



Blackfoot Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 6 Number 32

August 12, 2018

If There Is A God - Why Does He Let Bad Things Happen?

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This is an age-old question. If God exists, why does He permit suffering and evil to exist in the world? In fact, this type question is one of the primary “proofs” used by atheists and agnostics to challenge the existence of God. They challenge the theist (one who believes in God) by pointing to the occurrence of natural calamities, debilitating or fatal diseases, and other tragedies that cause so much suffering, pain, and death, and say, “If there was a God, He wouldn’t permit these things. Therefore I don’t believe in your God.”

Even though I am thoroughly convinced that God exists, and I serve Him whole-heartedly, I have to admit God has not fully revealed His mind in this matter. He has not given us the answers that might satisfy our desires as to why He permits evil and suffering to plague mankind and why He allows the innocent to suffer at the hands of evil doers. I don’t know the answers, for His mind is not mine. God doesn’t answer to us, we answer to Him. “For who has known the mind of the LORD? On who has become His counselor?” (Romans 11:34). He doesn’t think like we do.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the

Lord, ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than

your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:8-9).

He has chosen to keep some things to Himself. “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of the law” (Deuteronomy 29:29).

While God has not given us the answers to the question in the title directly, He has given us the ability to think and reason for ourselves, and from a study of His revealed word we can gain some insight as to “why” bad things happen.

But, first, let me say, that when a person says, I won’t believe in God unless He acts in the manner I think He should, this person is being egotistical and selfish. He is putting himself into the position of the Creator, rather than being the created creature. Paul pointed this out when he wrote, “But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to Him who formed it, ‘Why have you made me like this?’” (Romans 9:20). Man in demanding that God function as he thinks He ought to act, is in a very precarious position. He is trying to shape God into his image, instead of being the clay molded into God’s image (Gen.1:28-29). God pronounces a woe on those who would question Him. “Woe to him, who strives with His Maker! ... Shall the clay say to Him who forms it, what are you making?” (Isaiah 45:9).

With the previous thoughts presented let’s now reason together to find some logical reasons to the question, “If there is a God – why does He let bad things happen?” We might begin with a companion question, “If there is a God – why didn’t He make a world free from pain and suffering?” This is an easy one to answer. HE DID! The world He first created was a perfect world, one free from pain and suffering. When He finished His creation of all things, we read, “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day” (Genesis 1:29).

God then created the first human pair, Adam and Eve, and placed them in a beautiful garden He had prepared for them, the Garden of Eden. This garden was a perfect paradise, a place of wondrous beauty and peace,

where there was no pain, no suffering, no death, for in the garden was found the tree of life. But, something happened to spoil this paradise that was free from pain and suffering.

Adam and Eve succumbed to the lies of the devil, who had come to them in the form of a serpent and persuaded them to eat of the one tree God had forbidden them to eat, the tree of knowledge of good and evil. When they did this, the beautiful paradise was spoiled, for sin had entered the world (Genesis 3:6). As a result, they introduced death, both spiritual and physical, upon themselves and all descendants since. Along with death, God decreed that all mankind would also have to suffer materially and physically in this world (Genesis 3:15-19). Along with the curse of sin falling on man, God extended the curse onto the world in which sinful man had to live, and this curse, bringing catastrophes of all kinds on the world, extends even to this day (Romans 8:20-22). The devil had done his work well. Sin had ruined everything. Things were no longer perfect. The taint of sin had spoiled perfection. Imperfect man was now doomed to live in an imperfect world.

But, saying the devil is responsible does not satisfy people who do not believe. So, they ask, "If God is so mighty and good, why did He allow Satan to do this evil work of bringing sin into the world?" Was it because God was not strong enough to keep him out of the garden? If that is the case, then the devil must be a god also, and have equal strength with God almighty. I deny that is the case. The devil is subject to the LORD, and one day he will be punished by being cast into the hell God has prepared for him and all his angels (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10). This is an eternal lake of fire, a place of outer darkness.

The reason God allowed the devil to enter the world and bring sin and misery to mankind was because of something He placed in man when He formed him, something He did not give to the rest of His earthly creation. This is what we refer to as free will, the ability to make choices, to choose to do right or wrong.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Ray Mitchell is undergoing blood test for some health problems
- Shirley Torres, Seattle WA (Torres' have visited our congregation) is fighting cancer. Chemo treatments have not been successful. They have decided to stop the Chemo and pursue other treatments to help enhance her quality of life
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class tomorrow night 7:00pm at Chad and Kass' on evangelism

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Tom Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – David Porter Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – David Porter Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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