

## Conclusion

Procrustes was the mythological giant of Attica. It is said that he placed all who fell into his hands on an iron bed. If they were longer than the bed, he cut off the extraneous parts of the body. If they were shorter than the bed, he stretched his prisoners until they fit. Open theists are attempting to fit God Almighty on a Procrustean bed of their making. God's definition of "freedom" is stretched beyond its biblical understanding or we must lop off parts of God, as it were, starting with His knowledge of the future.

However, believing that God ordains all that comes to pass, we must accept that God allows heresy and aberrant theology to appear, as well. It is through heresy that the Church has sharpened her understanding of the Word and the application and interpretation of that Word. As with the Gnostic and Judiazers' heresies of biblical days and the Arians, Pelagians, Romanists and Liberals of more modern days, so has the Church improved through more recent assaults on classic Christian theology.

It is always sad, though, to think of the lives forever tarnished because of the reckless teachings of heretical ideas such as open theism. They have denied God's sovereign lordship over His creation. They have denied His rule over time and His unchangeable eternal purpose. They have denied His exhaustive knowledge of the future (and past and present, if honest). All for what? They have done all this to make their theology consistent with libertarian free will – an incoherent, unbiblical speculation that denies God's sovereignty and elevates humans.

Both camps have major unanswered questions.<sup>1</sup> Classic theists must admit they do not exactly know the answer to questions such as, "How can God ordain that we do evil willingly and yet not be blamed for evil?" and "How can God cause us to choose something willingly?" To both, classic theists would say the answer lies in God infinite greatness. This answer brings the effect of increasing the classic theist's appreciation for the greatness of God.

Open theists and Arminians also find some questions unanswerable. For instance, "Why would God allow evil when it is against His will?" and "How can we know that God will ultimately prevail in the end?" Their failure to answer these and other questions tends to diminish the greatness of God and exalt the greatness of man. In this, we see that open theists have robbed God twice: they have removed His regal robes and placed them on the backs of common, fallen man. We must remove those ill-gotten robes and sing once again of our "Immortal Invisible God, Only Wise."

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<sup>1</sup> Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 351.