

WHY IS THERE SO MUCH EVIL IN THE WORLD?

DANIEL 8

God wants us to understand that evil in the world:

1. Is ultimately aligned against **GOD**, His **PEOPLE**, and His **PURPOSES**.
2. Will **INCREASE** to a **CLIMAX** in human history.
3. Will finally be **ELIMINATED** by God – **FOREVER**.
4. Should cause all believers to **LIVE** for God **NOW**.

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. What are some examples from the Bible, and more recent history, showing that evil is ultimately aligned against God, His people, and His purposes?
2. In what ways do you see the world in opposition to God today? In our own society, what roles do government or other institutions play in an anti-God, anti-Christ agenda? How should Jesus' followers react and respond?
3. When might spiritual opposition become more manifest in our lives? Have you experienced, or are you currently experiencing spiritual warfare? In what ways? What can we do to prepare for it and combat against it?
4. Jesus said believers are to be the 'salt of the earth' and the 'light of the world' (Matt 5:13-18). How can we as believers be salt and light in this world that is so full of evil? Why should we strive for this if we know that evil will continue and even increase until the Day of the Lord?
5. Why does God include so much prophetic detail in His word? What can we learn from it? In what ways can we use it for good?
6. In what ways does the devil try to keep the saving knowledge of Christ's atoning sacrifice from people? What are some of his most effective tactics? Why is this so important to him? How can people who love God align with His purposes and fight?
7. How does the devil most often try to disrupt the work of God in the church and among believers? Have you witnessed this firsthand? What can we do to lessen the devil's impact within the fellowship?
8. When you have experienced evil, personal tragedy, or loss, how did it make you feel about God? In hindsight were you able to understand why these things happened? What biblical truths can we fall back on when we just don't understand why God allowed something terrible in our lives, or the lives of loved ones?
9. Read Psalm 73. What was the psalmist feeling, and why was he having such a hard time? What verses tell us about the consolation he found? What resolutions did he make in his life as a result?
10. Have you ever gotten discouraged by the amount of evil around us? Have you ever just wanted to give up? Why doesn't God judge and end evil NOW? How might this chapter help us gain a healthy perspective? What are some things we can do or change in our lives in the meantime?

"I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!" — C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

