

Episode #2-48 - The Why Question 2: Our Wicked Representative

- I. One of the most difficult questions we must ask ourselves regarding God, life, and the world is the “why” question. We who believe that there is a God Who is all-good and all-loving and Who made the world must answer why then this world is such a terrible place and in such a mess.
- II. Satan in Job – Satan demonstrates ability to ask God for things on earth.
 - A. Job 1:6. Satan arrives before God among the sons (representatives) of God.
 - B. Verse 7. Satan admits to spending his time on earth.
 - C. Verse 8. God brings forth Job as an example of faithful men.
 - D. Verses 9-11. Satan’s calls God into question, implying that Job only serves God because of how it benefits him.
 - E. Verse 12. God grants Satan’s request, with limitations. He needs to prove Satan’s accusation false before His servants in heaven. But could it also be that Satan, whose way Adam and Isha chose to follow rather than God’s, now has power over the earth?
 - F. Job 2:1-3. A repeat, only now Job has proven Satan’s accusation false.
 - G. Verses 4-5. Satan claims it is only because his own health is not affected.
 - H. Verses 6-10. The LORD again grants Satan’s request, and Job again proves him wrong.
 - I. The overall lesson of the passage: Satan asks God for things on earth, and it seems the LORD may often be required to grant him part of his requests.
- III. Satan in the Lord’s temptations – claims authority over all the governments of this world.
 - A. Luke 4:5. The kingdoms of this world = the governments of this inhabited world.
 - B. Luke 4:6-7. The devil claims to have authority (exousia, delegated authority) over all these governments and their glory. He claims this was delivered to him. This was the inadvertent results of the sin of Adam and Isha!
 - C. Luke 4:8. The Lord Jesus does not deny Satan’s claim to this authority. He only chides him with Scripture for tempting Him to worship another other than God.
- IV. The world under Satan’s control.
 - A. I John 5:19. The whole order lies in the control of the wicked one.
 - B. Hebrews 2:14. The devil has the strength of death.
 - C. Acts 26:18. Men who do not belong to God are under the authority of Satan.
- V. Christ redeems the world from the power of Satan.
 - A. Genesis 3:14-15. The original hope God promised Adam and Isha: Satan would be crushed, and they would be delivered from his power.
 - B. Colossians 1:13. We are delivered from the authority of darkness when we are carried over to the authority of the son (expression) of His love.
 - C. Ephesians 6:12. Our true battle is against Satan’s lieutenants.
 - L. Colossians 2:14-15. Through the cross, Christ triumphed over Satan’s forces.
- V. Conclusion: The second part of our answer: when Adam and Isha listened to Satan rather than God, they inadvertently gave Satan great power over this world. Satan appears more or less to represent the earth before God, as our representative. Christ’s sacrifice bought us back from his power. But his great authority over the earth does much to explain for us why this world is the way it is. The world is set up according to Satan’s order, not God’s. If we saw God’s order on earth, it would be a far better place than it is. Praise God, He will make it such a place someday!