

“AND THOUGH THIS WORLD WITH
DEVILS FILLED, SHOULD THREATEN
TO UNDO US,
WE WILL NOT FEAR, FOR GOD HATH
WILLED HIS TRUTH TO TRIUMPH
THROUGH US.”

Martin Luther

EASTER IS THE STORY OF HOW
GOD USED EVIL TO DESTROY
EVIL THROUGH THE
CRUCIFIXION OF HIS SON.

“AS FOR YOU, YOU MEANT EVIL
AGAINST ME, BUT GOD MEANT IT FOR
GOOD, TO BRING IT ABOUT THAT MANY
PEOPLE SHOULD BE KEPT ALIVE AS THEY
ARE TODAY. SO DO NOT FEAR;”

Genesis 50:20

**"GOD DID NOT JUST OVERCOME
EVIL AT THE CROSS. HE MADE EVIL
SERVE THE OVERCOMING OF EVIL.
HE MADE EVIL COMMIT SUICIDE
IN DOING ITS WORST EVIL."**

— John Piper, *Spectacular Sins: And Their
Global Purpose in the Glory of Christ*

**I. GOD SOVEREIGNLY
ORDAINED THE
SUBVERSION OF JESUS
BY THE RELIGIOUS
LEADERS.**

Luke 22:1-2



**EASTER IS THE STORY OF HOW GOD
USED THE EVIL OF THE RELIGIOUS
LEADERS TO END THE PRIESTHOOD
OF THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND TO
MAKE JESUS OUR HIGH PRIEST
FOREVER.**

“THE SON OF MAN MUST SUFFER MANY THINGS AND BE REJECTED BY THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES, AND BE KILLED, AND ON THE THIRD DAY RISE BE RAISED.”

Luke 9:22

“AND TAKING THE TWELVE, HE SAID TO THEM, ‘SEE, WE ARE GOING UP TO JERUSALEM, AND EVERYTHING THAT IS WRITTEN ABOUT THE SON OF MAN BY THE PROPHETS WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED. FOR HE WILL BE DELIVERED OVER TO THE GENTILES AND WILL BE MOCKED AND SHAMEFULLY TREATED AND SPIT UPON. AFTER FLOGGING THEM, THEY WILL KILL HIM, AND ON THE THIRD DAY, HE WILL RISE.’ BUT THEY UNDERSTOOD NONE OF THESE THINGS. THIS SAYING WAS HIDDEN FROM THEM AND THEY DID NOT GRASP WHAT WAS SAID.”

Luke 18:31-34

“THIS JESUS, DELIVERED UP **ACCORDING TO THE DEFINITE PLAN AND FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD**, YOU CRUCIFIED AND KILLED BY THE HANDS OF LAWLESS MEN. GOD RAISED HIM UP, LOOSING THE PANGS OF DEATH, BECAUSE IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE HELD BY IT.”

Acts 2:23-24

“SOVEREIGN LORD, WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH AND THE SEA AND EVERYTHING IN THEM... FOR TRULY IN THIS CITY THERE WERE GATHERED AGAINST YOUR HOLY SERVANT JESUS, WHOM YOU ANOINTED, BOTH HEROD AND PONTIUS PILATE ALONG WITH THE GENTILES AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, **TO DO WHATEVER YOUR HAND YOUR PLAN HAD PREDESTINED TO TAKE PLACE.**”

Acts 4:24-28

“THE LORD WILL CAUSE YOUR ENEMIES TO RISE UP AGAINST YOU TO BE DEFEATED BEFORE YOU. THEY SHALL COME OUT AGAINST YOU ONE WAY AND FLEE BEFORE YOU SEVEN WAYS.”

Deuteronomy 28:7

“FOR IT WAS INDEED FITTING THAT WE SHOULD HAVE **SUCH A HIGH PRIEST, HOLY, INNOCENT, UNSTAINED, SEPARATED FROM SINNERS, AND EXALTED ABOVE THE HEAVENS.** HE HAS NO NEED, LIKE THOSE HIGH PRIESTS, TO OFFER SACRIFICES DAILY, FIRST FOR HIS OWN SINS AND THEN FOR THOSE OF THE PEOPLE, SINCE HE DID THIS ONCE FOR ALL WHEN HE OFFERED UP HIMSELF.”

Hebrews 7:26-27

II. GOD SOVEREIGNLY
ORDAINED THE
SUBVERSION OF
JESUS BY SATAN.

Luke 22:3



EASTER IS THE STORY OF HOW GOD
USED THE EVIL SCHEME OF SATAN IN
ORDER THAT THROUGH JESUS' DEATH
AND RESURRECTION, JESUS MIGHT
DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL
OVER US.



"THE REASON THE SON OF GOD
APPEARED WAS TO DESTROY
THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL."



1 John 3:8

SATAN IS INCREDIBLY SINISTER BUT SATAN IS NOT ABSOLUTELY SOVEREIGN.

“SIMON, SIMON, BEHOLD, SATAN HAS DEMANDED TO HAVE YOU THAT HE MIGHT SIFT YOU LIKE WHEAT, BUT I HAVE PRAYED FOR YOU THAT YOUR FAITH MAY NOT FAIL. AND WHEN YOU HAVE TURNED AGAIN, STRENGTHEN YOUR BROTHERS.”

Luke 22:31-32

“GOD HAD ACCEDDED TO THE DEMAND, BECAUSE HE HAD HIS OWN PURPOSES. SATAN *PREYED* ON PETER; JESUS *PRAYED FOR* PETER. AND IN THE WAKE OF HIS FAILURE, HE REMEMBERED HIS SAVIOR HAD PREDICTED IT (MATT. 26:75); HIS HEART WAS BROKEN AND EMPTIED OF ITS SELF-RELYING PRIDE. CHASTISED, HE WAS LATER RESTORED BY JESUS AT THE SEA OF GALILEE (JOHN 21:15-19). FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT, HIS FIRST SERMON BECAME THE MOST FRUITFUL ONE HE'D EVER PREACH (ACTS 2).”

Sinclair Ferguson

WHEN GOD WORKS FOR OUR GOOD THROUGH THE AGENCY OF EVIL, WE CAN'T SEE IT IMMEDIATELY, BUT WE CAN KNOW THAT GOD ONLY USES EVIL AGAINST US TO DESTROY EVIL AGAINST US OR IN US.

- WHEN SATAN INCITES JESUS' CRUCIFIXION, GOD USES SATAN TO DESTROY SATAN'S ACCUSATIONS AGAINST US.

- WHEN SATAN INCITES JESUS' CRUCIFIXION, GOD USES SATAN TO DESTROY SATAN'S DOMINION OVER US.

- WHEN SATAN INCITES JESUS' CRUCIFIXION, GOD USES SATAN TO DESTROY SATAN'S INTIMIDATION OF US.


- WHEN SATAN INCITES JESUS' CRUCIFIXION, GOD USES SATAN TO DESTROY SATAN'S POWERFUL TEMPTATIONS OF US.

"THE REASON THE SON OF GOD APPEARED WAS TO DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL. NO ONE BORN OF GOD MAKES A PRACTICE OF SINNING, FOR GOD'S SEED ABIDES IN HIM; AND HE CANNOT KEEP ON SINNING, BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN BORN OF GOD. BY THIS IT IS EVIDENT WHO ARE THE CHILDREN OF GOD, AND WHO ARE THE CHILDREN OF THE DEVIL: WHOEVER DOES NOT PRACTICE RIGHTEOUSNESS IS NOT OF GOD, NOR IS THE ONE WHO DOES NOT LOVE HIS BROTHER."

1 John 3:7-10

III. GOD SOVEREIGNLY ORDAINED THE SUBVERSION OF JESUS BY JUDAS.

Luke 22:3-6



EASTER IS THE STORY OF HOW GOD USED THE BETRAYAL OF JUDAS SO THAT JESUS MIGHT BECOME THE FRIEND OF SINNERS WHO WILL NEVER BETRAY US OR BREAK HIS COVENANT WITH US.

“NOW BEFORE THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER, WHEN JESUS KNEW THAT HIS HOUR HAD COME TO DEPART FROM THIS WORLD TO THE FATHER, HAVING LOVED HIS OWN WHO WERE IN THE WORLD, HE LOVED THEM TO THE END.”

John 15:1

“GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS, THAT SOMEONE LAY DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS FRIENDS.”

John 15:13

“WHEN WE SUFFER, WE DO NOT LOSE HEART. WE CAN KNOW THIS EVEN WHEN WE CANNOT SEE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR SUFFERING AND OUR TESTIMONY OR BETWEEN OUR PAIN AND OUR PASSION FOR GOD. WE PATIENTLY ENDURE OUR SUFFERING BECAUSE WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF GOD’S PLAN TO USE OUR SUFFERING, NOT REDEEMPTIVELY (FOR THIS WAS DONE SINGULARLY IN CHRIST), BUT TO COMPLETE THE DESTRUCTION OF EVIL & SUFFERING.”

— Dr. Rick Shenk, *The Wonder of the Cross: The God Who Uses Evil and Suffering to Destroy Evil and Suffering*

GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT EVIL DOESN’T GET THE FINAL SAY – JESUS DOES.
