

Isaiah 45:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

Analysis

This profound verse attributes all reality to God: 'I form light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.' The Hebrew 'bara' (create) is used for both light and darkness, peace and evil ('ra' - calamity/adversity, not moral evil). God's sovereignty extends to all circumstances, both blessing and judgment.

Historical Context

This directly challenges Persian dualism where separate deities controlled light/good and darkness/evil. Isaiah declares one God sovereign over all reality, including adversity.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereignty over both light and darkness affect your understanding of suffering?
2. What comfort comes from knowing that even dark circumstances are under God's control?

Interlinear Text

יֹצֵר	אֹר	וְבָרָא	חֹשֶׁךְ	עָשָׂה	שָׁלוֹם	וְבָרָא	רָע
I form	the light	and create	darkness	I make	peace	and create	evil
H3335	H216	H1254	H2822	H6213	H7965	H1254	H7451
אֲנִי	יְהוָה	עָשָׂה	כָּל	אֵלֵהֶם:			
H589	I the LORD	I make	H3605	H428			
	H3068	H6213					

Additional Cross-References

Amos 3:6 (Evil): Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?

Psalms 75:7 (Parallel theme): But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

Job 2:10 (Evil): But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

Amos 4:13 (Creation): For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.

Isaiah 31:2 (Evil): Yet he also is wise, and will bring evil, and will not call back his words: but will arise against the house of the evildoers, and against the help of them that work iniquity.

Jeremiah 31:35 (Light): Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:

Jeremiah 51:20 (Parallel theme): Thou art my battle axe and weapons of war: for with thee will I break in pieces the nations, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;

Jeremiah 13:16 (Light): Give glory to the LORD your God, before he cause darkness, and before your feet stumble upon the dark mountains, and, while ye look for light, he turn it into the shadow of death, and make it gross darkness.

Nahum 1:8 (Darkness): But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies.

Acts 4:28 (Parallel theme): For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.