



## God and Evil 2 Chronicles 7:1-4

The Holman Bible Dictionary says "Evil" is of two kinds: \_\_\_\_\_ evil and \_\_\_\_\_ evil.

Such disasters as tornadoes, floods, tsunamis and earthquakes are often called "evils," but they are not \_\_\_\_\_ agents; therefore, they can't really be "moral evils." If they are evils, then, they must be "\_\_\_\_\_ evils." Then, the question is relevant: "Why does a \_\_\_\_\_ God (from today's text) send such evils upon men; and if he's all-powerful and He is a good God why doesn't He \_\_\_\_\_ them?"

In debate a famous atheist's strongest argument against God was the existence of \_\_\_\_\_ and natural evil.

We're all apt to \_\_\_\_\_ "God" with such terms that will fit Him neatly into our own personal experiences or maybe our expectations of a god. When we do that we come up with our own \_\_\_\_\_ "god." This is not an image of \_\_\_\_\_ or brass, but it is a \_\_\_\_\_ image. And it is \_\_\_\_\_ in what it is and what it can do, limited by one's own expectations of it. Such gods fit the description of Psalm 115:5-7; however, verse 3 says, "But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He \_\_\_\_\_."

It was God who worked five days making this magnificent \_\_\_\_\_ environment in which we live. On the sixth day He \_\_\_\_\_ man and woman. God is \_\_\_\_\_ and so was His creation (Genesis 1:31). God gave man (Adam) a \_\_\_\_\_ to "\_\_\_\_\_ " the garden and to not \_\_\_\_\_ of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:15-17).

Suddenly something happened that \_\_\_\_\_ the peace and tranquility of that lovely paradise garden. Evil – \_\_\_\_\_ – entered it. Adam \_\_\_\_\_ God. Because of man's disobedience, his sin, God put a \_\_\_\_\_ on the earth. The loving and just and almighty God, \_\_\_\_\_ a redeemer, the "seed of the woman" (Genesis 3:12-15) – His Son Jesus Christ. By Christ the family of man can be \_\_\_\_\_ to God (Romans 5:12; 2 Corinthians 7:15). Just as it was with \_\_\_\_\_ in the garden, natural disasters, tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, what are sometimes called "natural evils" are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the presence of sin in the well-ordered world of creation.

God made the world free of evil, but \_\_\_\_\_ to certain "natural laws" because they strictly regulate the world of nature. Life can flourish only in a \_\_\_\_\_ environment. There is the law of day and night; the law of gravity; the laws of sowing and reaping; and others that give \_\_\_\_\_ to life. It is by these dependable \_\_\_\_\_ laws that sometimes come tornadoes, floods, and the like.

There is a question: Are not some natural disasters sometimes due to the \_\_\_\_\_ of man? Yes, the great \_\_\_\_\_ of Genesis chapters 6 through 8 is a good example. However, Jesus gave two specific examples that show there must be other \_\_\_\_\_ for tornadoes and earthquakes, than God's intolerance of moral evil (Luke 13:1-5).

Does God ever \_\_\_\_\_ judgment on, or punish an evil society or nation? Yes, He does (Psalm 19:9). The present \_\_\_\_\_ state of our country should cause us to shudder. The solution is to change the \_\_\_\_\_ of people through repentance (Matthew 12:41; Luke 13:1-5). The message is clear, "Repent, and let everyone of you be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).