Introduction

I was reading about Covid 19 and abortion. There is a belief that God can do evil if its end result is for the greater good such as sending His one and only Son to die on the cross. I do not follow this belief because God is the author of all creation and so the author of what is good and evil. In Genesis we ate from the Tree of Knowledge and learned of Good and Evil, and we now live in a fallen world. God is <u>not</u> responsible, He is a Good and unchanging God, but when an evil situation occurs, God will use His infinite wisdom to bring Good out of evil. He does miracles! God is Love, Compassionate, Merciful and Gracious and Good to all.

His consistent character is easily seen throughout the Bible. *Psalm 145:8-9* "The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, Slow to anger and great in mercy. 9 The Lord is good to all, And His tender mercies are over all His works."

Many reasons exist why God allowed Jesus to die and the following are quick thoughts. Only the blood of Jesus, the perfect sinless man could atone for sin for all eternity. God never desired animal sacrifice and put an end to the need to do so. A direct relationship with God was restored. As for abortion, even today Babies are being sacrificed yet God never commanded it. My position is God will view the evil of murdering children as abominable. See *Jeremiah 32:35* "And they built the high places of Baal which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin.""

Men Take Bribes to Slay the Innocent (evil)

Deuteronomy 27:25 'Cursed is the one who takes a bribe to slay an innocent person.'And all the people shall say, 'Amen! Jesus was innocent and Judas took a bribe which resulted in Jesus being slain. Judas became cursed and hung himself. We must choose, our rewards on Earth or in Heaven and Judas chose his reward on earth. People today accept money to do an abortion of an innocent baby, the pharmacies make money from the vaccines developed through harvesting organs from their bodies, whilst the babies are still alive! They justify this by saying it is for the greater good, a life to save lives, but it is deceitful, self serving, it is serving two masters. It is sinful and evil.

I think Jesus saw things as black and white and He did not compromise on anything, He would not take the middle ground. Jesus made his position clear when he addresses the church of Laodiceans in *Revelation 3:15-16* "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth." - we can not be indecisive, we have to make up our mind! Or else God will spew us out. We know abortion is evil and an abomination to God, we must not be deliberately ignorant by telling ourselves it is for a greater good.

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

Matthew 26:24 "The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

You cannot serve two masters; you cannot serve both mammon and God. Judas tried it, he was indecisive and paid the price - because the result was that He also killed himself. It is sinful and evil and one could argue that we are back in the days of Noah.

God's Judgement is Merciful (good)

Some might argue that "flooding the world and nearly wiping out mankind was evil." But God is Righteous and Holy and sin requires judgement so I will argue, "No, it was an act of mercy." It was merciful because God spared mankind. God would have been justified to have eradicated mankind. Man is God's most precious treasure, yet once again we have fallen deep in sin, we could become nothing more than filth in God's eyes. The world ought to be seeking God and repenting.

In Noah's day, God looked down on man and saw much sin, He also saw a man called Noah; one man with a heart that still wanted to walk with God, with ears to hear and eyes to see, so God could use this man in His plan for salvation. It is through Noah and by Grace that we exist today. Nothing Good remained in the world; other than one man. With perfect timing God cleansed the earth and rescued the only upright man left - Noah. Today, we have an even greater than Noah, we have Jesus.

God Speaks the Truth (good)

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the Truth. Everyone who is of the Truth hears My voice."

God was <u>not</u> doing evil by sending Jesus to die, in fact He sent Him to speak the <u>Truth</u>, although it would result in His death. God being omniscient knew sending Jesus to speak the Truth at this precise moment will result in His death - through betrayal. God

did not say "Go and die", Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself to obey the Father by speaking the Truth. He had a choice and so did the murderers! God is not responsible for the circumstances that led to the death of Jesus, but God did have a plan and chose when, where and how by choosing the day and time to send us His Son. God did not make the Jews shout "Crucify Him", that came from the poor condition of their own hearts and God used this in His design to bring good out of bad by washing us in His own blood - to put an end to death and restore mankind into a relationship with God - for all eternity. God's timing was perfect.

Being born from a virgin and a descendant of King David, and being rejected makes Jesus a fulfillment of written prophecy and a miracle. God knew making claims of deity and speaking Truth meant the rulers will kill Him, yet if left to our own devices all of mankind would end up in Hell. By God's Wisdom their resistance to the Truth is used to further His almighty plan. God knew how Israel will react - He turned their evil act of murdering Him into something amazing. Jesus never compromised, He sacrificed Himself and is now exalted and capable of saving everyone - Jesus is the Truth and anyone with ears to hear and eyes to see whom believes the Truth is forgiven.

But if Jesus was <u>not</u> officially sent to die, why does **1** John **4:7-11** say "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." ? I think... because God is omniscient you can explain it this way, "God <u>sent</u> His son to die" because it was known He will be rejected before being sent, and God knew He will die by crucifixion; but God did not say "Crucify Me". It is the effect of making His claims of deity that caused many hearts to harden, hearing the Truth caused a reaction and they were blinded by hardened hearts. But they had a choice and could have accepted the Truth by faith. The purpose was to reach out to Israel, I believe God knew that waiting for Israel to change their hearts towards Him with their whole heart was futile. God had sent many Prophets to Israel warning them and they were killed. But God is Love and He Loves mankind and sending Jesus His Son was an act of reaching out to Israel, but also a gift to the whole world.

Men Sell Joseph Sold into Slavery (evil) (God turns it into good)

Another fulfillment of prophecy whilst bringing good out of evil, with perfect timing, is found In *Genesis 37:28*. Joseph was sold into slavery. "As the Midianite merchants were passing by, the brothers pulled Joseph out of the cistern. They sold him to the Ishmaelites for eight ounces of silver. The Ishmaelites took him to Egypt." Joseph declared in Genesis 50:20 "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive." Joseph faced murder but slave traders appeared just in time and He was sold into slavery, this sounds evil but Joseph is alive! It is Good, and it was beneficial in fulfilling God's promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Joseph's afflictions brought him to a place of surrender and forgiveness and then God raised up Joseph in Egypt. God saved Joseph who in turn saved others. The suggestion that God will use the afflictions of aborted (murdered) babies to save the lives of others via any vaccine is not a justifiable comparison. Our God saves! Not by sacrificing Humans, but God stopped Isaac from being sacrificed, Human sacrifice is not God's way. He promised to provide a Sacrifice and He did. Jesus our God is the one and only acceptable life giving sacrifice, and in comparison with Joseph, Jesus is betrayed for silver and what man intended for evil God intended to use for good.

God A Willing Sacrifice (good)

Jesus said in John 15:12-13 "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." Jesus willingly sacrificed His life to save us, out of Love for mankind. All who choose to believe in the Truth are His friends. There is a great difference between a willing sacrifice and forced, Every baby that is aborted did not die willingly. They did not lay down their own lives... they are murdered in cold blood. God will not turn that into good. If He did, He would be sending the wrong message by becoming a participant in this evil. He would not be their friend. It is not for a greater good.

God Seeks the Lost Sheep (good)

In *Matthew 15:24* Jesus said to a gentile "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Jesus official mission was to be a shepherd for the spiritually lost in Israel, the Jews are a flock of sheep that have gone astray. Yet by God's Love, Grace and Mercy, Jesus went the extra mile and gave His own life - for the whole world, by allowing Himself to die God defeated death and satan. In the parable below, The master of a vineyard sends his Son with a message for the caretakers but is rejected. The vineyard is Israel and the Master is the Father and Jesus the Son.

Matthew 21:33-43

"Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. 34 Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. 35 And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. 37 Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38 But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' 39 So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him.

"Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'? 43 "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.

You can see in *Matthew 21:33-43* Jesus knew that He would die. The servants are Prophets, sent to minister to Israel, warning them to repent of sin and render to God what is Gods; some were murdered. God is merciful and patient, instead of pouring out His wrath on Israel, He sends His Son Jesus, who is also murdered. Jesus was sent to convict them, to show them signs and miracles so they will repent and finally render to God what is rightfully His. Jesus said to them "Render to God what is God's." They were not keeping the Law, they failed to follow the Ten Commandments; therefore none were righteous, all have gone astray, all are heading to Hell. See Psalm 14. "They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one."

God Set the Standard (good)

Jesus summarised the Ten Commandments in *Matthew 22:37-40* Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

The Ten Commandments are Holy and created to be the standard for salvation; it makes sin much clearer and summarises the Law. Having a law gives you something to judge against. It was created as the doorway to Heaven if only its rules could be fully kept, but men were incapable, so the law required animal sacrifice to atone for sin, because without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. When Jesus died, having never broken any commandments, the doorway to Heaven that sin kept shut was opened - Jesus the Son of God then resurrected and became the open door. The commandments are a way to Heaven that no man can achieve, but only God's Son. God set the standard therefore Jesus is the standard. By believing in Jesus we have Life, by faith in Him we enter through the doorway to Heaven as unblemished, viewed without sin having been washed in His own precious blood. The veil is torn because through Jesus Christ we can now have a direct relationship with God our Father again.

God Appointed Judas (good)

But some still might argue that "Jesus appointed Judas and sent Judas to betray Him..." and that it is evil.

John 6:70-71 Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?" 71 He spoke of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

John 13:27 - 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly."

What a privilege to be selected as an Apostle and be taught by Jesus every day. Judas had Three Years to acknowledge Jesus as God, Judas had ample time to do what is right, to do what he should do. God is righteous, God is patient and slow to anger and wrought many miracles for all to see and was glorified - Judas must have seen it all. The fact that Jesus chose Judas means he must have had potential and gifts that he could use to serve God righteously. Judas had freewill but He surrendered himself to the world, his heart was hardened and so he remained worldly and rejected Jesus as his God and Saviour. Jesus did not say "Go Judas and betray me." Jesus said "What you do, do quickly" God did good, it was up to Judas what he did, Judas had a choice, but he stayed a Lost Sheep. Judas sold himself to satan therefore satan entered Judas. It was not God causing this betrayal!

Conclusion (Only God is Good)

Jesus prayed with Love, with a perfect heart and then willingly sacrificed Himself remaining true to His very own words, His own commandment which is in agreement with the will of the Father... Love kept Jesus on the cross and it worked out for the Greater Good. Jesus said in *John 15:12-13* "This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." My opinion is that for the Greater Good requires Love, if one is laying down his life in Love and Faith to save his neighbour and his friends. When you imitate Christ and the Truth has been spoken and you have prayed like Jesus, with Love, yet the only option before you is to do nothing or become a willing sacrifice, then remember when Jesus died, God made it work for the Greater Good, but God did NOT kill His own son!

I do not believe God is involved in vaccines connected with child sacrifice aka abortion - the Ten Commandments say "You Shall Not Murder" I think God will view these vaccines as an abomination, a work of the Antichrist. God will not bring Greater Good from an experiment linked to child sacrifice, it might result in our nations being cursed and descending deeper into a Judgement from God. In that situation, pharmacies cannot stop God's Judgement, the world needs to be seeking God now and "Repenting".

I think a difference exists between a believer and a follower of Jesus Christ. May we all be followers. But either way, being a Christian means Jesus is our saviour. It is a blessing and God will be gracious and merciful to us. It is amazing Grace that God sacrificed Himself for us and then rose again! God's precious blood was spilled to buy us and we can now stand before the throne of God and be viewed as precious as the Son of God himself, having been covered in the blood that flowed out of Jesus.