

Proverbs 16:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

Analysis

The LORD made all things for Himself, including the wicked for judgment day. This asserts God's absolute sovereignty and right to glorify Himself through all creation. Even evil serves God's purposes, though He is not its author. The wicked's judgment displays God's justice, vindicating His holiness.

Historical Context

Pharaoh's hardening (Exodus 9:16) exemplifies God raising up the wicked to demonstrate His power. Paul uses this in Romans 9:17-22 to expound divine sovereignty in salvation and judgment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's absolute sovereignty comfort you amid evil's prevalence?
2. What does it mean that God made all things ultimately for His own glory?

Interlinear Text

בָּשָׁעָם יְגַם לְפָנָת הָוֹן פָּעַל הָיָה ! הָיָה כְּלָל הָמָתָה

H3605 **hath made** H6466 H3068 H4617 H1571 **all things for himself** H7563 **yea even the wicked**

בְּעֹתָה: לְיָמִים
for the day of evil

H3117 H7451

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 2:9 (References Lord): The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

Romans 9:22 (Parallel theme): What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

Isaiah 43:21 (Parallel theme): This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.

Isaiah 43:7 (Creation): Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

1 Peter 2:8 (Parallel theme): And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

2 Peter 2:3 (Parallel theme): And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Job 21:30 (Evil): That the wicked is reserved to the day of destruction? they shall be brought forth to the day of wrath.

Romans 11:36 (Parallel theme): For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

Revelation 4:11 (Creation): Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

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