

The background is a dark, textured surface covered in numerous pieces of crumpled, aged paper. The paper varies in color from light beige to dark brown, with some pieces showing signs of water damage or discoloration. The overall texture is rough and layered, creating a sense of depth and decay.

Journey of Job

This Weeks Sermon
“*The Problem of Evil*”
&
“*Human Suffering*”

The Problem of Evil

*“How can a being that is infinitely holy,
powerful, and good, create a creature that even
had the capability of sinning.”*

David Strauss



Theodicy

Justice of God

Four different attempts to Justify God from
the problem of evil.

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1. Evil is an illusion

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1. *Evil is an illusion*
2. *Evil is Necessary*

Four different attempts to Justify God from
the problem of evil.

1. *Evil is an illusion*
2. *Evil is Necessary*
3. *Evil is a Deficiency*



Leibniz Theodicy

1. *Moral Evil*
2. *Physical Evil*
3. *Metaphysical Evil*

Four different attempts to Justify God from
the problem of evil.

1. *Evil is an illusion*
2. *Evil is Necessary*
3. *Evil is a Deficiency*
4. *Evil Exists because Man has a Free Will*

What prompted Adam and Eve to choose
Evil?

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Evil?

1. The Devil made them do it

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Evil?

1. *The Devil made them do it*
2. *Coercion*

What prompted Adam and Eve to choose
Evil?

1. *The Devil made them do it*
2. *Coercion*
3. *What moral State were they in?*

What prompted Adam and Eve to choose
Evil?

1. *Evil*

What prompted Adam and Eve to choose
Evil?

1. *Evil*
2. *Good*

What prompted Adam and Eve to choose Evil?

1. *Evil*
2. *Good*
3. *Neutral*

What is Free Will?

So What is the Christian left with?

Moses' Identity Crisis

Exodus 3:1-22

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

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God's Answer

Exodus 3:1-22

¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³ Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

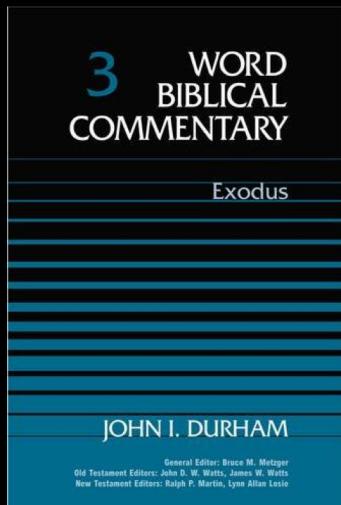
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“I AM that I AM,” replies God. The verbs... הִיא [hayah] “to be,” connoting continuing, unfinished action: “I am being that I am being,” or “I am the Is-ing One,” that is, “the One Who Always Is.” Not conceptual being, being in the abstract, but active being, is the intent of this reply. It is a reply that suggests that it is inappropriate to refer to God as “was” or as “will be,” for the reality of this active existence can be suggested only by the present: “is” or “is-ing,” “Always Is,” or “Am.”



~ John I. Durham, *Exodus*, vol. 3, Word Biblical Commentary
(Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1998), 39.

Before Abraham was, I AM...

John 8:48-59

⁴⁸ The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?”

⁴⁹ “I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor my Father and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Very truly I tell you, whoever obeys my word will never see death.”

⁵² At this they exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that whoever obeys your word will never taste death.

John 8:48-59

53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. 55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and obey his word. 56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

57 "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

John 8:48-59

58 “Very truly I tell you,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!” 59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

Mark 15:33-39

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”).

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Gospel Application

Do you trust the Words of God?

Do you believe in the Goodness of God?