

A black and white photograph of a broken window. The glass is shattered into several large, jagged pieces, some of which are still held in place by a dark, cross-shaped metal frame. The background is dark and indistinct. The text "Images of God" is overlaid in white, serif font in the upper right quadrant.

Images of God

in a Broken World

In a broken world, 'god' is ...?

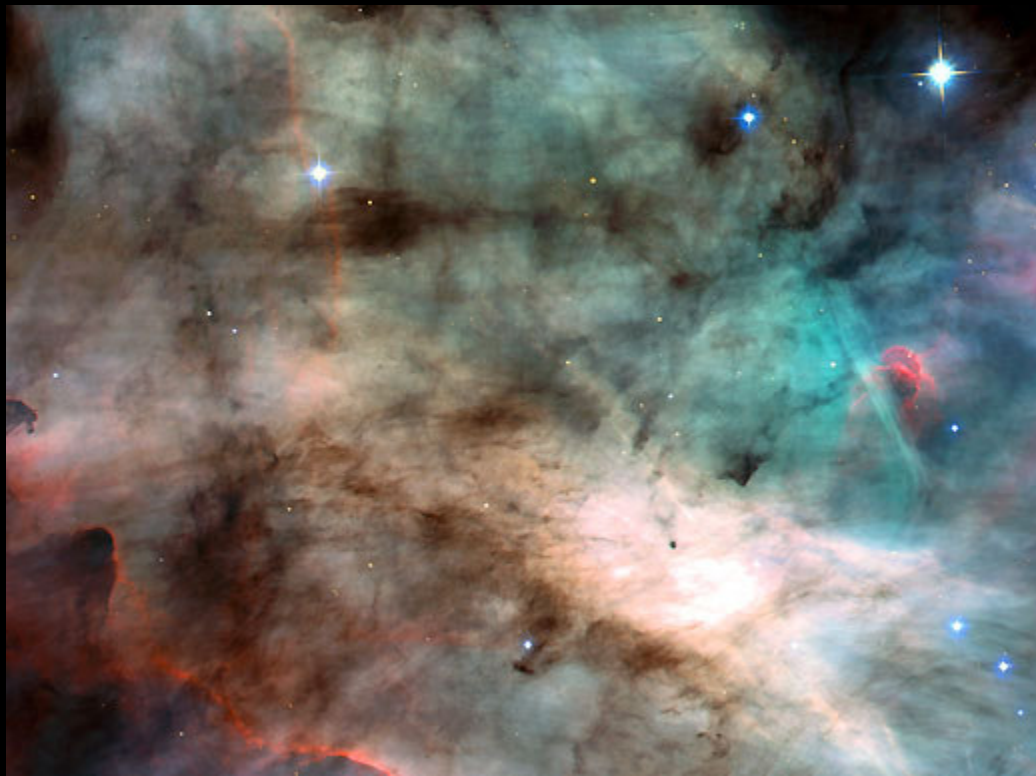
- Option #1: Absent
- Option #2: Passive
- Option #3: In control, but partly evil
- Option #4: In Jesus

Option 1: there is no 'god'

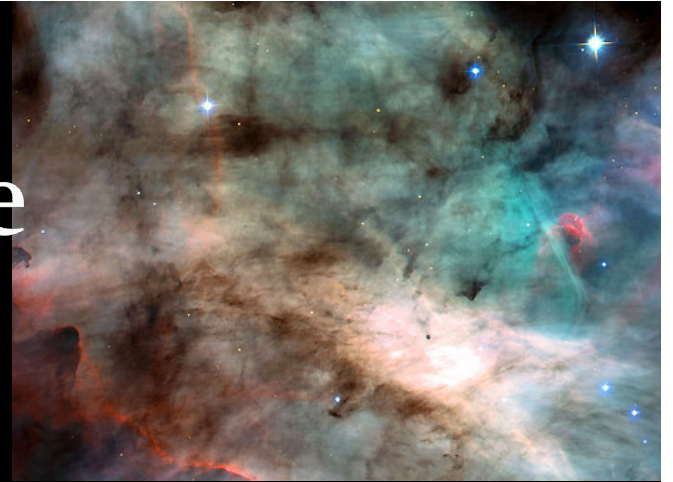
Big Bang → Effect A → Effect B → Effect C → → Effect Z

Option 1: there is no 'god'

Big Bang → Effect A → Effect B → Effect C → → Effect Z

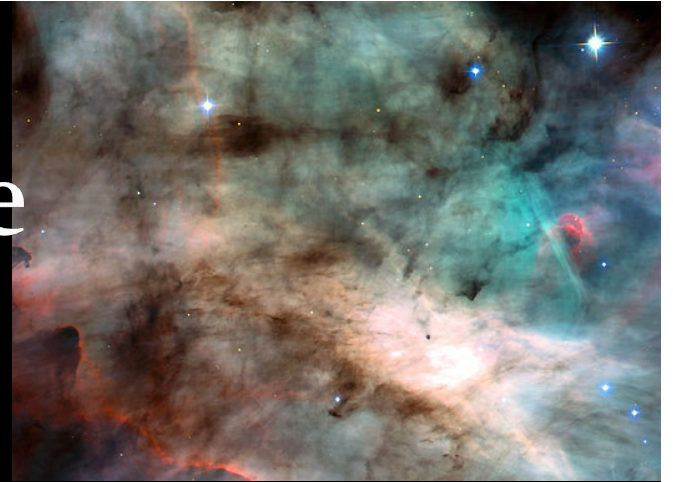


Option 1 and the universe



- The universe is pretty heartless
- The universe makes 'good' and 'evil' subjective
- The universe makes a 'happy ending' impossible

Option 1 and the universe



- The universe is pretty heartless
 - 'nature – red in tooth and claw' (Tennyson)
- The universe makes 'good' and 'evil' subjective
 - 'I do not believe that there is something hanging out there, anywhere, called good and evil.' (R. Dawkins)
- The universe makes a happy ending impossible

Option 2: 'god' is passive

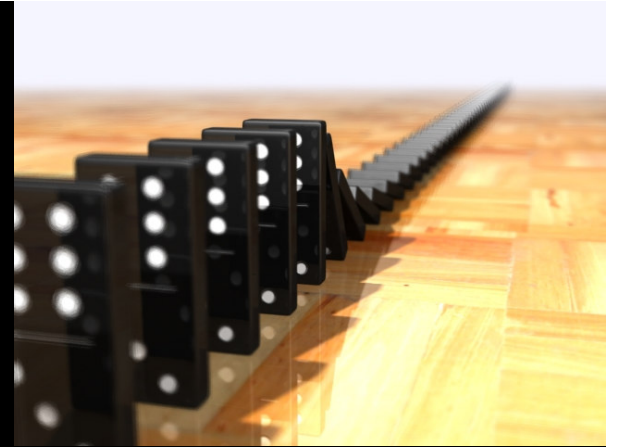
'god' → Effect A → Effect B → Effect C → → Effect Z

Option 2: 'god' is passive

'god' → Effect A → Effect B → Effect C → → Effect Z

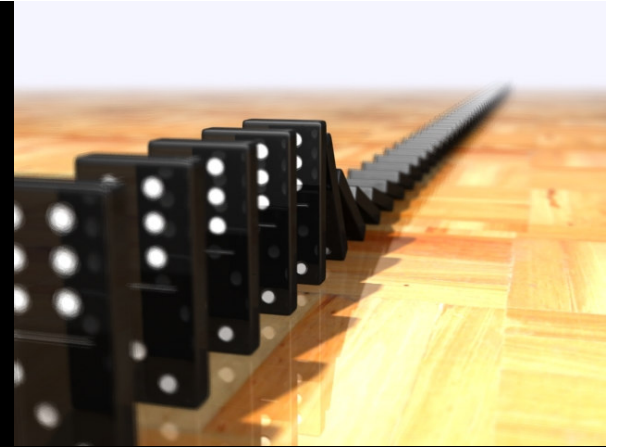


Option 2 and the character of 'god'



- The world has evil, so 'god' must be passive
- This 'god' might be clueless about it
- Or this 'god' is distant; 'god' knows but doesn't care too much
- Or this 'god' might have engineered the world to be like this
- By fighting evil and injustice, are we fighting 'god'?

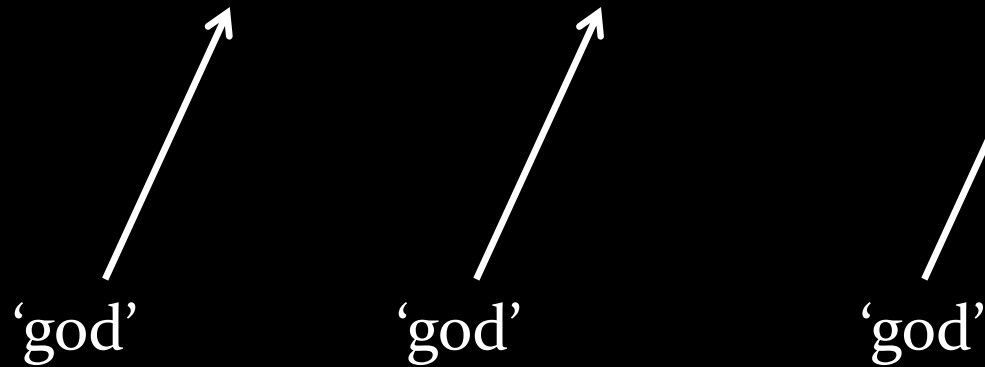
Scripture: Is God passive?



- God is described as active
- God is described as attentive
- God is described as loving
- God engineered the world without sin and evil

Option 3: 'god' is in control

'god' → Effect A → Effect B → Effect C → → Effect Z



Option 3: 'god' is in control

'god' → Effect A

'god'



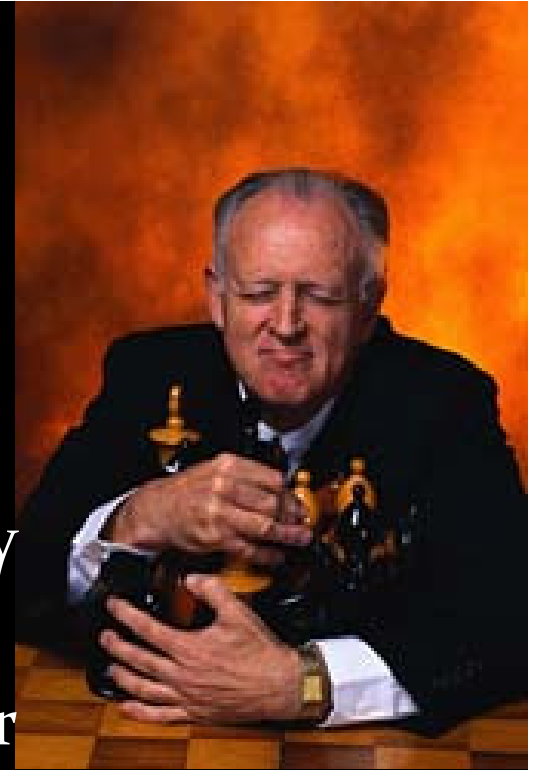
→ → Effect Z

'god'



Option 3 and the character of 'god'

- The world has evil, so 'god' must be partly evil
- Or this 'god' might be getting me back for something I've done
- Or this 'god' says 'the ends justifies the means'
- Or this 'god' might have engineered the world to be like this
- By fighting evil and injustice, are we fighting 'god'?



Scripture: Is God 'in control'?

- God interacts with other people's *real* choices
- God only acts by speaking first
- God is not the author of evil, at all
- God is *reestablishing* His rule on the earth through Jesus



Scripture: Is God 'in control'?

- God interacts with other people's *real* choices
- God only acts by speaking first
 - 'Surely the LORD God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.' (Amos 3:7)
- God is not the author of evil, at all
 - 'God is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.' (1 John 1:5)
- God is *reestablishing* His rule on the earth through Jesus
 - 'Your kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.' (Matthew 6:10)



Option 4: Jesus reveals all of God

Father, Son, Spirit



Jesus
tells me about
God, and reveals
God

Option 4: Jesus reveals all of God

Father, Son, Spirit



Jesus
tells me about
God, and reveals
God



Option 4: Jesus reveals all of God

Father, Son, Spirit



Jesus
tells me about
God, and reveals
God

God gives His Son to us.



Option 4: Jesus reveals all of God

Father, Son, Spirit



Jesus
tells me about
God, and reveals
God

God comes to us Himself.

God gives His Son to us.



Option 4: Jesus reveals all of God

Father, Son, Spirit



Jesus
tells me about
God, and reveals
God

God gives ALL of Himself to us sacrificially.

God comes to us Himself.

God gives His Son to us.



Option 4: Jesus reveals all of God

Father, Son, Spirit



Jesus
tells me about
God, and reveals
God

God has taken on our humanity

God gives ALL of Himself to us sacrificially.

God comes to us Himself.

God gives His Son to us.



Option 4: Jesus reveals all of God

Father, Son, Spirit



Jesus
tells me about
God, and reveals
God

God is healing humanity as a human being

God has taken on our humanity

God gives ALL of Himself to us sacrificially.

God comes to us Himself.

God gives His Son to us.



Option 4: Jesus reveals all of God

Father, Son, Spirit



Jesus
tells me about
God, and reveals
God

God works from WITHIN the story

God is healing humanity as a human being

God has taken on our humanity

God gives ALL of Himself to us sacrificially.

God comes to us Himself.

God gives His Son to us.



Option 4: Jesus reveals all of God

Father, Son, Spirit



Jesus
tells me about
God, and reveals
God

God is undoing evil from WITHIN the story

God works from WITHIN the story

God is healing humanity as a human being

God has taken on our humanity

God gives ALL of Himself to us sacrificially.

God comes to us Himself.

God gives His Son to us.

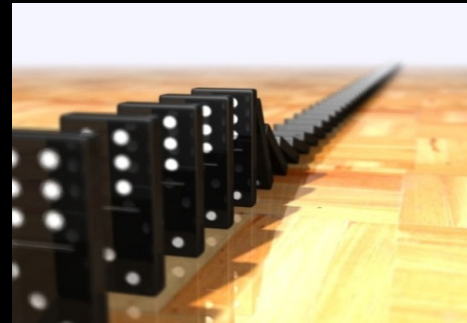
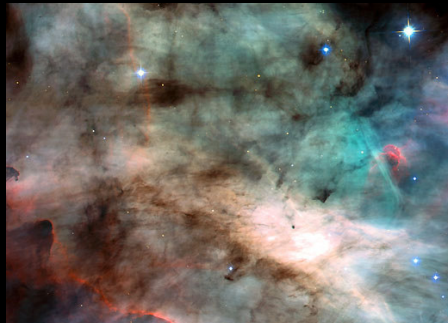


Scripture: Does Jesus reveal all of God?

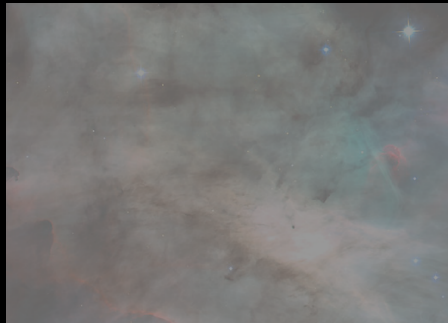
- Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him (Mt.11:27; Lk.10:22)
- Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father...The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. (John 14:9 – 10)
- For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in him ... In him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form. (Colossians 1:19 & 2:9)
- And he is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature... (Hebrews 1:3)



Images of God in a Broken World



Images of God in a Broken World



How is Jesus a Window
into God

in this
Broken
World?

