

Why Do Bad Things Happen to Us?

Have you ever wondered if things that happen to us occur just randomly or do they have a cause or reason behind them? We live in a world filled with undeniable pain and suffering - so why is that? Since God is sovereign regarding all things, having the highest authority, circumstances can be both allowed by Him, if not directly caused by Him. We are told in God's word that sin causes death! Essentially sinning has inevitable consequences, but Scripture also clarifies that it is erroneous to blindly link a given sin to a cause-effect correlation such as purporting to connect something negative, a disease or any harmful consequence, directly to such and such sin. Only God knows us; His judgments often defies what seems obvious to us because He alone is the author of truth.

In the long run, eternal, spiritual death becomes our final focus, but during our lives, sinning is often associated with physical maladies. Thus there are consequences, both beneficial and harmful, for everything we do! For instance, perhaps we smoke and get lung cancer or over eat to a point of gluttony then die of a heart attack — all such events are choices that we have made. God notes that “we will reap what we sow.” All of us feel the effects of sin in one way or another. Sometimes it's our own personal sin; other times, it's the sins of others: murder and bloodshed due to uncontrolled evil desires motivated by hate, anger, bitterness, lusts and covetousness. We live in a fallen world experiencing the effects of the fall. One of those effects is injustice that seems to generate senseless suffering.

Ro 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Gal 6:7-8 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life

Scripture presents numerous examples that show that not all disease and suffering is a consequence of sin (John 9:1-3) but sometimes may be directly tied into one's moral wickedness(1 Cor 11:29-30 and James 5:15) or in some instances, simply to bring glory to God the Father and His Son! (John 11:4,32-42)

John 9:1-3 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

1 Cor 11:29-30 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

James 5:15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

John 11:4 When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

John 11:32-42 Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 ¶ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. 34 And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" 37 And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?" 38 Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days." 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" 41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. 42 "And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me."

Many people believed that disaster and sudden death always signified God's displeasure. Thus those who suffered in this manner were assumed to be guilty of some severe immorality. Yahshua did not deny the connection of catastrophe to evil actions but merely offered a warning that no one is morally superior. As members of the human race we all sin! All are in danger of sudden destruction! He wants us all to repent – NOW is the time to repent! (2 Cor 6:2)

2 Cor 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Luke 13:1-5 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things? 3 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. 4 "Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? 5 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."

Sometimes suffering happens as punishment as evidenced in Numbers. When Miriam opposed the leadership of Moses, judgment was administered quickly, severely and publically by God. He wanted all to know that He was working through Moses for His purpose.

Nu 12:9-12 So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed. 10 And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper. 11 So Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord! Please do not lay this sin on us, in which we have done foolishly and in which we have sinned. 12 "Please do not let her be as one dead, whose flesh is half consumed when he comes out of his mother's womb!"

Disobedience is another reason that humans face punishment. The Israelites were given so much by God, yet refused to trust or rely on God and His power to give them the land He promised to them. Despite the many miraculous signs God had done in their midst freeing the Israelites from Egyptian bondage, that generation refused to appreciate such spiritual benefits bestowed on them. As a result, that entire generation perished in the wilderness, denied access into God's promised land.

Nu 14:19-24 Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now." 20 ¶ Then the LORD said: "I have pardoned, according to your word; 21 "but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD- 22 "because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, 23 "they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. 24 "But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.

Josh 5:6 For the children of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, till all the people who were men of war, who came out of Egypt, were consumed, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD-to whom the LORD swore that He would not show them the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers that He would give us, "a land flowing with milk and honey."

In His Sovereignty, sometimes God purposefully allows "bad things" to happen (from our initial perspective) in order to direct us on a "better path" aligned for our spiritual benefit as God did with Paul. In Paul's case, he was given a "thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to buffet him." God allowed Satan to bring this trouble to perhaps humble Paul, as he was given such copious revelations that could well have made him too proud! Paul was told to not fret about this trial, to live with it, that God's grace would enable him to endure it.

2 Cor 12:7-9 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

While sin may be the cause of suffering, it is not universal as described in the Book of Job. God presented Job before Satan as "My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil." (Job 1:8) Satan's reply to God's statement about Job is "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" (Job 1:9-11) Satan was asserting that true believers are only faithful to God as long as they prosper, and if that prosperity is then taken away, they will reject God and hence become satanic followers. God

allowed all this evil to be brought upon Job to disprove Satan's pompous pronouncement. Although Job did not understand why God allowed this assault to afflict him, he still praised God and never turned away from Him. Also, God allowed Job to be severely, physically attacked by Satan to ultimately expose Job's self-righteousness. The weaker the human vessel becomes, the more clearly God's grace shines through.

Bad things happen to good people, but God uses those bad things for an ultimate, lasting good.

Rom 8:28 We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

God allows things to happen for a reason. Whether or not we understand His reasons, we must remember that God is good, just, loving, and merciful. Often, bad things happen to us that we simply cannot understand because all things are in God's control. When we find ourselves in a trial, we must earnestly examine ourselves to see if we can come to understand the reason behind what is happening to us; if we can see an error in ourselves and repent of the sin, our goal would be achieved: learning from the experience. He is involved in every event of life including suffering, temptation and sin in accomplishing both our earthly and eternal benefit. Instead of doubting God's goodness, our reaction should be turned into trusting Him.

[Ps](#) 135:3 Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good; Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant.

Proverb to ponder:

Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.

Action of Belief Ministry

ActionofBeliefMinistry@gmail.com

www.ActionofBeliefMinistry.org