

Horses & Carts

Christianity has the whole plan of salvation backwards

God knew it was necessary to create Satan. How could He save people who were not first lost? How could He reconcile people who were not first estranged? And where would be the sweet, eternal sense of release without the temporary terrors of bondage? What I'm telling you is: the "cure" existed before the disease:

1 Peter 1:19-20, "Christ...a flawless and unspotted lamb, foreknown, indeed, before the disruption of the world."

Revelation 13:8, "...the Lambkin, slain from the disruption of the world."

Sin has not wrecked God's plan of salvation. Rather, sin reveals salvation; the salvation came first, *then* the sin.

God had saving warmth within Him, always, yet had no foil against which to reveal it. God *is* saving warmth. He always has been. He did not see the sin and say, "What shall I do to fix this?" This is what the Christian religion has told you. And this is why the God of Christianity is ever on the run, trying to "catch up" with evil. This is why the Christian religion can't teach with confidence on the outcome of the universe. They've got the whole program backwards.

Their poor horse is wondering why their poor cart isn't moving.

Martin Zender's Clanging Gong News

"If I know all mysteries and all knowledge, but have no love, I am a clanging gong" --1 Cor. 13:1-2



Two out of three isn't bad.

That Satan could be sovereign does not exactly comfort one

In its attempts to protect God from responsibility for His own creation, orthodox theology tells us that God created Satan good and that Satan went bad. That is, he fell. The idea is: God tried His best, but Satan broke the leash. God gave it the old "what for." But how was God to have anticipated Satan's stubbornness? The resultant "comfort" is, don't blame God for the trouble Satan has caused. It isn't God's fault.

This is comfort? Then give me trouble. What is to stop Satan from rebelling again? From undoing the work of the cross? From ruining yet another universe? From ripping yet another good intention from God's celestial notebook? If it happened once, it could happen again. And again. And again. And again. Don't blame God? Then just who is responsible for the universe? Am I to sleep tonight, wondering what havoc will next send the Deity sprinting for His laboratory? I feel a surge of righteous indignation coming on.

Glug. I swallowed it. Wow. It tasted horrible.

I pray that you are able to see the creation of Satan as a credit, not a blame. I pray that God would enable you to hear and believe what the Scriptures have to report on this.



"He was a murderer from the beginning." In the gospel of John, chapter 8 and verse 44, this is what Jesus said about the devil. If there are no questions, I'll quote the apostle John from his first letter, chapter 3, verse 8: "The devil has sinned from the beginning."

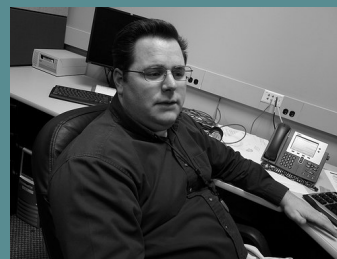
Here are two very simple, very understandable verses. Read them again. Have your kids read them. Take them to the grocery store and show them to the clerks there. Then ask them if Satan started good and went bad. "Not according to these verses," they all will say. Heretics!

(Continued on page 2)

IF GOD WERE A MAN... by martin zender



"I set up Adam and Eve perfectly in Eden..."



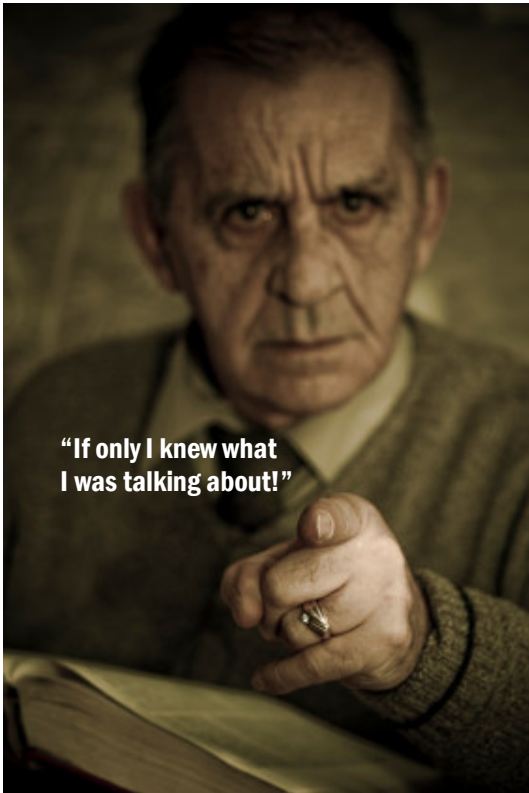
"...or so I thought."



"Frickin' serpent!"

...satanic sovereignty

(Continued from pg. 1)



No, not at all. It's just that kids and grocery clerks don't nurse theological biases. Only theologians and their extended families do that. Could anyone doubt, from reading these verses, that God created Satan the way he has always been?

If any are still stuck in this theological bog, here are two more verses that will help pull you out.

Proverbs 16:4: "Yahweh has made everything for its own pertinent end, yea even the wicked for the day of evil."

Isaiah 54:16: "I created the ruiner to harm."

These verses have been in the Bible a long time. Why haven't you seen them? Because they shatter the two most beloved theological biases in existence: free will and eternal torment. A lot of proud people want to keep these biases going. Why? To preserve their pride. And one of their strategies is to hide truth.

If Satan somehow escaped God's control and

has his own sovereign little corporation, then God can't help those ensnared by him. You know what the church says: "God won't force Himself on anyone." It's something like God shrugging, pointing to Satan and saying, "Hey! Don't look at me; *he* started it! What do you want *me* to do about it?" This dethrones God, but who really cares? Free will is preserved, eternal torment is ensured, and proud people stay that way.

But if these verses mean exactly what they say—that God *is* responsible for the way Satan is now, and for all the trouble that has ensued—then Satan's free will is the first to go, followed by everyone else's. At this point, if anyone *still* wants to keep eternal torment on the mantel, they've got to make God directly responsible for people being tortured in hell for eternity, a gag-inducing concept only a Calvinist could love.

I realize how hard it is to see God behind everything. It only becomes palatable when one finally grasps the glorious outcome of the universe. I credit God with evil and people say, "How can you *think* that way?!" It's tough some days, it really is. But it's easier than believing that the universe is in chaos and evil is eternal. I can't ask these people, "How can you think *that* way?" because the people who believe this way rarely, if ever, think about it.

Only when you realize God controls Satan can you look toward a grand consummation with assurance. Orthodoxy will call these heretical thoughts. But they are right thoughts, and they are scriptural thoughts.

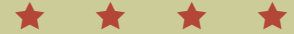
Many of my readers have been haunted since childhood by the specter of Satanic sovereignty. It must be a nightmare for those brave enough to have thought it through—that Satan could have a free will and that evil is running amok. I pity the despair of those who are mentally equal to such a belief. That Satan could be sovereign (that is, untouchable) in the realm of evil is horrifying. Mercifully, few think it through. That it is false doctrine will greatly relieve men and women who have dared to meditate upon it. ■

What a Revelation!

GOD IS OPERATING ALL
IN ACCORD WITH THE
COUNSEL OF HIS WILL

—Ephesians 1:11.

(That's it. That's the revelation.)



Q&A

Why did God have to create His own enemy?

At least you realize that God *did* create His own enemy. You're way ahead of trained theologians. Now keep moving.

On this particular topic, God can be compared to Walt Disney. Every drama requires antagonists. And if these aren't self-existent, they must be created. When God was alone in the universe, who or what could oppose Him? No one; nothing. Yet apart from opposition, God's character lies undiscovered. So does Prince Charming's and Robin Hood's.



Creatures dependent upon contrast for revelation will need to see, hear, and touch what is God. A revelation of what *is* God, for contrast-dependent creatures, requires a revelation of what is *not* God. But since "not God" did not yet exist, God had to create it.

And so God created His own adversity, His own Adversary. But this doesn't mean that He had to enjoy it.

In fact, He didn't. We have a term for it: "necessary evil."

MEDITATE! on the truth

Rants & Stuff

The Apostle Paul says we should not murmur (Philippians 2:14). Therefore, I shall rant.

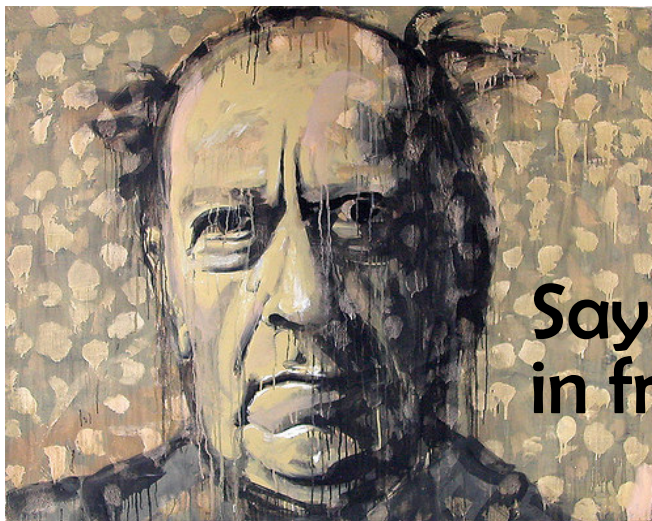
The irresponsibility of God?

A local pastor here accuses me of heresy because I believe the scripture that says God creates evil (Isaiah 45:7). This is heresy? Believing that God is God and responsible for His universe is heresy?

The responsibility of God for everything is the only teaching that credits God with true Godhood. It is also quite aligned with Scripture (Eph. 1:11; Acts 17:25; Col. 1:17). The true heresy, I believe, would be teaching the irresponsibility of God.

Face up to this, Pastor Smedly Guggenheim III. (This is not the local pastor's

real name. His real name is Smedly Guggenheim IV, but I wish to protect his identity.) In whatever measure in your mind God is not responsible for something—anything—He is *irresponsible*. It has to be so. Irresponsible means “not responsible.” And “not responsible” is the definition of “irresponsible.” God is not responsible for evil, you say? Then He's irresponsible.



**Say it out loud
in front of a mirror.**



God is irresponsible. Wow. Is this what you believe? The irresponsibility of God?

If you believe it, then preach it. You don't believe that God is responsible for evil? Then say: “God is irresponsible.” Say it right now. Say it out loud in front of a mirror. Say it slowly and separate every word in an exaggerated manner while staring at your lips.

“G-o-d i-s
i-r-r-e-s-p-o-n-s-i-b-l-e.”

May our gracious God and Father cause you to gag on your words. ■

On God not needing a PR team

Isaiah 45:6-7: “I am Yahweh Elohim, and there is none else. Former of light and Creator of darkness, Maker of good and Creator of evil. I, Yahweh Elohim made all of these things.”

Well-meaning people are always anxious to bail God out of His troubles; you know, lend Him a helping hand. If God says He does something, but then people either don't like or don't understand that thing, then the people, in their ignorance, will work hard to get God off the hook. They will toil overtime to rescue God from His own stupidity.

God is not very adept at winning friends and influencing people. The above verse is evidence enough of that. And so this verse must be covered up, ignored, or explained away by God's “friends.” What will be the harm? The help should be considerable.

**“I'm sorry I had to
use scissors and a
telephone there.”**

Besides, isn't it the church's job to present the Deity in the best possible light? No! Actually, it's the church's job to get the ✂️📞@/%! out of the Deity's way so that the Deity can present *Himself*.

I'm sorry I had to use scissors and a telephone there, but I'm upset. And now, just as quickly, I've turned reflective. God has granted *us* with a knowledge of the truth. And it is this truth that will sustain us today, and in the difficult days ahead. ■

