

God permitted wicked men to crucify our Lord, but He did not give them permission to do so.

Acts 2:23 -- "this man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death."

God permitted Adam and Eve to fail, but He did not give them permission to do so.

Genesis 2:16,17 -- "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.' "

God permitted Judas Iscariot to betray his Master, but He did not give him permission to do so.

Matthew 26:24 -- "The Son of Man is to go, Just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man through whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."

He permitted Joseph's brothers to sell Joseph into Egypt, but He did not give them permission to do so.

Genesis 50:20 -- "And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive."

Permission in the sense of the permissive aspect of God's decrees is quite distinct from permission in the sense of God condoning or God tacitly approving a sinful action. God permits (decrees) what He does not permit (approve). Such permission does not make God Author of sin, or make Him responsible for causing it. Although He disapproves of sin and hates it, He nevertheless permits it in His universe.