Ernest L. Martin, May 1994  
Transcribed by David Sielaff, May 2017

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told to do good up in the air thinking that Satan is winning out over everybody. See the point? *ELM*

<sup>8</sup> The word “excruciating” means “cross-like” from Latin *excruciāre*, from *cruciāre* to crucify, from *crux* cross. *DWS*