

Did God Create Evil?

Did the God of this universe create evil? Dr. Peter Kreeft, a philosophy professor at Villanova University wrote these words concerning this very important question:

“Although God created humans with free-will, **God is not the creator of evil**. He created the **possibility** of evil; his created humans actualized that potentiality. The source of evil is not God’s power, but mankind’s freedom.”

Although Dr. Kreeft is on record saying that God did not create evil, Isaiah 45:7 in the *King James Version* would seem to say that he did. ***I [God] form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.*** What are we to believe?

The Layman’s Bible Encyclopedia says this about evil: “The Greek and Hebrew words which are translated ‘evil’ in the Bible may refer to either ‘physical’ or ‘moral’ evil—that is, to anything that causes pain, suffering, or unhappiness, including discipline or punishment sent by God: The precise meaning of the word must be determined by its context. In the sense that God sometimes sends adversity on mankind, he may properly be spoken as the ‘creator of evil;’ this is not, however, to be understood as moral evil, for James 1:13 says, ***‘Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man.’***”

The Matthew Henry Commentary footnote for Isaiah 45:7 says that “the word ‘evil’ in ***‘I...create evil’*** is not the evil of sin (God is not the author of that), but the evil of punishment.”

Isaiah 45:7 in The NIV Study Bible would seem to agree with *The Layman’s Bible Encyclopedia* and *The Matthew Henry Commentary’s* assessment of the word ‘evil’ by saying, ***“I [God] form the light, and create darkness: I bring prosperity and create disaster: I the Lord do all these things.”***

It would seem as though Dr. Peter Kreeft was accurate when he stated that ***“God is not the creator of evil***. Although God created the possibility of evil, his created humans actualized that potentiality. The first example of this “evil/punishment” arrangement recorded in the Bible occurred when Adam and Eve both demonstrated that they were evil when they ate the forbidden fruit. After that event, God implemented the appropriate punishment for that evil. That arrangement is still in affect today.