

A few years ago, journalist Richard Cohen wrote “Pope Benedict XVI went ...to that place where 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, were murdered – that memorial to the very worst in mankind, that factory whose sole product was death, and this is what he said: ‘In a place like this, words fail. In the end there can only be dread silence – a silence which is itself Why Lord, did you remain silent? How could you tolerate all this?’”

Cohen's question is asked by a growing number of people today!

The main reason people have problems in understanding the way things are on the earth is that they fail to read their Bibles!!

Rev 6:10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.

Rev 9:20 And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; (21) and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

Religious leaders, including Popes Benedict and Francis, who make doctrinal errors have no excuse for not knowing what the Bible says. They ought to be ashamed!

2 Tim 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.

Cohen went on to say, “Others have asked how the Vatican under Pope Pius XII [Pope 1939-1958] could have remained silent during the Holocaust?”

Again, the answer is simple. *Acts 20:30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.*

What Pius XII did was the popular thing in most of Europe during WW II and strong echoes of it exist today.

Seeking followers started a long time and it continues to this day. The religious leaders of Jesus' day did it.



Matt 27:17 When therefore they were gathered together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18 For he knew that because of envy they had delivered Him up.

Because of Cohen's thoughts about what the Popes and other religious leaders had done, Cohen says of God, "I don't even think you were there. ... I cannot believe in such a God. ... I know Holocaust survivors who are religious. I don't understand it."

Cohen, a descendant of Kohath (chief priest), rejects God because of what man has done and God's current toleration of the situation!

Cohen decides the God of the Bible is not there,  
thus leaving us with men.

Men without God are vicious and cruel. Examples  
Stalin, Hitler, Idi Amin (Uganda), Gaddafi (Libya),  
Assad (Syria), Nero, Caligula

I speak of those who have no knowledge of God  
and goodness – not those atheists who have grown  
up in the US and have to some extent adopted the  
morals of the believers around them. These men  
were without morals and had no reason to change  
from that standard.

Consider the problem of saying that men do this to each other (the Holocaust) and there is no God to stop them.

What hope does that leave mankind?

None, for there is no reason for someone in power to share that power if he has no morals. Hitler didn't! He simply tried to exterminate the Jews.

This puts Cohen in the classic position of blaming the wrong person for the problem.

Hitler and the Nazis started the problem and Cohen is mad because God didn't stop it.

He thinks a “just” God should have started wiping people out years ago – showing no mercy!

Mark 15:14 But Pilate was saying to them, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify Him!" 15 And wishing to satisfy the multitude, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified.

Look at the choices that God allowed man to make in just this short passage.

Pilate could have made the decision.

The Jews could have stopped lying and said Jesus had done no evil.

Pilate could have defied the multitude.

Pilate could have released Jesus after being scourged.

Pilate could have refused to crucify Jesus.

Why does God allow men to make poor choices.



Without choice, man plays no role in the  
battle against evil!

Without choice, man does not  
demonstrate that there are those who will  
choose to do God's will! – man is nothing  
more than a puppet!

Finally Cohen comes to his philosophical condition, “I know others who feel that Auschwitz is proof that there is no God. I understand that. I am sure there are people who feel that way about Biafra or Rwanda or even Hurricane Katrina. I can understand all of that, too.”

Does the existence of evil prove there is no God?

The moral problem Cohen describes confronts each of us from time to time as we look at man's inhumanity to man.

Job's wife took the same attitude Cohen had!

Job 2:9 Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast your integrity? Curse God and die!" 10 But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

As we think about God, we often put ourselves in His place thinking we could do a better job if someone would just give the job to us.

On what basis can we decide that? What special power do we have other than arrogance?

Cohen claims Cohen's judgements would be just. He would not allow evil to survive in the world.

Would Cohen grant mercy when one claimed repentance?

Where would Cohen draw the line on the many difficult choices that face us.

The problem with allowing man to be the final judge of these choices is that Hitler did. Cohen has taken the big choices that are obvious and yet the Germans and Japanese of his father's generation did not make those choices correctly!

Would Cohen have wiped those nations and all their population from the face of the earth?

If you wonder what God did at  
Auschwitz, you can find the answer in  
the army that liberated those camps.



Rom 13:1 Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. 2 Therefore he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.

3 For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same; 4 for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath upon the one who practices evil.

Why do men do evil? They choose to serve in Satan's army.

Why do men choose to serve God? They have good and honest hearts, recognizing the awesome power and wisdom of God.

God uses men as his agents!

To change the world.

To change the hearts of men.

Mat 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

1 Tim 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

As we pray, we become God's agents.

1 Tim 2:3 This is good and acceptable in  
the sight of God our Savior, 4 who  
desires all men to be saved and to come  
to the knowledge of the truth.

Who will tell them if we don't?

You have a choice to make today? In whose service do you fight.

Matt 12:30 "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

Act 22:16 'And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'