

God Is Good and Great

READ: Psalm 90:1-17

ASK: Have you ever met anyone who wondered if God really cares about evil?

WATCH: <https://vimeo.com/167184667/c4300a6cd0>

LESSON:

If God is great, why doesn't he prevent natural disasters and terrorism? If God is good, why does he allow for evil to exist in the world? The answer God gives in the Bible about the presence of evil in the world may surprise us. It is important to realize that much of who God is and what he does remains a mystery to us as creatures. What he has revealed, however, is enough for us to trust his character and have faith that he will be true to his Word.

The Bible teaches that God is great.

The Bible reveals that God is also good.

Let's contrast this with two popular ideas.

The Bible doesn't deny evil but instead gives us a story in which God overcomes evil.

For more on this subject, read pages 53–66 in Michael Horton's Core Christianity.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- 1 . What has God promised to do about evil? Why can we trust that God will keep this promise?
- 2 . If a friend from church confessed to you that they had a hard time believing in God because of some evil or suffering in their life, the temptation might be to rebuke them for having weak faith. But how might we be compassionate toward a person with such a confession? What should we do when people admit struggles and doubts?
- 3 . The Bible presents a God who is both great and good. Many Christians who have suffered have drawn courage and hope from the Bible. How might we read the Bible not simply as a book of information but as a way to draw hope in God and courage to do what is right? What are your own habits in Bible reading? What might you change in light of the first question?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- 1 . Often the existence of evil and suffering can be one of the most challenging experiences for Christians. Below are 4 questions. Answer two that most apply to your situation:
 - How has the existence of evil and suffering in the world and in your own life personally affected you?
 - How did you think about it while experiencing the pain of suffering?
 - How was this different after passing through the dark time?
 - What questions do you still have?
- 2 . Take one of the incommunicable attributes of God. Think of a time in your life where it would really matter that God had that particular attribute. How might you praise God for that aspect of who he is?
- 3 . Take one of the communicable attributes of God. Think of a time in your life where it would really matter that God had that particular attribute. How might you praise God for that aspect of who he is?