



The Problem of Evil with Dr. David Schenk

Lesson 10: Robert Merrihew Adams' Reply

Outline:

William Rowe's Version of the Evidential Problem of Evil

- (2) God would never allow genuinely pointless suffering.
 - This is because of God's omnibenevolence.

Robert Merrihew Adams

- The notion that undermines premise two of Rowe's argument:
 - Why do we think that omnibenevolence requires of God that he not allow any pointless suffering?
 - He cannot do an uncaring job in his creation, if a better work of creation is possible.
 - There is no such thing as a best creative job that God can do. For any act of God, there are infinitely better and infinitely worse cosmos' that could have been created.
 - For any number you pick, there will always be infinitely many larger numbers. There is no largest possible number.
- The argument:
 - (1) If there is no intelligible concept of a "best possible world," then God's omnibenevolence cannot require He create one.
 - (2) But if that's so, then God can allow pointless evil.
 - (3) There is no intelligible concept of a "best possible world."
 - (4) Therefore, God can allow pointless evil.

Late Antiquity

- We do not read books anymore.
- We have lost sight of some of the deepest insights in wrestling with the problem of evil.
- How can an angel that is not yet fallen opt to sin?