

Abstract

When you read Genesis 4, it may seem to you that the God is not wholly good. There are three arguments against the goodness of the God. First the God favors Abel and his offerings over Cain and his. Therefore the God is not fair. Secondly Cain killed his brother Abel with murderous intent. Then he deserves a capital punishment. In spite of this, he escapes the death penalty and lives on. Therefore the sentence pronounced by the God is not just. Thirdly if the God is omniscient, omnipotent and benevolent, He can prevent Cain from killing Abel. However, the God overlooks Cain's criminal act, and He does not save the life of innocent Abel. Therefore, He is not benevolent.

As for the first two arguments, when you read the Hebrew Bible carefully and consider well, you will be convinced that the God is fair and just in His judgments. On the other hand, it is extremely hard to say something for or against the last argument. For the argument has bearing on the fundamental problem of theodicy, that is the problem concerning how to explain the very existence of evils---sufferings and moral sins. On this problem my personal tentative opinions are expressed.