

# OPEN THEODICY

## AN ANALYSIS OF THE OPEN THEIST ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

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Scholar Week Presentation

# Overview



- Why Theodicy?
- Historical Development
- Views of Open Theism
- Open Theodicy
- Analysis

# Why Theodicy?

- What is Theodicy?
  - ▣ The answer to the question of why God permits evil
- Popular Topic
  - ▣ Formal and Informal
  - ▣ Sacred and Secular
  - ▣ Believer and Nonbeliever
- How to make this study unique?
  - ▣ Open Theism's view of Theodicy

# Problems in Theodicy



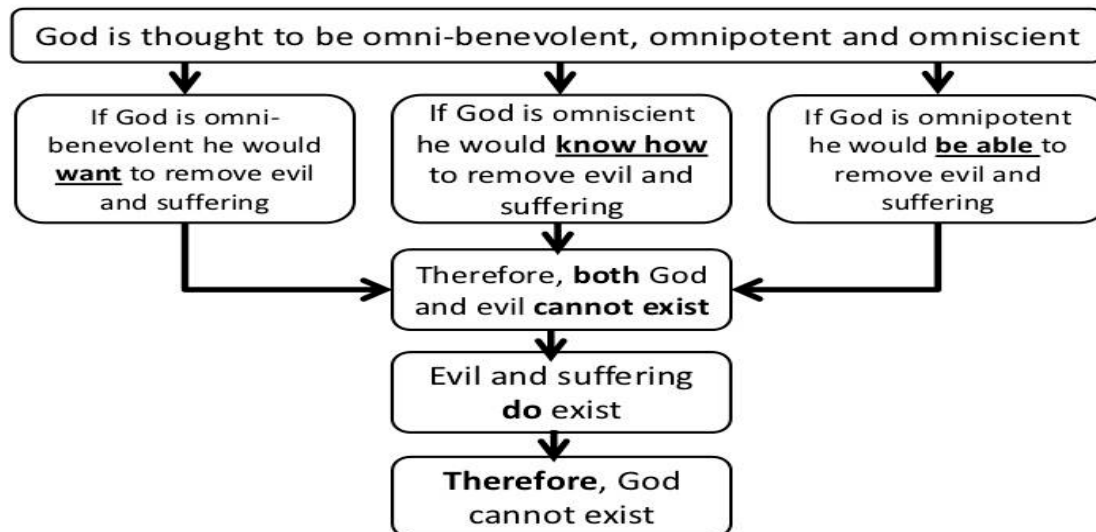
# Historical Development

- Scripture
  - ▣ Genesis
  - ▣ Job
- Early Church Fathers
  - ▣ Irenaeus
  - ▣ Augustine
- Two Poles:
  - ▣ Determinism (Sovereignty)
    - E.g., Reformed, Calvinist, Lutheran
  - ▣ Indeterminism (Free Will)
    - E.g., Deism, Process Theology



# Historical Development

- J.L. Mackie, “Evil and Omnipotence” (1955)
  - God is omnipotent. God is omniscient. God is omnibenevolent. Evil exists.
- Alvin Plantinga, *God, Freedom, and Evil* (1977)
  - Free-Will Defense



# Open Theism's Beginnings

- Term introduced in Richard Rice's *The Openness of God: The Relationship of Divine Foreknowledge and Human Free Will* (1980)
- Further developed in *The Openness of God: A Biblical Challenge to the Traditional Understanding of God* (1994)
  - ▣ Compilation of 5 Essays: Pinnock, Rice, Sanders, Hasker, and Basinger
- Other Notable Contributors:
  - ▣ Oord, Swinburne, Boyd

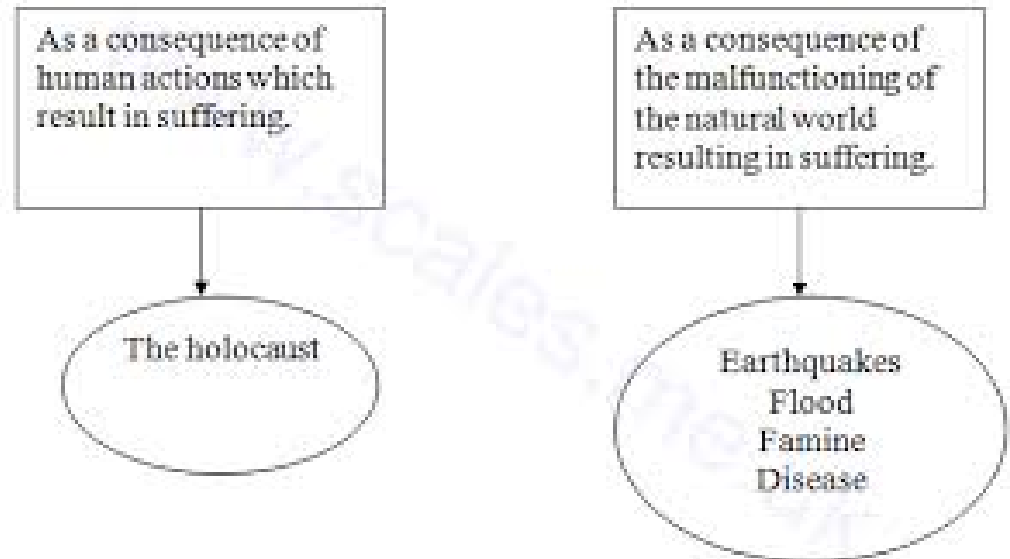
# Views of Open Theism

- Future and God's Knowledge are "Open"
- Libertarian Free-Will
- Omniscience
  - ▣ No Foreknowledge
- Omnipotence
- Why?
  - ▣ Love



# Open Theodicy

- Moral vs. Natural Evil
- Moral
  - ▣ Libertarian Free Will
  - ▣ Omniscience affects Omnipotence
- Natural
  - ▣ World-Type
  - ▣ Demonic Activity



Source:

[https://www.google.com/search?q=moral+vs+natural+evil+theodicy&rlz=1C1CHZL\\_enUS692US692&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj1w6Kksb\\_aAhV11oMKHYYJBhQQ\\_AUICigB&biw=1408&bih=656#imgrc=6C72DEKUhmvb3M:](https://www.google.com/search?q=moral+vs+natural+evil+theodicy&rlz=1C1CHZL_enUS692US692&source=lnms&tbn=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj1w6Kksb_aAhV11oMKHYYJBhQQ_AUICigB&biw=1408&bih=656#imgrc=6C72DEKUhmvb3M:)

# Analysis

- Providence
- Biblical Interpretation
- Swaying on the Deterministic Spectrum
  - ▣ Deistic Open Theism
  - ▣ Providential Open Theism

