

## Did God Create Evil?

Some have reasoned that, since God created the world and since evil exists in the world, God must have created evil. This would mean that evil is His fault, He must have made a mistake and is therefore imperfect. However, this line of logic does not take into consideration the higher purpose of God.

The Scriptures tell us that God created mankind in His image and desires to enjoy a rich and fulfilling relationship with us. But such a relationship could not exist if we were simply mindless robots, programmed to function according to animal instinct or a predetermined plan. Such creatures are lower life-forms and could never bear the image of God.

Obviously, God did allow the opportunity for evil to exist. He also gave man the choice to taste it — or not. Having been created in the image of God, we possess a creative free will by which we can choose between good and evil. But for us to choose good, evil must also exist as a contrast by which to define that which is good.

For example, we define foods that taste bad by comparing them to foods that taste good. Similarly, we comprehend the utter emptiness of darkness only when compared to the brilliant colors revealed by light. Only when we choose to love Him and serve Him without being forced, does our relationship with Him have real meaning.

Even though evil exists, God is perfect and without fault. *"He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He"* (Deut 32:19). In order to have free will and the choice to choose good, the choice to choose evil must also exist. God says:

"...I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life that both you and your descendants may live."

— Deut 30:19 (NKJV)