

Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?

Psalms 73:1-17

God and the Existence of Evil

- Existence of evil and an all powerful God must be reconciled.
 - Moral evil.
 - Natural calamities.
- Some believe only good things happened to good people and evil to evil people.

God and the Existence of Evil

Questions:

- Why do the righteous suffer?
- Can God trust man to serve Him simply for the love of God?
- Can man trust God, when his suffering is inexpressible in its intensity, and unexplainable as to its cause?

God and the Existence of Evil

What happens when bad things happen to good people?

- Many lose their faith in God and blame God.
- The Psalmist (**Psalms 73:1-17**) also struggled with the weight of this question until he "... *went into the sanctuary of God ...*"
 - There he saw things in the light of eternal values and understood that God truly is good, provident and just.

The Source

The Devil Genesis 3:2ff; James 1:13-14; cf. Genesis 3:16ff

- Moral evil
- Natural calamities
- Description of Satan
 - John 8:44 Murderer and liar
 - 1 John 3:8 Sinneth from the beginning
 - Luke 13:10-17, "*Satan hath bound ...*"

Consider Job

Who Was Job?

- A man described as "*perfect and upright; and one that feared God, and turned away from evil*" (1:1)
- Offered sacrifices for his children. "... *rose up early in the morning and offered burnt-offerings according to the number of them all*" (1:5).
- His goodness was habitual, "*thus did Job continually*" (1:5).

Satan' Work

- Satan allowed to act within certain limitations. Job 1:12; Job 42:10-11
- Instrumentality of men. Job 1:13-17
- Force of nature. Job 1:18-19
- Limited to Job's person. Job 2:6

Satan's Work

- Job's body was struck with boils. Job 2:7-8
- Job's wife. Job 2:9; 2:11ff
- Job's friends
 - Eliphaz, Zophar, and Bildad.
- Society rejected him. Job 17:6; 19:13-22
- Evil of disbelief and disloyalty. Job 2:11-13

Ascribing Evil To God

- Deuteronomy 30:15
 - How would God **set evil** before the people?
 - **Cause** and **Effect** – Inevitable consequences
- Amos 3:6, "*shall evil befall a city, and Jehovah hath not done it?*" cf. Amos 4:6ff
- **Snow and hail (Job 38:22-24)**. These are the treasures of His arsenal which He has "*reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war.*"

Punishment and Reprieve

- Punishment by Assyria, the rod of mine anger ...
 - Isaiah 10:5ff
- Deliverance of His people from Babylon
 - Isaiah 45:7, "*I form the light, and create darkness; I make peace, and **create evil**; I am Jehovah, that doeth all these things.*"

Why Do Men Suffer?

- Men are rash who presume to know **all** the causes behind every specific affliction.
 - Proverbs 14:12
- Yet, the Scriptures reveal **some** reasons why some may suffer.

Why Do Men Suffer?

- Some suffer as direct consequence of their sins
 - Galatians 6:7-9
- Some suffer because of sins of others
 - Mark 6:18-27 John the Baptist
 - Acts 7-8 Stephen

Why Do Men Suffer?

- Some suffer because of the free moral agency of men
 - Joshua 24:15
 - 2 Corinthians 11:23-30 Paul suffered.
 - Luke 10:30-33 Man fell into the hands of robbers.

Why Do Men Suffer?

- Some suffer because the laws of nature given to maintain order in the universe have been violated.
 - Acts 20:9 Eutychus
- Some are persecuted because they are righteous
 - 1 Peter 4:12-19 (cf. Matthew 5:10-12; 2 Timothy 3:12)
 - Hebrews 10:32-37

Why Do Men Suffer?

- Suffering makes it possible for us to grow in relationship with God.
 - Hebrews 12:6-11; 1 Peter 1:6-9; cf. Romans 8:18

Benefits of Suffering

- The suffering God **permits** can be used for the **benefit of those who experience it** – or those whose **lives are touched by it**.
 - Romans 5:3-4
 - James 1:2-4
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-6, 8-9

Concluding Thoughts

- When Asaph (Psalms 73:17-28) went into the sanctuary of the Lord and reconsidered the question of human suffering, he saw the situation more clearly.
- Consider Job. (Job 42:1-6)
- When the latter end was considered everything then is brought into proper perspective. cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
- Suffering now fades into nothing when laid against the backdrop of eternal glory. Romans 8:18; cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1