

# Theodicy

theos (God) + dike (justice)

The problem of a just God and an evil world

How can God permit evil?

How can God ordain injustice?

# The wrath of God

How can a loving God send anyone to hell?

How can a loving God command genocide?

**Love your enemy**

## Partial explanations

1. A response to the severity of human depravity.
2. An expression of a gradual disclosure of the divine nature.
3. Shared part of ancient culture.
4. An example of accommodation to human nature and development.
5. A part of the **bigger story of human redemption.**

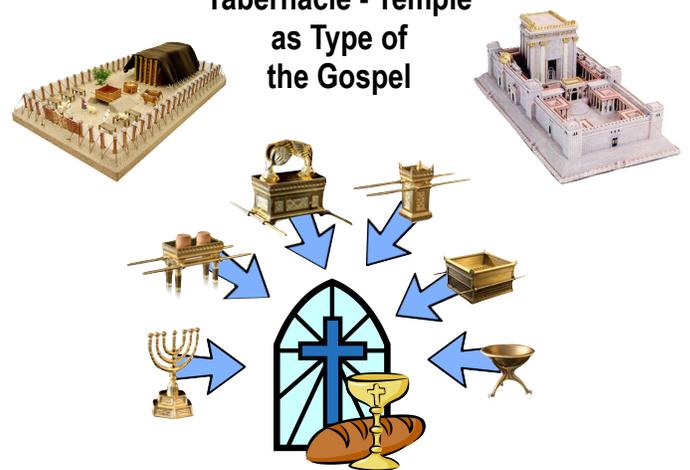
How are we to deal with Biblical contradictions?

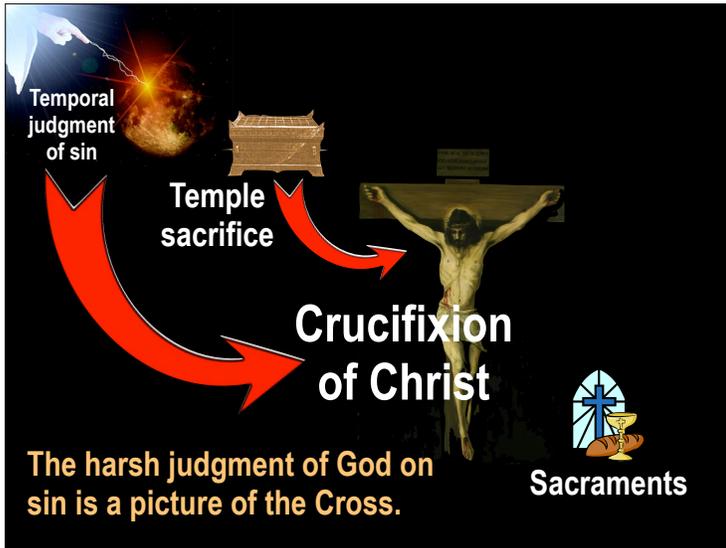
Paradox (enigma)	Puzzle (mystery)	Paradigm (myth)	Picture (type)
Truths that defy logic	Truths that are logical once all the information is known	Truths that are a story-guide to life	Truths that represent a "shadow of what is to come"
Trinity	Church (Jew & Gentile)	The sin of Adam & Eve	Tabernacle
Accept	Wait	Personalize	Learn

## Midrash / Type

	Joseph	Jesus
Loved by father	Gen.37:3	John 3:35
A shepherd	Gen.37:2	John 10:11-14
Sent by father to brethren	Gen.37:13-14	John 1:11
Hated by his brethren	Gen.37:4,5,8	John 15:25
Betrayed by brothers	Gen.37:18-24	John 11:53
Stripped of his coat	Gen.37:23	John 19:23-24
Cast into a pit	Gen.37:24	Luke 23:50-55
Sold for the price of a slave	Gen.37:28	Matthew 26:15
Suffered because of brethren	Gen.39:1-40:13	Mathew 27:33-35
Tempted	Gen.39:7	Matthew 4:1-11
Offered no defense	Gen.39:20	John 18:19-38
Given glory after suffering	Gen.41:14,41	Luke 24:13-27

## Tabernacle - Temple as Type of the Gospel





## The same “wrathful” language is used to describe the fate of Messiah

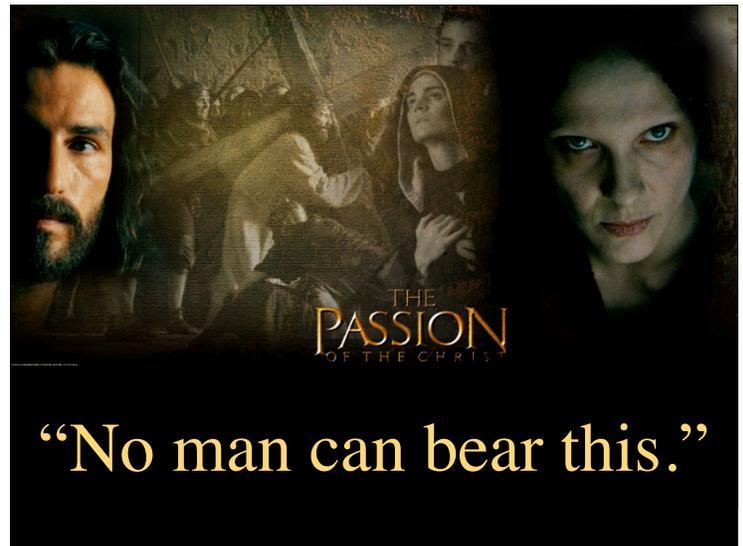
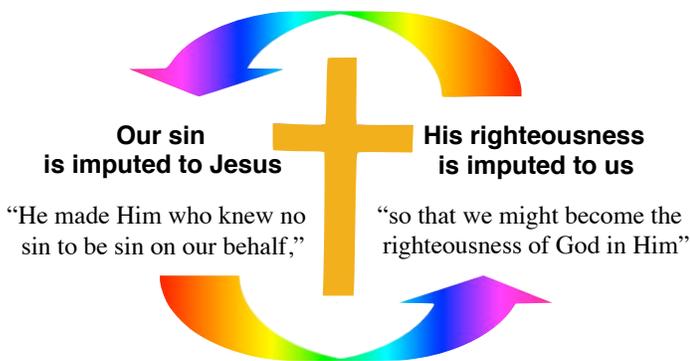
Isaiah 53

“4 Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him **stricken by God, smitten by him**, and afflicted. 5 But he was **pierced** for our transgressions, he was **crushed** for our iniquities; the **punishment** that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 . . . the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. . . . 12 . . . For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Luke 24:26

“Was it not **necessary for the Christ to suffer these things** and to enter into His glory?”

## The Great Exchange



ἱλασμος **hilasmos**  
to satisfy the just wrath of God against sin  
“**propitiation**”

Romans 3:25

“whom God displayed publicly as a **propitiation** in His blood through faith.”

1 John 2:2

“and He Himself is the **propitiation** for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

Those who stumble at the wrath of God in Deuteronomy must also stumble at the wrath of God in the Crucifixion of Messiah.

“Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.” Rom.9:33

The wrath of God in the Old Testament reveals the seriousness of human sin and the crucifixion of Christ.

**Why is this so hard for many of us to accept?**