DEALING WITH THE FUNGUS OF SIN

Not long after a young family moved into their very first house, the father went to the bathroom and couldn't believe what he saw: there was a mushroom growing out of the floor! Through a previously unnoticeable crack, the unwanted fungus had grown even though the bathroom was cleaned regularly. Humidity had joined an airborne fungus particle in the crack and voila, the mushroom appeared. Disgusted and confused, he pulled it up and sprayed enough fungi-killing chemicals on the spot to eradicate all traces of it.

Somehow, the “fungus of sin” sprouted in God’s perfect universe, leading to a rapid growth of accusations toward God and a seemingly endless flood of wickedness. Sin, pain, suffering, decay, wickedness, death—none were ever part of God’s plan for the universe. No created being was ever intended to experience such things. God created all things perfect. The universe was clean of sin, and yet here we are, daily faced with unexpected tragedies, the never-ending question of “why,” and the search for whom to blame.

Fortunately, God has dealt with sin and will restore all things to vibrant purity and perfection. The delicate process of eradicating sin, dealing with its originator, and ensuring the “sin fungus” never sprouts again is very costly to God. It’s a process that takes a long time and involves the entire universe, including you. It can cause frustration for those who wish for all of this to be over, but as this week’s study will reveal, there is a reason these things take such time.
Write out Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 from the translation of your choice. If you’re pressed for time, write out Matthew 13:36–39. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.
Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/ phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you

Draw Arrows to connect words/ phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?

Memorize your favorite verse.
Write it out multiple times to help memorization.

In what ways have you directly or indirectly blamed God for the problems and challenges you face?

Why did God not destroy Satan before he could do more harm? What’s the point of waiting?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC01-3
After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?

What questions emerge after studying this lesson? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

In what kinds of situations should we wait and see how it goes before passing judgment?

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC01-4
What relationship do the following verses have with Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43?

Matthew 13:47–50
Revelation 20:11–15
Romans 2:5–11
Galatians 6:7–10
2 Peter 3:9, 10
Revelation 12:7–12
John 15:1–6
Revelation 15:3, 4
Philippians 2:9–11

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Meditate on Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43 again and look for where Jesus is.

What is He saying to you personally through the text of the week?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What about Jesus makes you trust, love, and surrender gladly to Him?

Prayer Response:

Read more at www.inversebible.org/GC01-6

The Author of Evil
Review the memory verse. How does it apply to your life this week?

After this week’s study of the chapter, what are some personal applications you are convicted of in your life?

What are some practical applications you must make in your daily time with God?

Read more inSight from the Spirit of Prophecy at www.inversebible.org/GC01-7
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Share insights from this week’s memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.

How does the parable of the wheat and the tares illustrate the great controversy between good and evil?

Why is Lucifer, not God, responsible for the origin of evil?

Why did God not destroy Satan at the beginning of his rebellion before he could do more harm?

Why does God allow bad people to exist among those who claim to follow a good God?

What can we learn about God’s character from the way He deals with sin and evil in the world?

How do we daily remain faithful to Jesus?

How can we trust in God’s ultimate victory over sin and evil even in the face of tragedies and problems?