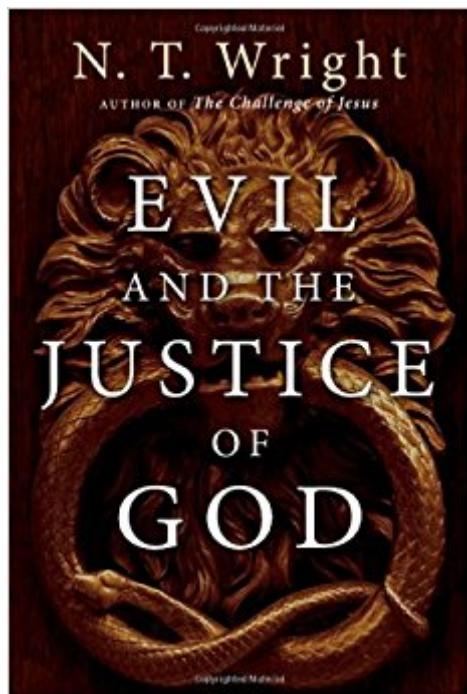


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# Evil And The Justice Of God



## **Synopsis**

Merit Award, 2007 Christianity Today Theology/Ethics Book With every earthquake and war, understanding the nature of evil and our response to it becomes more urgent. Evil is no longer the concern just of ministers and theologians but also of politicians and the media. We hear of child abuse, ethnic cleansing, AIDS, torture and terrorism, and rightfully we are shocked. But, N. T. Wright says, we should not be surprised. For too long we have naively believed in the modern idea of human progress. In contrast, postmodern thinkers have rightly argued that evil is real, powerful and important, but they give no real clue as to what we should do about it. In fact, evil is more serious than either our culture or our theology has supposed. How then might Jesus' death be the culmination of the Old Testament solution to evil but on a wider and deeper scale than most imagine? Can we possibly envision a world in which we are delivered from evil? How might we work toward such a future through prayer and justice in the present? These are the powerful and pressing themes that N. T. Wright addresses in this book that is at once timely and timeless.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Why does evil persist in a world created by a good God? And why does the church seem so feeble in counteracting evil? Wright, a New Testament scholar who is Anglican bishop of Durham, U.K., and author of several well-received volumes, including *Jesus and the Victory of God*, addresses these questions in a readable and compelling plea to renew the church's compassionate mission in these challenging times. While many look to secular institutions to fix society's problems, Wright

counsels that Christians must envision what life will be like in the coming Kingdom, and then suggests ways in which they can help bring about that world— one where suffering and war are things of the past. Wright expresses godly concern and deep devotion, and offers a vision that he believes is workable even in the midst of so many problems. He sees the call to the church as an extension of God's call to Israel: to be a light to all the nations, a vessel of God's love to the whole world. Jesus, he insists, "articulates and models the call to Israel to be Israel." Wright calls upon the church to accept the challenge to represent God in the world in its service and its witness, and to reach out to those who are hurting. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

When the bishop of Durham, Christian scholar and excellent popular exegete, turns to that sturdy theological tough nut, the problem of evil, he fills old answers with fresh hope. That is fortunate, for the two most current answers to it are hollow. The ideology of progress--that there is only constant improvement toward perfection--was quashed by the Holocaust, and the postmodernist tenet most succinctly stated as "Shit happens" declares us powerless to fight evil. But God, Wright argues, has conclusively answered the problem of evil in his promises to the Jews in the Old Testament and to everyone through Christ's death and resurrection. Wright's biblical exegesis is brilliant enough to revive many a flagging spirit, and the advice on how to use faith in God's promises to deal with evil in the real world is even more restorative. Live within the kingdom of God now, imaginatively but also really, by living in holiness, and practice forgiveness (e.g., in the nascent restorative justice movement). Familiar teaching made vital and compelling again. Ray OlsonCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

N.T. Wright deals well with the messy ambiguity of evil, not an easy task! The first chapter left me a little vexed and I think it was meant too. Evil is not something we can wrap our minds around easily. The review of the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament is one of the most clarifying summaries of this text that I have read. The adult Sunday school class I facilitate is studying this book now along with N. T. Wright's DVD on Evil. While the video and the book are matched by chapters, there is far too much in both to spend just one lesson on it. For example, we watched the video on the Old Testament one Sunday, discussed it that Sunday and the next, and the third Sunday we watched a cutting of the Old Testament segment of the DVD finalizing our discussion on that chapter in the book on the third Sunday. We then moved on to the chapter on the New Testament.

A little wordy at times. But helpful in terms of outlining the issues.

I recommend this book for those who have questions about why God "allows" evil to exist in the world. It is thought provoking and steers the readers' thinking in an entirely different direction than just getting his/her initial question answered.

Wright does not address the "why" of evil (because he, rightly in my opinion, states that Scripture is silent on the matter) as much as he addresses the "what" of evil: what God has decisively done and will do about evil, specifically through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The book raises many good, thought-provoking questions while offering a cursory overview of the subject and inviting further exploration by the reader.

N.T. Wright up to his usual well-grounded writing. We are using this in a small group study. There is lots of great material for discussion!

offering a great starting point in understanding just how "evil" is a presence in this fallen world.

great for the money

Evil and justice are popular discussion points these days, but very few authors have got down to the basics in such an insightful and strong manner. I bought this book after watching the TV series on DVD and appreciated the further points that he made in this book.

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