Welcome To Open Bible Hour Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the book of Hebrews.

If you have a prayer request, for which you would like us to pray, please fill out a prayer sheet at the back table and give to Lyle.

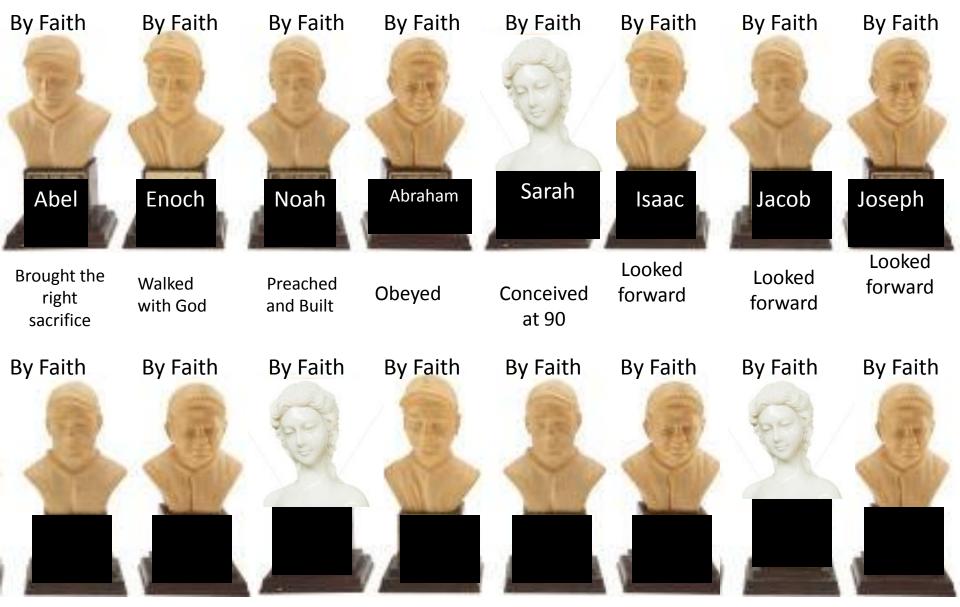
Our website: OpenBibleHour.net

#### "BY FAITH ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB, AND JOSEPH TRUSTED GOD FOR THE FUTURE"

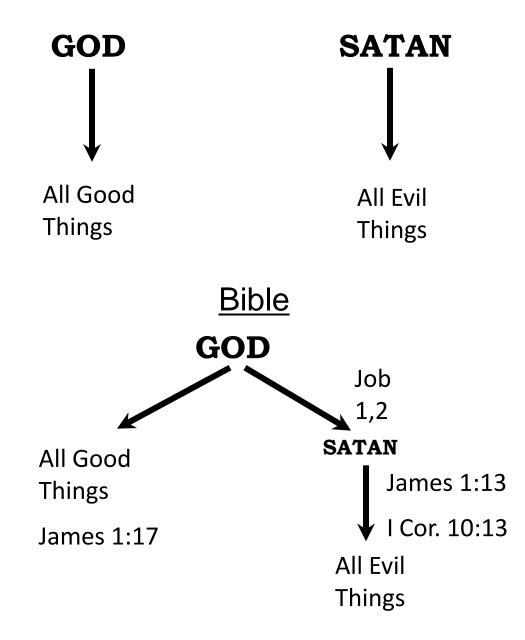
Hebrews 11:17-22

March 23, 2014

## HALL OF FAITH



#### <u>Dualism</u>



#### Why Does Evil Exist?

#### Theodicy

# "The defense of God's goodness and omnipotence in the light of the existence of evil."

- 1. God Exists
- 2. Evil Exists
- 3. God is Good
- 4. God Hates evil
- 5. God is all-powerful (Omnipotent)
- 6. Conclusion: God doesn't exist.
  - 1. Either God doesn't exist.
  - 2. God is not good.
  - 3. God doesn't hate evil.
  - 4. God is not all-powerful.

- 1. God Exists (Gen. 1:1; Ps. 14:1; Rom. 1:20; Heb.3:4; Acts 17:24; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16; Rev. 4:11)
- Evil Exists (Gen 8:21; Ps. 34:14; Prov. 1:16; Prov. 4:27; Prov. 11:27; Luke 11:13; Gal. 1:4; 3 Jn. 11)
- 3. God is Good (Ps. 25:8; Ps. 34:8; Ps. 86:5; Ps. 100:5; Ps. 106:1; Ps. 107:1; Ps. 118:29; Ps. 136:1; Matt. 19:17)
- God Hates Evil (Duet. 12:31; 16:22; Prov. 6:16; Is. 61:8; Zech. 8:17; Mal. 2:16)
- God is all-powerful (Omnipotent) (Matt:28:18; Rev. 19:6; 1 Chron. 29:11,12; Job 36:22; Ps. 62:11; Ps. 79:11; Jer. 51:15; Nahum 1:3; Eph. 1:19; Heb. 1:3; Rev. 11:17)
- God is all of the above but has a higher purpose for allowing evil to exist-

#### TO DISPLAY HIS GLORY!!

(Rom. 9:17,22; Rom. 11:36; Rev. 11:13; Rev. 14:7; Rev. 15:8; Rev. 19:1-5; Ez. 39:21; Ex. 14:4; Jn 9:3; Jn. 11:4)

## <u>God's Will</u>

## 1 Will - 2 Dimensions

#### God's Determined Will - what He determines will happen.

#### (unrevealed in His Divine Decrees)

#### God's Desired Will - what He desires to happen.

(revealed in His Word)

#### <u>Desired</u>

## Ex 5:1

"Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "Let My people go that they may celebrate a feast to Me in the wilderness.""

## <u>Determined</u>

### Ex 4:21

- 21 The LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders
- which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will **not let the people go**.

#### <u>Desired</u>

- Ex 20:13
- 13 "You shall not murder.
- <u>Determined</u>
- Acts 2:23
- 23 this Man, **delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God**, **you nailed to a cross** by the hands of godless men and **put Him to death**.

## Acts 4:27-28

27 "For truly in this city there were gathered together against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,

# 28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose predestined to occur.

- Principle: God wills the "greater good". It may be His desired will or it may not be.
- God determines for any given situation what will best put on display His divine attributes and therefore achieve His divine purposes.
- We exercise our wills the same way: "I really <u>want</u> a piece of French Silk pie, but I am <u>determined</u> to stick to my diet."
- "I really <u>desire</u> to go on a trip to Europe, but I am <u>determined</u> to save my money."
- "I don't <u>want</u> to punish you, but I have determined it is the <u>best</u> thing to do."

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#### YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK



# GLACIER POINT

Archie





## 3 things a believer must grasp in order to make it to the top to get a biblical perspective?

- 1. That the goal and purpose of everything that happens is the glory of God.
- 2. That God is capable of putting together a flawless plan with no risks, contingencies, or failures.

	Plan "A" ——	→ Plan "B" —	_	→
Eternity Past	Gen 1,2 Creation	<b>Gen. 3</b> Fall	<b>Gen. 4 – Rev. 22</b> Salvage Operation	Eternity Future
	God is the initiator	God is the observer	God is the reactor	
	"Success"	"Failure"	"Hope for the Best"	

Plan "A"

Eternity Past Creation

God is the initiator

"Success"

Gen. 3 Fall

God is the initiator

"Success"

**Gen. 4 – Rev. 22** Salvage Operation

God is the initiator

"Success"

Eternity Future

## 3 things a believer must grasp in order to make it to the top to get a biblical perspective?

- 1. That the goal and purpose of everything that happens is the glory of God.
- 2. That God is capable of putting together a flawless plan with no risks, contingencies, or failures.
- 3. That the plan, with all of its components, that has been unfolding since creation is a perfect plan that ultimately will bring God the most glory and put on display **all** of his attributes.

#### **Rom 9:16-21**

- 16 So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.
- 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE I RAISED YOU UP, TO DEMONSTRATE MY POWER IN YOU, AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE EARTH."
- 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.
- 19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?"
- 20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?
- 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

#### 5 ways this applies to Abraham sacrificing Isaac:

- God is not sinning or committing evil when He orders Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.
- 2. God is the God of life and death and will choose to use them as He sees fit to accomplish His purposes for good.
- 3. God is looking beyond the act of sacrificing Isaac to the great good that will come out of purposing it.
- God will always accomplish a seemingly infinite amount of "good" from the sovereign acts He does – Abraham, Isaac, Sarah, servants, Israel, and all believers down through the ages.
- 5. God is most glorified when we understand the depth of His sovereignty.