



Evil and the Justice of God

By N. T. Wright

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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.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

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.*)

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From [Booklist](#)

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 Olson*
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Review

"It is helpful to find an author who pushes readers toward a better understanding of evil instead of rushing to provide answers for why evil happens." (Myka Kennedy Stephens, *Congregational Libraries Today*, May/June 2008)

"The book is well written and easy to read. Wright's purpose is outlined from the beginning and is consistent throughout, providing a practical solution to the problem of evil. We are indebted to Wright for his contribution to this difficult subject of theodicy. An excellent tool for theologians and religion teachers as the book comes to grips with the reality of evil." (Augustin Tchamba, *Seminary Studies*, Andrews University, Autumn 2008)

"[D]eserves careful reading by all who are in any way seeking to understand the modern day challenges of evil. . . . I recommend this book. Its ultimate concern shines through to be pastoral and practical rather than merely satisfying philosophically." (Rodney Stent, *The Lamplighter*, November 2008)

"[A]n important and refreshing treatment of the problem of evil. . . . [A] gem for any pastor or theologically interested lay person." (David Loy, *Concordia Journal*, July 2008)

"Wright effectively phrases the believer's questions about such issues and recalls the foundations of faith that sustain one in the midst of suffering and ambiguity." (Donald Senior, www.bibletoday.com, May/June 2008)

"[A] very practical and thought-provoking composition that addresses the challenges and inherent connection between evil and the justice of God within both a postmodern Western context and a Judeo-Christian context." (Fitzroy Willis in *The Pneuma Review*, Spring 2008)

"Like all . . . Wright's works that I have so far read, this one is quite lucid and enjoyable to read." (Bryan, www.zealfortruth.org, January 8, 2008)

"N. T. Wright is one of the most influential thinkers in today's church, and his book helps us better understand why evil exists and points us to a day when it will be ultimately defeated. Wright's discussion of the power of the cross makes this excellent reading for pastors." (PreachingNOW newsletter, January 29, 2008)

"Bishop Wright inspires us. . . . All Christians can benefit from this well-written book." (George R. Carson for *Religious Studies Review*, April 2007)

"Wright takes a complex subject and in his usual delightful way provides a readable, stimulating, and profound account. . . . It will help equip believers with a biblical worldview on a matter which directly concerns us all." (Jeff Robertson for *Stone-Campbell Journal*, Fall 2007)

"[A] book with countless brilliant things in it." (*The Christian Century*, August 21, 2007)

"Wright will get you thinking outside your theological comfort zone and may open up new vistas to how to understand *Evil and the Justice of God*." (*The Daily Sentinel Religion*, December 20, 2006)

"The vivid reality of evil in our world pulls the questions of God's reality?and God's perplexing timing?to the fore. Wright, one of the Church's most penetrating contemporary theologians, places the age-old question of evil square in the new context of post-modernity, asserting that the cross and resurrection of Jesus have a decisive word to interject into our dark experiences." (*Relevant*, November 2007)

"Wright, one of the foremost theologians of our age, is always accessible and informative but the timeliness of the topic and the insightful way in which he approaches it from a solid Biblical foundation without becoming pedantic gives hope for those of us who care about the hard questions in life." (*The Anglican Digest*, Advent A.D. 2007)

"More successfully than I have seen him do before, Wright shows how the kingdom of God is not just a matter of going to heaven when you die or of reordering present reality, but the establishment of a new people and a new creation to serve God and reign on earth." (*The Christian Century*, August 21, 2007)

"The subject of evil itself is intriguing, and Bishop Wright keeps our eyes riveted on it. . . . This book's treasures are accessible to any serious reader. There is little in the way of scholarly or critical apparatus, jargon or references to obscure theologians to put one off. Quite the contrary, it reads like an informal speech, given by a knowledgeable individual speaking out of his hard won insights into a most vexing human and theological problem." (Kenneth J. Zanca, *Catholic Books Review*, <http://catholicbooksreview.org/2007/wright.htm>)

"Wright should be commended for refocusing us on what we ought to do with evil, rather than discussing

how it came to be. . . . His book can be profitable to pastors and theologians interested in reflecting on Biblically responsible ways to minister to an evil stricken and suffering world." (Stephen Vantassel, *Evangelical Review of Society and Politics*, February 2007)

"As always, Wright's arguments are well-conceived and timely; this is a highly recommended read." (Eric Hurtgen, *RELEVANT*, May/June 2007)

"[This book] is an excellent and readable work. The author does not pretend to answer all the philosophical questions that surround this issue, but he does offer some solid insights and encouragement." (MN, Church Libraries, Spring 2007)

"This short book is remarkable in its content. . . . It is an opportunity to sit at the feet of a real scholar as he deals with a topic complicated by various philosophies in order to find the truth. . . . This is a book of worth and wisdom that belongs in the church library." (Betty Waller, *The Lamplighter*, May 2007)

"Well written and accessible." (I. Birdwhistell, Georgetown College, *CHOICE*, May 2007)

"With his habitual unparalleled depth and brilliance, Tom Wright offers us in this book new starting points and fruitful paths for relocating and coming to grips with the problem of evil. Along the way he stirs us to fresh commitment to combat evil imaginatively and faithfully. This is a profound book much needed in these times full of catastrophes and conflicts." (Dr. Marva Dawn, theologian, author, educator with "Christians Equipped for Ministry," and Teaching Fellow in Spiritual Theology, Regent College, Vancouver, British Columbia)

"*Evil and the Justice of God* unravels any skeptic's doubt that a loving God can exist in a world so full of suffering. Tom Wright offers a breathtaking glimpse into the mind and purposes of God . . . and a hope-filled plan for how we can reconcile a broken world with the kingdom to come." (Peggy Wehmeyer, host, *World Vision Report*)

"Wright puts evil in perspective by giving us a powerfully persuasive vision of the 'new heavens and new earth,' the ultimate reality in which we can already begin to participate. This is a book that every thoughtful Christian should read." (John Wilson, editor, *Books & Culture*)

"The shadow of N. T. Wright looms large over the evangelical horizon. Wright has established himself as the scholar/activist/teacher to a generation of evangelicals. With the publication of *Evil and the Justice of God*, Wright enters an arena largely occupied by philosophers, and his entrance is timely indeed. With the tragic events of recent years, there has been a renewed interest in the problem of evil, and while philosophical discussions of the problem are helpful, the desperate need has been for a distinctively biblical approach to the topic by someone apt for handling the subject. *Evil and the Justice of God* stands alone in satisfying this need. From now on, it should be the first work consulted by Christian philosophers and theologians working on the problem of evil, and pastors, laypeople and Christian workers should read and internalize the perspective of the book to insure a distinctively biblical approach in ministering to people in the face of evil." (J. P. Moreland, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Talbot School of Theology, and coauthor (with Klaus Issler) of *The Lost Virtue of Happiness* (NavPress))

"*Evil and the Justice of God* is a sure-footed, lively summary of the subject in Scripture and Christian thought. Its central contentions are that the problem of evil has to be confronted in creation, not apart from it, that human beings have a part to play in that drama, and that such a role belongs with what it means to be truly and completely human. Suffering need not remain an eternal riddle; it is a pillar of the structure of

reality and of the purpose of God. The book is an immensely useful introduction to one of the great issues of human existence." (Lamin Sanneh, Professor of World Christianity and of History, Yale University)

Users Review

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Lorraine Briggs:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the e-book entitled Evil and the Justice of God. Try to make the book Evil and the Justice of God as your good friend. It means that it can for being your friend when you sense alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every little thing by the book. So , let me make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

Donald Freeman:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or their friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you wish to something different to fill your free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book might be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the reserve untitled Evil and the Justice of God can be fine book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Denise Adams:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specifically book entitled Evil and the Justice of God your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe not known for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a reserve then become one web form conclusion and explanation in which maybe you never get ahead of. The Evil and the Justice of God giving you an additional experience more than blown away your brain but also giving you useful info for your better life in this particular era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern this is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

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book by its handle, so do you still needing another sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your examining sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to a different sixth sense.

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