

~WICKEDNESS (446)

[Hebrew, *ra-sha`*; Greek, *po-ne-ri'a*]

.. Why Has God Permitted Wickedness

- That which does not conform to God's standard of moral excellence is wicked, bad, evil, or worthless. Like the Greek word *po-ne-ri'a*.
- But Jesus, knowing their **wickedness**, said; Why do you put me to the test, hypocrites? (**Matthew 22:18**)
- Adulteries, covetings, acts of **wickedness**, deceit, loose conduct, an envious eye, blasphemy, haughtiness, unreasonableness. (**Mark 7:22**)
- But the Lord said to him; Now you Pharisees, you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but the inside of you is full of plunder and **wickedness**. (**Luke 11:39**)
- To you first God, after raising up his Servant, sent him forth to bless you by turning each one away from your wicked deeds. (**Acts of Apostles 3:26**)
- Filled as they were with all unrighteousness, **wickedness**, covetousness, badness, being full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malicious disposition, being whisperers. (**Romans 1:29**)
- Consequently let us keep the festival, not with old leaven, neither with leaven of badness and **wickedness**, but with unfermented cakes of sincerity and truth. (**1 Corinthians 5:8**)
- Because we have a wrestling, not against blood and flesh, but against the governments, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the wicked spirit forces in the heavenly places. (**Ephesians 6:12**)
- The Hebrew verb *ra-sha`* and related forms designate that which is wicked.
- Then Abraham approached and began to say; Will you really sweep away the righteous with the wicked? (**Genesis 18:23**)

- For I have kept the ways of Yehowah, and I have not wickedly departed from my God. (2 Samuel 22:22)
- And after this Jehoshaphat the king of Judah had partnership with Ahaziah the king of Israel, who acted wickedly. (2 Chronicles 20:35)
- And he is certainly on his way to companionship with practicers of what is hurtful and to walking with men of wickedness. (Job 34:8)
- And just a little while longer, and the wicked one will be no more, and you will certainly give attention to his place, and he will not be. (Psalms 37:10)
- Though the wicked one should be shown favor, he simply will not learn righteousness. In the land of straightforwardness he will act unjustly and will not see the eminence of Yehowah. (Isaiah 26:10)
- *Po-ne-ros'*, related to *po-ne-ri'a*, often signifies that which is evil or wicked in a moral sense
- A good man brings forth good out of the good treasure of his heart, but a wicked man brings forth what is wicked out of his wicked treasure, for out of the hearts abundance his mouth speaks. (Luke 6:45)
- And can apply to something that is bad or worthless in a physical sense, as when Jesus Christ spoke of worthless fruit.
- Likewise every good tree produces fine fruit, but every rotten tree produces worthless fruit. (Matthew 7:17)
- A good tree cannot bear worthless fruit, neither can a rotten tree produce fine fruit. (Matthew 7:18)
- This word can also describe something that is hurtful and, at;
- And the first one went off and poured out his bowl into the earth. And a hurtful and malignant ulcer came to be upon the men that had the mark of the wild beast and that were worshipping its image. (Revelation 16:2)

- Has been rendered, **painful**, **AT**, **TEV** and **malignant**. **NE**, **NW**

• Why Has God Permitted Wickedness

- Satan the Devil, who caused the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, to rebel against God, stands in opposition to God's righteous standard and is appropriately termed, **the wicked one**.

- And do not bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the wicked one. (**Matthew 6:13**)
- Where anyone hears the word of the kingdom but does not get the sense of it, the wicked one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart, this is the one sown alongside the road. (**Matthew 13:19**)
- The field is the world, as for the fine seed, these are the sons of the kingdom. But the weeds are the sons of the wicked one. (**Matthew 13:38**)
- I am writing you, fathers, because you have come to know him who is from the beginning. I am writing you, young men, because you have conquered the wicked one. I write you, young children, because you have come to know the Father. (**1 John 2:13**)
- I write you, fathers, because you have come to know him who is from the beginning. I write you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God remains in you and you have conquered the wicked one. (**1 John 2:14**)
- We know we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one. (**1 John 5:19**)
- The rebellion initiated by Satan called into question the rightfulness and righteousness of God's sovereignty, that is, whether God's rulership over his creatures is exercised righteously and in their best interests.
- The fact that Adam and Eve rebelled also raised another issue: Would all other intelligent creatures prove unfaithful and disloyal to God when obedience appeared to bring no material benefits? Satan's claim respecting faithful Job implied that they would do so.

- Satan said; Skin in behalf of skin, and everything that a man has he will give in behalf of his soul. For a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch as far as his bone and his flesh and see whether he will not curse you to your very face.
- But Satan answered Yehowah and said; Skin in behalf of skin, and everything that a man has he will give in behalf of his soul. ([Job 2:4](#))
- For a change, thrust out your hand, please, and touch as far as his bone and his flesh and see whether he will not curse you to your very face. ([Job 2:5](#))

See Also SOVEREIGNTY

- Time was required to settle the issues that had been raised. Hence, Yehowah God, by permitting wicked persons to continue living, made it possible for others to share in proving Satan's claim false by serving God faithfully under unfavorable and trialsome circumstances.
- God's permission of **wickedness** has also provided an opportunity for individuals to abandon a wrong course and to subject themselves willingly to God's righteous laws.
- Let the **wicked** man leave his way, and the harmful man his thoughts, and let him return to Yehowah, who will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will forgive in a large way. ([Isaiah 55:7](#))
- Say to them; As I am alive, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah; I take delight, not in the death of the **wicked** one, but in that someone **wicked** turns back from his way and actually keeps living. Turn back, turn back from your bad ways, for why is it that you should die, O house of Israel? ([Ezekiel 33:11](#))
- So God's holding back for a time from destroying the wicked serves to spare the righteously disposed ones by allowing time for them to prove their love and devotion to Yehowah.
- For the Scripture says to Pharaoh; For this very cause I have let you remain, that in connection with you I may show my power, and that my name may be declared in all the earth. ([Romans](#)

9:17)

- So, then, upon whom he wishes he has mercy, but whom he wishes he lets become obstinate. (**Romans 9:18**)
- You will therefore say to me; Why does he yet find fault? For who has withstood his express will? (**Romans 9:19**)
- O man, who, then, really are you to be answering back to God? Shall the thing molded say to him that molded it, Why did you make me this way? (**Romans 9:20**)
- What? Does not the potter have authority over the clay to make from the same lump one vessel for an honorable use, another for a dishonorable use? (**Romans 9:21**)
- If, now, God, although having the will to demonstrate his wrath and to make his power known, tolerated with much long-suffering vessels of wrath made fit for destruction. (**Romans 9:22**)
- In order, that he might make known the riches of his glory upon vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory. (**Romans 9:23**)
- Namely, us, whom he called not only from among Jews but also from among nations, what of it? (**Romans 9:24**)
- It is as he says also in Hosea; Those not my people I will call my people, and her who was not beloved, **beloved**. (**Romans 9:25**)
- And in the place where it was said to them, you are not my people, there they will be called, sons of the living God. (**Romans 9:26**)
- Additionally, Yehowah God makes use of circumstances in such a way that the **wicked** themselves unwittingly serve his purpose. Though they oppose God, he can restrain them to the extent necessary for the preserving of his servants in their integrity, and can cause the actions even of such persons to bring his righteousness to the fore.
- What, then, is the case? If some did not express faith, will their lack of faith perhaps make the faithfulness of God without effect? (**Romans 3:3**)

- **Never may that happen! But let God be found true, though every man be found a liar, even as it is written: That you might be proved righteous in your words and might win when you are being judged. (Romans 3:4)**
- **However, if our unrighteousness brings God's righteousness to the fore, what shall we say? God is not unjust when he vents his wrath, is he? I am speaking as a man does. (Romans 3:5)**
- **For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)**
- **And it is as a free gift that they are being declared righteous by his undeserved kindness through the release by the ransom paid by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:24)**
- **God set him forth as an offering for propitiation through faith in his blood. This was in order to exhibit his own righteousness, because he was forgiving the sins that occurred in the past while God was exercising forbearance. (Romans 3:25)**
- **So as to exhibit his own righteousness in this present season, that he might be righteous even when declaring righteous the man that has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3:26)**
- **Who will separate us from the love of the Christ? Will tribulation or distress or persecution or hunger or nakedness or danger or sword? (Romans 8:35)**
- **Just as it is written: For your sake we are being put to death all day long, we have been accounted as sheep for slaughtering. (Romans 8:36)**
- **To the contrary, in all these things we are coming off completely victorious through him that loved us. (Romans 8:37)**
- **For I am convinced that neither death nor life nor angels nor governments nor things now here nor things to come nor powers (Romans 8:38)**
- **Nor height nor depth nor any other creation will be able to separate us from God's love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:39)**

- For the very rage of man will laud you, the remainder of raging you will gird upon yourself. (**Psalms 76:10**)
- This thought is expressed at;
- Everything Yehowah has made for his purpose, yes, even the wicked one for the evil day. (**Proverbs 16:4**)
- Everything Yehowah has made for his purpose, yes, even the wicked one for the evil day.
- A case in point is the Pharaoh on whom Yehowah, through Moses and Aaron, served notice for the release of the enslaved Israelites. God did not make this Egyptian ruler wicked, but he did allow him to continue living and also brought about circumstances that caused Pharaoh to manifest himself as being wicked and deserving of death. Yehowah's purpose in doing this is revealed at;
- But, in fact, for this cause I have kept you in existence, for the sake of showing you my power and in order to have my name declared in all the earth. (**Exodus 9:16**)
- The Ten Plagues visited upon Egypt, climaxed by the destruction of Pharaoh and his military forces in the Red Sea, were an impressive demonstration of Yehowah's power.
- Then Yehowah said to Moses; Pharaoh's heart is unresponsive. He has refused to send the people away. (**Exodus 7:14**)
- Then Pharaoh got up at night, he and all his servants and all other Egyptians, and there began arising a great outcry among the Egyptians, because there was not a house where there was not one dead. (**Exodus 12:30**)
- How he put his signs in Egypt itself and his miracles in the field of Zoan. (**Psalms 78:43**)
- And how he began changing to blood their Nile canals, so that they could not drink from their own streams. (**Psalms 78:44**)
- He proceeded to send upon them gadflies, that these might eat them up, and frogs, that these might bring them to ruin. (**Psalms 78:45**)

- **And he began to give to the cockroaches their yield, and their toil to the locusts. ([Psalms 78:46](#))**
- **He went killing their vine even by the hail and their sycamore trees by hailstones. ([Psalms 78:47](#))**
- **And he proceeded to hand over their beasts of burden even to the hail and their livestock to the flaming fever. ([Psalms 78:48](#))**
- **He went sending upon them his burning anger, fury and denunciation and distress, depositions of angels bringing calamity. ([Psalms 78:49](#))**
- **He proceeded to prepare a pathway for his anger. He did not hold back their soul from death itself, and their life he handed over even to the pestilence. ([Psalms 78:50](#))**
- **Finally he struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, the beginning of their generative power in the tents of Ham. ([Psalms 78:51](#))**
- **And who shook off Pharaoh and his military force into the Red Sea: for his loving-kindness is to time indefinite. ([Psalms 136:15](#))**
- **For years afterward the nations round about were still talking about it, and God's name was thus being declared throughout the earth.**
- **For we have heard how Yehowah dried up the waters of the Red Sea from before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, namely, Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. ([Joshua 2:10](#))**
- **When we got to hear it, then our hearts began to melt, and no spirit has arisen yet in anybody because of you, for Yehowah your God is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath. ([Joshua 2:11](#))**
- **Woe to us! Who will save us from the hand of this majestic God? This is the God that was the smiter of Egypt with every sort of slaughter in the wilderness. ([1 Samuel 4:8](#))**

- Had Yehowah killed Pharaoh immediately, this grand display of God's power to His glory and for the deliverance of His people would not have been possible.
- The Scriptures give assurance that the time will come when **wickedness** will no longer exist, as all those who stand in opposition to the Creator will be destroyed when his permission of wickedness will have served its purpose.
- Yehowah is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9)
- Yet Yehowah's day will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a hissing noise, but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be discovered. (2 Peter 3:10)
- Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion. (2 Peter 3:11)
- Awaiting and keeping close in mind the presence of the day of Yehowah, through which the heavens being on fire will be dissolved and the elements being intensely hot will melt! (2 Peter 3:12)
- But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell. (2 Peter 3:13)
- Be glad over her, O heaven, also you holy ones and you apostles and you prophets, because God has judicially exacted punishment for you from her! (Revelation 18:20)
- And a strong angel lifted up a stone like a great millstone and hurled it into the sea, saying; Thus with a swift pitch will Babylon the great city be hurled down, and she will never be found again. (Revelation 18:21)
- And the sound of singers who accompany themselves on the harp and of musicians and of flutists and of trumpeters will never be heard in you again, and no craftsman of any trade will ever be

found in you again, and no sound of a millstone will ever be heard in you again. ([Revelation 18:22](#))

- And no light of a lamp will ever shine in you again, and no voice of a bridegroom and of a bride will ever be heard in you again, because your traveling merchants were the top-ranking men of the earth, for by your spiritistic practice all the nations were misled. ([Revelation 18:23](#))
- Yes, in her was found the blood of prophets and of holy ones and of all those who have been slaughtered on the earth. ([Revelation 18:24](#))
- And I saw the heaven opened, and, look! A white horse. And the one seated upon it is called Faithful and True, and he judges and carries on war in righteousness. ([Revelation 19:11](#))
- And he hurled him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, that he might not mislead the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After these things he must be let loose for a little while. ([Revelation 20:3](#))
- Now as soon as the thousand years have been ended, Satan will be let loose out of his prison. ([Revelation 20:7](#))
- And he will go out to mislead those nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war. The number of these is as the sand of the sea. ([Revelation 20:8](#))
- And they advanced over the breadth of the earth and encircled the camp of the holy ones and the beloved city. But fire came down out of heaven and devoured them. ([Revelation 20:9](#))
- And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of fire and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ([Revelation 20:10](#))