

~ Einstein – Man of the Century ~

Normally, we would not be impressed with who is credited as “Man of the Century”. Men may give credit and honor to whomever they will, and it is of little concern for the Christian. Only those who are listed in the Lamb’s Book of Life really gain our full admiration. All the rest is temporary and men may indeed find a place of recognition for a few short years.

Certainly as a mathematician and scientist, Dr. Einstein demonstrated extraordinary capabilities. Probably he was among the greatest in modern times. However, why should a mathematician be considered for the honor of being the “Man of the Century”? It seems that the world worships at the altar of science and, hence, Einstein was head and shoulders above others. However, some wanted to give Hitler a place of recognition. No person on earth caused more pain and loss of life than did he. Yet, Hitler did command a lot of power. Many of us still remember how the crowds would chant, “Sic Heil! Sic Heil! Sic Heil!” when Hitler stood before them. There was almost an aura about him that enchanted the German masses. Of course, the masses were not chanting when one thousand bombers roared over Germany unloading their cargo of death almost daily. The German people would have

been better served by heeding the Apostle John’s words, “Little children, keep yourselves from idols”. (1 John 5: 21)

Why Does God Permit Evil?

Few people knew that there was one question that Einstein sought an answer to. That question was, “Why does God permit evil?” He lived through the terrible years of World War II where some sixty million people died, and he was very conscious of the cruelty of that war. He also knew of the diabolical ethnic cleansing taking place in the death camps of Europe. Evil was rampant in his world and he sought answers to man’s cruelty to man, and to the insane driven power of some men to dominate others. The question Dr. Einstein repeatedly asked rabbis and priests and men of the cloth that he encountered was, “Why does God permit evil?” Sad to say, not one of the ministers he asked could answer his question. Most felt that God had the power to stop the evil, but none could answer why he did not. That, then, becomes the question of the “Man of the Century”, which we would like to address.

Who Will Believe How Far Evil Has Gone?

One of the problems facing society today is that many people will not believe what has already

happened. David Irving is suing Penguin books and Professor Deborah Lipstadt of Emory University in Atlanta for libel because she has written that he is a Holocaust denier. There have been revisionists all along that denied the Holocaust in various ways, but none have been so bold as to bring a lawsuit for their defense. Irving contends that the Poles built the gas chambers at the extermination camp at Auschwitz after the war for a tourist attraction. This despite living witnesses who survived that tell of the horrors committed there. There are pictures, personal witnesses, plus the military personnel that freed those in the death camps at the close of the war. Still David Irving defends Hitler and the German regime from guilt in this matter. When a woman accosted him and said her parents were gassed at Auschwitz, he answered her by saying, "You may be pleased to know that they almost certainly died of typhus, as did Anne Frank". A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still. It seems unlikely that the Gestapo was sending trainload after trainload of Jews to these death camps so that they could die there of typhus.

Revisionists of History

The same denial of reality takes place in many ways today. For

instance, when the Encyclopedia Britannica used to tell of the Holy (?) Inquisition, some religious leaders threatened to boycott their use in parochial schools. They wanted the language modified as well as the records softened to make whatever took place back there seem normal for that time and place. Soon Britannica had to publish history to make it politically correct for our time. If something is too awful to tell such as the screams and groans coming from the torture chambers of Inquisition victims, modern language can modify it. We can question that it ever happened, or even if it did happen, that it was only some anomaly of that time. That is what revisionists do and they are very good at it. In other words, some evils are too evil and reprehensibly wicked to tell in truthful detail, so it must be told in a politically correct way as a guiltless and faceless crime.

If God had not allowed evil a rather free reign, would anyone ever believe that evil would lead to crimes and vices bordering on total depravity? However, every sin and crime is recorded in God's memory and He may play it back at a later time to affirm accurately what actually happened.

Can God Cause the Wrath of Man to Praise Him?

The Bible tells us that Jesus was the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”. (Revelation 13: 8) This means that God foreknew that man would sin and He also knew how far sin would play itself out before He intervened to stop it. Evil will have an end on earth. We pray, “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.” We know that “scripture cannot be broken”. (John 10: 35) God knew how costly sin would be because it would require His son to die to redeem us. Yet, God still proceeded with His plan to permit evil to become active for a limited time period. God also foreknew the depravity of sin and how mankind would steadily slide down the slippery slope of sin. Would He have proceeded with this plan if He did not have a happy and blessed outcome to it? Surely not! The wise man said, “Sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.” (Ecclesiastes 1: 13) The permission of evil shall ultimately have a lasting blessing of good far greater than the sum of pain and misery caused by the reign of evil. God in His foreknowledge knew that the good that would eventuate from evil would exceed the harm.

“In the Regeneration”

The permission of evil can be best understood in the context of the resurrection when lessons of the present life with evil will be remembered during the “regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory” and lift mankind up out of sin. (Matthew 19: 28) No one may understand why God permits evil unless he recognizes that God has reserved a day for detoxification from sin. This is spoken of in Acts 3: 19-21: “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ which before was preached unto you: whom the heavens must receive until the times of restitution of all things which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” The regenerated human race will learn righteousness in the day of Christ. The pain of being scrubbed clean will depend on how deep rooted sin is in the human heart. Character is being developed and destroyed in this life. In the regeneration, the people will learn “righteousness”.

“Through Much Tribulation”

“We must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of God.” (Acts 22: 14) Christ has a very small

number of disciples called to suffer with him so that they may reign with him over the earth regenerating mankind. This “little flock” is promised that “After you have suffer a little while, the God of all grace...will himself restore, establish, and strengthen you”. (1 Peter 5: 10) Before receiving a heavenly reward they are called to suffer before entering glory, even as did their Master.

Dr. Einstein’s question – why does God permit evil? – is answered in *The Divine Plan of the Ages*, in the chapter on “The Permission of Evil and Its Relation to God’s Plan”. It is the best explanation yet. To receive a free copy, click **REPLY**, and send an e-mail asking for it. Include the name of this publication, your name, and your mailing address. ♦