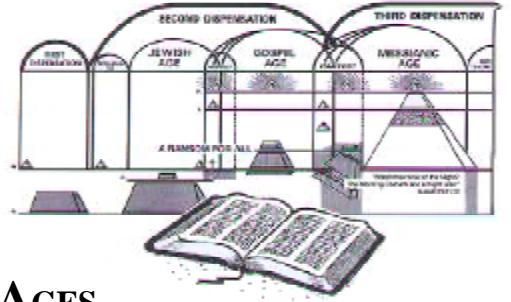


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## THE DIVINE PLAN OF THE AGES

### STUDY 7

#### THE PERMISSION OF EVIL AND ITS RELATION TO GOD'S PLAN

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (      ) \_\_\_\_\_

- ◆ BEFORE filling in the blanks, please prayerfully **study** the 42 paragraphs and the scriptures cited with the questions. We suggest that you number the paragraphs in your book.
- ◆ Return your answers to us. **PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE.** Our Canadian and International friends may make special arrangements for the postage.
- ◆ Your answers will be checked and returned to you for your future studies.
- ◆ **STUDY 8** will be sent when you have completed this lesson.

1. Evil is that which produces unhappiness and SUFFERING of any kind. The primary cause of human ailments, sorrows, and death is SIN.

2. God permits EVIL. God could have prevented ADAM'S/MAN'S fall. The almighty Creator permitted Satan to present the TEMPTATION to Adam and Eve.

3. The present permission of evil is designed to work out some greater GOOD. God could have prevented the entrance of SIN but did not. Are men and angels learning of the evil consequences resulting from the violation of God's righteous law? YES. God cannot LIE; he cannot DENY himself; he cannot do WRONG.

4. All things were created for the Lord's PLEASURE. (Revelation 4:11) Is God opposed to evil in every sense? (Psalm 5:4) YES. Does God's wisdom see a way in which evil may be made a lasting and valuable lesson to his creatures? YES.

5. For every right principle there is a corresponding WRONG principle. A right principle is that which is beneficial of ultimate HARMONY and happiness. A wrong principle is that which produces discord, unhappiness, and DESTRUCTION. Is an intelligent being capable of discerning the right principle from the wrong? YES.

6. The moral sense or conscience is the faculty of discerning between RIGHT and WRONG.

Does God appeal to our moral sense to prove his righteousness and justice? YES. Could Adam discern sin to be evil even before he knew all of its consequences? YES. Are the lower orders of God's creatures endowed with this moral sense? NO.

7. Could God have made Adam merely a living machine? YES. Could God have guarded Adam from Satan's temptation? YES. In that case, man's experience would have been limited to GOOD.

8. Adam and Eve were first made acquainted with GOOD. Because of disobedience, man has experienced SICKNESS, PAIN, and death.

9. Did Adam and Eve come to an appreciation of both *good* and *evil*? (Genesis 3:22) YES. Their posterity will fully know what *good* is during the MILLENNIAL age.

10. The law of right and WRONG is a part of man's nature. Man has lost much of this originally inscribed law due to the degrading influence of SIN. Ability to love implies ability to HATE. The liberty of choice is termed free MORAL agency. After more than 6000 years of walking on the broad way, SIN is now more agreeable to the fallen race.

11. God seeks those who worship him to worship in SPIRIT and in TRUTH. Man wasn't created a mere machine because the Creator already had inanimate mechanical agencies accomplishing his WILL.

12. Will the principles of *right* and *wrong*, as principles, always exist? YES The evil principle will forever cease to be active when it has been permitted long enough to accomplish God's PURPOSE. Will those who continue to submit to sin forever cease to exist? YES (1 Corinthians 15:25, 26; Hebrews 2:14) Only the RIGHT-DOERS shall continue to live forever.

13. The four ways of knowing things are: INTUITION OBSERVATION; EXPERIENCE; and INFORMATION. Who only has intuitive knowledge? JEHOVAH Does *observation* of evil imply its permission in some place? YES

14. Is man made a *spectacle* to angels? YES

15. The Creator gave Adam the *information* that "In the day thou eatest thereof, DYING, thou shalt die." (Genesis 2:16, 17) Did Adam and Eve yield to the *temptation* which God wisely permitted? YES

16. Was Eve *deceived*? (1 Timothy 2:14) YES Did Eve put confidence in Satan's deceptive misrepresentation? YES

17. Was Adam *deceived*? NO After Eve disobeyed, the reckless decision of Adam was to DIE with Eve. Were both Adam and Eve in the transgression? YES (Rom. 5:14; 1 Tim. 2:14) Did Eve share the sentence which her conduct help to bring upon Adam? YES

18. Did evil gradually become more agreeable and desirable to man than good? YES Has man been learning of *the exceeding sinfulness of sin*? YES Is man also learning of the matchless brilliancy of virtue in contrast with sin? YES Is God the author and instigator of sin? NO The man Christ JESUS is our ransom price. (1 Tim. 2:5, 6) Are earthquakes, floods, and pestilences *sins*? NO Is the doctrine of universalism a false one? YES Man's noblest quality is LIBERTY of will or CHOICE. Would this quality be set aside if God caused sin and eventually forced all to obey? YES Do even the ants have a power of choice? YES

19. God cannot consistently force man into sin because it would be inconsistent with his RIGHTEOUS character, and therefore impossible. God desires man to choose RIGHTEOUSNESS. A REDEEMER

has been provided to save to the uttermost all who will return unto God through him. Will all in due time come to an accurate knowledge of the truth? YES (1 Timothy 2:4)

20. God has allowed man to feel and see the final result of EVIL. Is it morally impossible for God to sustain an evil being everlastingly? YES It is morally impossible for God to sustain an evil being forever because such a life would be a source of UNHAPPINESS to itself and others. Life will be continued everlastingly only to the OBEDIENT.

21. Was the Creator in any sense bound to bring us into existence? NO Is the present life a favor? YES

22. The penalty for sin is DEATH—*not eternal torment*. (Genesis 2:17) Life everlasting is promised only to the OBEDIENT.

23. Only a FEW understand the parables, dark sayings and symbols found in the New Testament. The *soul* that sinneth, it shall DIE. (Ezekiel 18:4)

24. Will the world's opportunity and trial for life be much more favorable than was Adam's? YES

25. How many share the curse of death that came upon Adam? (Romans 5:12) ALL Will all who accept and obey Christ gain life in due time? YES Jesus died for ALL mankind.

26. The resurrected princes and then all who accept and obey CHRIST will become children of the Christ under the terms of the New Covenant. (Psalm 45:16; Jer. 31:31-34) All who come into CHRIST will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

27. Will all have an opportunity to be restored to what Adam enjoyed before he sinned? YES All will have the opportunity to come to an accurate knowledge of the truth after the highway of HOLINESS is opened. (Isaiah 11:9) Will all in the graves be awakened from death? (John 5:28, 29) YES The DISOBEDIENT will die the *second death*. The members of the church are under the GRACE covenant. Israel and the whole world of MANKIND will be blessed under the New Covenant arrangement. (Jeremiah 31:31-34) Absolute moral PERFECTION will be expected of the world after physical PERFECTION is reached.

28. What did Adam lose for himself and his race “yet in his loins”? LIFE Under that original trial, condemnation passed upon ALL men. Through Christ's redemption-sacrifice for Adam and his race, mankind will be given the opportunity to turn to GOD through faith in the REDEEMER. This will be the first individual opportunity for Adam's descendants because they were born under CONDEMNATION to death. The message given to the shepherds at the time of the birth of Jesus was GOOD tidings which shall be unto ALL people. (Luke 2:10) Many shall be made RIGHTEOUS in due time because of the obedience of CHRIST. (Romans 5:19) The purpose of the Gospel age is for the selection of the CHURCH. The CHRIST (Head and body members) will bless all the NATIONS of the earth. (Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:16, 29)

29. Some of the questions asked concerning the long process of Adam's trial and condemnation are “Why not give all men an INDIVIDUAL chance for life now?” and “Why allow so much MISERY to intervene?”

30. Had God ordered that children would not partake of the results of parental sins and had He arranged for all to have a favorable Edenic condition, how many would be found worthy of life? NONE

31. If Adam be taken as a criterion, NONE would be found perfectly obedient and worthy. Christ's KNOWLEDGE of the Father enabled him to trust and obey implicitly (Isaiah 53:11) If one-half should remain obedient under a trial and the other half suffered the wages of sin, which is *death*, would the obedient forever feel a curiosity toward the things forbidden? YES

32. Would the one-half cut off in *death* remain dead forever unless they were given a hope of being released from death and tried again? YES

33. Has God adopted the best plan? YES

34. The wages of sin is DEATH. The Millennial reign of Christ will accomplish the full extinction of EVIL and evil-doers, and will usher in an eternity of RIGHTEOUSNESS.

35. All of Adam's children share his CONDEMNATION. The perfect man Christ Jesus was a RANSOM (corresponding price) for all.

36. If God had adopted a plan which permitted each one to be on trial, and if one-half of these sinned, it would require the other one-half to DIE for them if they were to be redeemed; thus, all would still be dying.

37. Such a plan as suggested above would disarrange for the selection of the body of CHRIST. God would have to set before the ones who would die for the disobedient some special REWARD such as that offered to Jesus. The reward of our Lord for his faithfulness is being at the right hand of JEHOVAH. (Ephesians 1:20-22) If one-half of the human race were exalted to the divine nature, would this be too many in the divine family? YES Would such a plan allow for one to be the Head of the church? NO God's plan calls for how many body members of Christ? 144,000 (Revelation 14:1)

38. It is a great favor to have JUSTIFICATION provided for all through the sacrifice of our dear Redeemer. Evil will be forever EXTINGUISHED when God's purpose in permitting it shall have been accomplished, and when the benefits of the RANSOM are made co-extensive with the penalty of sin. Is it important to recognize that the penalty of sin is death? YES Is it necessary to understand the doctrines of ransom and restitution? YES

39. A correct understanding of the doctrines of RANSOM and of RESTITUTION makes it possible to see blessings resulting from the permission of evil.

40. Angels are benefiting by the permission of evil by OBSERVATION. What are the attributes of God? JUSTICE; WISDOM; LOVE; and POWER. Could *justice* violate the divine decree? NO God's *love* provided his dear SON to shed his precious blood for mankind. God's *power* and WISDOM are working out a glorious destiny for his creatures.

41. The permission of EVIL makes it possible for Jesus and the church to be rewarded with the divine nature.

42. God's law is briefly comprehended by what word? (Luke 10:27) LOVE Ultimately all will understand why God permitted evil, but one now sees by the eye of FAITH.