

Biblical answers to tough questions

from the archives of Kenneth E. Hagin

Throughout Brother Hagin's ministry, men and women – ministers and laity – asked him questions regarding life and Christianity. True to his lifelong philosophy of staying in the middle of the road on an issue. Brother Hagin answered most questions the same way each time they were asked. He kept his answers in line with the Word of God, the Book upon which he based his own life and ministry.

Below is one of the questions he was often asked.

Question : is it true that in some cases, God sends sickness upon people?

Answer:

Some have said that the Old Testament declares that God sent sickness upon people. Those who say this usually quote Exodus 15:26, "...If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians : for I am the Lord that healeth thee."

Similar scriptures are Isaiah 45:7, "I form the light, and create darkness : I make peace, and create evil : I the Lord do all these things," and Micah 1:12, "For the inhabitant of Maroth waited carefully for good : but evil came down from the Lord unto the gate of Jerusalem."

Obviously, these passages in the King James Version of the Bible do not give the clear meaning of the original Hebrew, for we know that God doesn't create evil. Evil could not have come from Heaven, because there is no evil there.

God only permits evil; He doesn't create it. Nor does He create sickness; He only permits it to come, many times as a result of man's disobedience.

The key to these difficulties lies in the fact that the active verbs in the Hebrew have been translated in the causative sense when they should have been translated in the permissive sense.

Dr. Robert Young, author of Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible and an outstanding Hebrew scholar, points this out in his book Hints and Helps to Bible Interpretation. He says that in Exodus 15:26, the literal Hebrew reads : "I will permit to be put upon thee none of these diseases which I permitted to be brought upon the Egyptians, for I am the Lord that healeth thee."

Permission should not be confused with commission.

In other words, God's permitting something, such as sickness or disease, is not the same as His commissioning it.

We must bear in mind Acts 10:38 : “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power : who went about DOING GOOD, and HEALING all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” This important scripture shows that Jesus is the Healer and Satan is the oppressor. Nowhere in the entire Bible do we find God putting sickness on anyone!

When God commanded Moses to go down into Egypt and lead the children of Israel out of bondage, He first sent Moses to ask Pharaoh to release the people. God didn't want the plagues to come upon the Egyptian people, but when Pharaoh hardened his heart, God withdrew His protecting hand and permitted the plagues to sweep over the land of Egypt. When the final plague – death, the messenger of hell – was permitted, death destroyed the firstborn of every Egyptian household. Only then was Pharaoh compelled to let the children of Israel go.

Where did the plague of death come from? Did it come from Heaven? Is there any death in Heaven? The answer to these questions is no. Death has never entered there, and it will never enter there. There will be no death in Heaven (Rev. 21:4)!

God is not the author of death; He's the author of life. Where does death come from, then? It comes from Satan. (Hebrews 2:14).

The law of sin and death is the devil's law. But the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus is God's law. Romans 8:2 says, “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” Death is our final enemy. And we have the promise that when Jesus comes again, this last enemy shall be put underfoot (I Cor. 15:26).

When you have questions, the Bible has answers.

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