

METAPHYSICAL BIBLE INTERPRETATION

Being All I Am Created To Be:

Gospels Interpretation

Part 8

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Three of the most misunderstood concepts included in Biblical literature are: Sin, Evil, and the Devil. When the root meanings and the history of these words are understood, all of the dogma that has surrounded these concepts melts like ice in the warmth of the sun; the darkness disappears in the light of understanding.

The word Sin comes from the Latin word *Syne* which is an archery term that literally means to miss the mark. When an archer misses the bulls eye he has synned. To sin is to make a mistake or not live up to our potential. The answer to sin is to "...go, and sin no more." (John 8:11) We learn from our mistakes though the learning may be a painful "hellish" experience.

The beginning of the awareness of Evil is symbolized by the Garden of Eden story where Adam eats of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:15-3:19) Adam becomes aware of the possibility for something other than good, God, which we call evil. But in reality, evil has no existence in and of its self. In Truth it is all good. "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good." (Gen 1:31) God never made no junk. The awareness of the appearance of evil facilitates our growth in realizing our potential. Just as fire tempers steel, we are stronger for the challenges that we have met and surpassed.

The Devil concept has grown out of the human need to assess blame for apparent evil upon a supernatural force, and therefore remove our responsibility for taking care of ourselves, our neighbors and our planet. It is beyond our control. The word comes from the Chaldean "Satre" which means: adversary, tempter, tester. He symbolizes that within us which draws to us the challenges (apparent evils) that can strengthen us and lead us to a greater realization of heaven on earth.

The Old Testament "Satan" was a member of God's heavenly host. During the period of the "Babylonian Captivity" (586-538 BCE) the Israelites were exposed to the dualistic Zoroastrian Religion. This influence spurred the development of the "Satan" concept into the New Testament "Diablo" or Devil and the belief that we are locked in this struggle between the forces of darkness and the forces of light that pervades traditional and fundamental Christianity. This is contrary to the teachings of Jesus who clearly says that this belief is the starting point for all error "because there is no truth in him." (John 8:44) The Devil does not exist in and of its self. It only exists in the mind darkened by sense consciousness, in the lives of those who are not able to lift their vision beyond the physical plane of existence and see the glory of God which is all about them ready to express through them in abundance.