



Evil is Real

but it is not Forever

11 FEBRUARY 2024

STEPHEN SPENCE

Evil is Real, it is **NOT** God's Secret Will

LAST WEEK: Before creation of time and space, **God is love.**

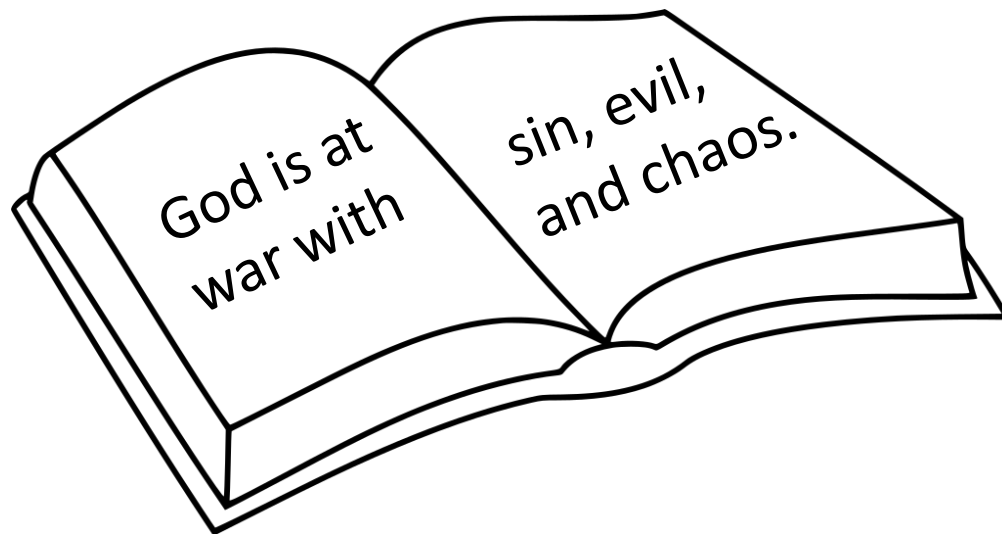
- ❖ The *perichoretic* relationship of Father, Son, and Spirit is love.
- ❖ God's love is true, it is never coercive.

God is love gives meaning to the truth that **God is Almighty.**

All people, including God's people, experience suffering and evil. The Bible repeatedly acknowledge the reality of this suffering.

THIS WEEK: God does not will evil. Evil opposes God's good and loving will for his Creation. Evil is not a part of God's so-called secret will. God overcomes evil to achieve his good and loving will for his Creation.

The Bible is more concerned with the **Exodus** of evil than with the **Genesis** of evil.



Where did it come from?

Theologian

When/how will it be defeated?

Pastor, Prophet

The Reality of Sinning



Sin is crouching at the door, eager to control you. But you must subdue it and be its master.” Genesis 4:7

The outcome of our sinning is alienation from God and from others. Love calls us home.

Sinning has an origin story/stories, but Sin does not have a back story. (Talking Snake and Crouching Tigers)

(God to Cain) Sin is a choice we make that can come to master us.

The guilt and its power of sin is **OVERCOME** by the cross and resurrection (and Pentecost).

The Reality of Sin, Death, Principalities, and Powers, Babylon and the Beast

The doom of the dragon, the beast, the false prophet, and those who follow them and choose the ways of Babylon repeatedly attack God and his people is sealed. The dragon, the beast and the false prophet are cast into the lake of burning sulphur (Rev 19:20; 20:10).

The End will come (1 Cor 15:24-27)... Since Death is the ultimate opponent of divine order, the death of death represents the establishment of the ultimate divine order.

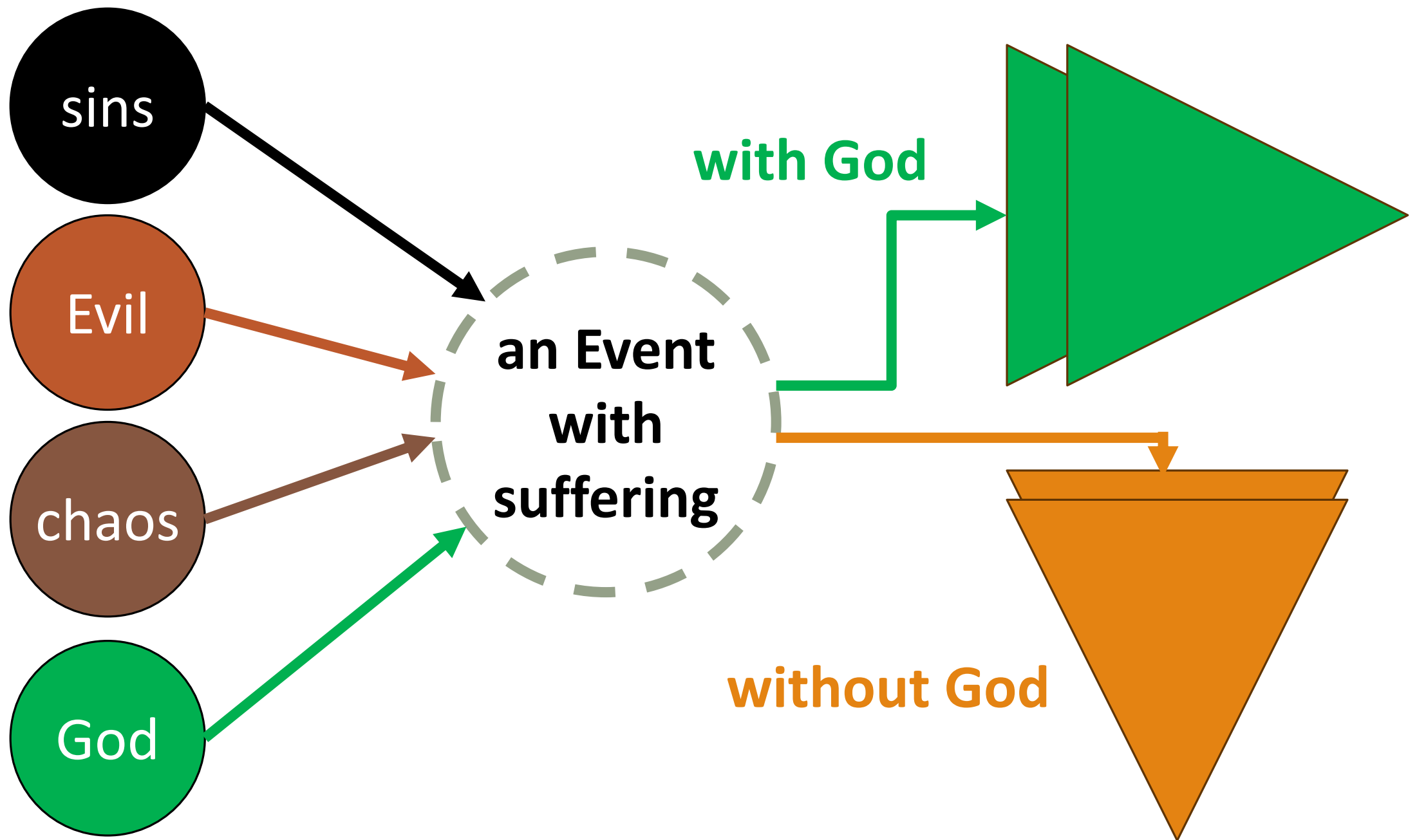
Revelation is the last book in the Bible and describes the Final Battle(s)

The Reality of Chaos

In Revelation, the Old Testament, and the Gospels the imagery of storms and the sea describe the evil threat of chaos.

God is repeatedly shown to be the master of chaos and is capable to making it serve his will. But chaos continues to be a threat to God's good rule of his Creation.

Which is why the FINAL triumph of God includes the assurance that in the new heaven and earth, **the sea was also gone.** Revelation 21:1



God works in all things...

Clarification: Romans 8:28

(A) God makes all things work together...

(B) **In all things God works...**

Whatever the source of our trials, God is working in love with creativity **for our good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose...** [to be conformed to the image of Jesus]

Living in the “Not Yet” Time

The battle is on.

The call to faithful perseverance has been issued.

We are to follow the way of Christ (and resist Babylon’s corruptions)

This may result in miracles and martyrdom, along the way.

But the God who is love is on the move.

Looking forward to the Triumphant End

Evil is real. It is at war with God.

The final eradication of evil clears the way for the transformation of Jerusalem (Rev 21:2).

- ❖ Sorrow, pain and suffering will no longer plague the city, for all the former woes will have “passed away” (Rev 21:3-4).
- ❖ This new Jerusalem will enjoy the full presence of God forevermore (Rev 21:3, 11).

Sin is forgiven and healed. Chaos defeated. Evil and Death swallowed up.