

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People

Psalms 73:1-17

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Psalms 73:1-8

- Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart. 2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. 3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. 4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. 5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. 6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. 7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. 8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

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Psalms 73:9-14

- 9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. 10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. 11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. 13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. 14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

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Introduction

- This is an age old question!
 - Asaph ponders this question...
 - Why do the wicked prosper? - vs. 3
 - **Why do good things happen to bad people?**
 - Was envious of the wicked for a time!
 - One of the hardest questions of life!
 - A reality & difficult part of life!

WHY

...did my child die?"
 ...am I sick?"
 ...such heart ache and suffering?"
 ...must there be disease and death?"
 ...am I being treated this way?"
 ...did I lose my job?"
 ...ME???"

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The Answer of Some Is...

- **God is to blame!**
 - Some Charge that God...
 - "took my Child!"
 - "took my loved one!"
 - "caused a bad thing to happen!"
 - Natural disasters are often called...
 - **"an act of God"**
- **Job's wife charged God - Job 2:9-10**
 - "...Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die."

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God Is Not To Be Blamed!

- **The goodness of God declared!**
 - Asaph - Psalms 73:1
 - The apostles:
 - Paul - Rom. 11:22
 - John - 1 John 1:5
 - James - 1:17
- **"For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations"** Psalms 100:5

"God Is So Good"

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To Blame God is Foolish & Sinful!

- "...*Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.*" - Job 2:10
- **Therefore, bad things that happen are NOT some sinister plan of God!**

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Bad Things Do Happen!

- Job – Job 1:1-22; 2:1-7
- Asaph – Psa. 73:2-14
- Apostles – Matt. 10:16, 22-25
 - Paul – 2 Cor. 11:24-27
- Brethren in Christ!
 - 2 Cor. 5:1-9

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WHY?

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 9

Because We Are in a Sinful World!

- **Sometimes we suffer from our own past sins!**
 - Some bad things are self-imposed! - Galatians 6:7-9
 - Sexual immorality -
 - Broken homes, divorce
 - Unwanted pregnancy, shame
 - STD's – AIDS!
 - Drug & alcohol consumption -
 - Health & financial problems
 - Addiction, crime & impaired judgment with lasting consequences!
- **Suffer from the consequences of sins of others!**
 - **Gossip, Murmuring & Lies** – destroy good names & reputations & cause division and contention among brethren and families!
 - Prov. 6:16-19
 - Philippians 2:14-15
 - Drunk drivers – kill & maim good innocent people!
 - Murderers, robbers, scam artists & law breakers, etc.!


 "...and be sure your sin will find you out" (Num. 32:23)

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Because of Evil People

- **Faithful of old suffered extreme persecution!**
 - Hebrews 11:36-40
 - Suffering of God's people has always been and will always be!
 - 1 Peter 4:12-16
 - Suffer at the hands of the rich!
 - James 5:1-7
- **Christ suffered & died in innocence!**
 - At the hands of His own people – Acts 2:23
 - John 1:11; 1 Peter – 2:21-23; cf. Acts 10:38
- **First-Century Christians suffered severely!**
 - Antipas – "*my faithful martyr...was slain among you*"
 - Revelation 2:13
- **Faithful preachers suffered for preaching the truth!**
 - Paul – **MARTYRED** - 2 Timothy 4:6-8
 - John the Baptist – **BEHEADED** - Mark 6:17-29
 - Stephen – **STONED** - Acts 7:51-54, 57-59
 - Many faithful preachers today suffer because they refuse to compromise the Truth!
 - 2 Timothy 4:1-5

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Because Satan is an Active Force!

- "*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. 7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.*" - Job 1:6 & 7
 - "**God of this world**" – 2 Corinthians 4:4
- **Satan is our "adversary" and seeks every opportunity to devour and destroy us!**
 - 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 2:10
 - By discouraging, disheartening, using deceptive devices!
 - Uses trials and human suffering
 - Matt. 24:7-13
 - Must be equipped and watchful for the "**wiles**" of the devil!
 - Ephesians 6:10-20

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 12

Because Life is not Fair!

- **Not promised a fair and fanciful life!**
 - 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Job 1:21
 - Perfect fellowship with God was lost in the garden!
 - Four-fold curse because of sin! – Gen. 3:9-19, 23
 - Woman to suffer pain in child birth, in subjection to her husband!
 - Earth cursed with thorns & thistles, man to work with his hands!
 - Physical death - return to dust!
 - Adam & Eve driven out of the garden!
- **That lost in the garden is regained in Christ!**
 - Made perfect in Christ, if we **suffer** with Him!
 - Romans 8:17-23
 - The Christian life is no rose garden!
 - A life of service, humility, toils, trials, hard choices and labor!
 - Matthew 10:34-36
 - Death viewed as a rest from life's toils and labors
 - Hebrews 4:9-11
 - Psalms 116:15

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 13

Warned That Trials Will Come!

- 1 Corinthians 10:13
 - Christ – Matthew 4:1-12
- 2 Timothy 3:11-12
- Romans 5:1-3
- 1 Peter 1:6-9

Eternal Blessings are promised ONLY to those who endure these trials!



Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 14

Trials Strengthen & Perfect!

- **Made inwardly stronger by trials:**
 - James 1:2-4
 - 1 Peter 5:10
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
- **Trials test our love & fear of God! – John 14:15**
 - **"God tested Abraham"** – Genesis 22:1
 - Abraham obeyed God!
 - Offered his beloved son Isaac - Genesis 22:11-18
 - **"...for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me."** – vs. 12
 - Cf. Hebrews 11:17
- **Trials of old age & failing health will come!**
 - Aging inevitable – no stopping it!
 - Godly, active, moderate living is necessary!
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
 - Solomon's allegorical description of aging!
 - Eccl. 12:1-7



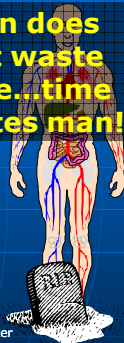
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Because of The Trials of Aging

Ecclesiastes 12:3-7

- **Verse 3**
 - Keepers of house tremble – arms weak
 - Strong men bow – weak legs & frame
 - Grinders cease – teeth fall out
 - Windows grow dim – eyesight fails
- **Verse 4:**
 - Doors are shut – mouth is shut to contain food
 - Grinding is low – sound of chewing low
 - Rise at sound of birds – easily awakened
 - Daughters of music brought low – voice becomes feeble
- **Verse 5:**
 - Afraid of that which is high – fear of falling
 - Fears in the way – difficulty doing simple things we once did
 - Almond tree blossoms – hair turns gray, white, falls out
 - Grasshopper a burden – small things are now burdensome
 - Desires fail – fleshly desires wane
 - Go to the long (eternal) home – obvious reference to death
- **Verse 6:**
 - Silver cord is loosed – spinal cord & central nervous system
 - Golden bowl broken – skull that houses the brain
 - Pitcher shattered at the fountain – heart & circulatory system
 - Wheel broken at the well – breathing becomes difficult and weaker
- **Verse 7:**
 - Body returns to dust – spirit returns to God who gave it! – **DEATH**

Man does not waste time, time wastes man!



Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 15

Because of Time & Chance


- **Wrong place at the wrong time!**
 - Eccl. 9:1-3, 11-12
 - Tower of Siloam fell – Lk. 13:4
 - 911 terrorists attacks!
 - Accidents, Injuries, Death
- **Calamities & blessings happen!**
 - To all men - **"Evil and the good...the just and...the unjust"**
 - Matt. 5:45
 - Eccl. 3:1-8



Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 17

Because That's Life!

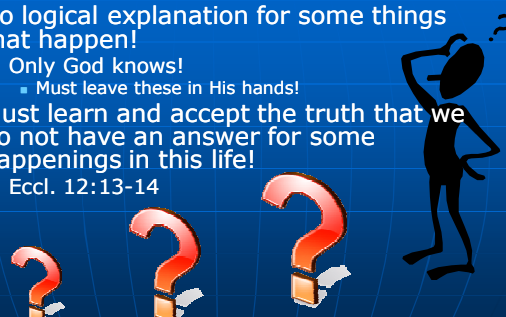
- **Life is fleeting & troublesome!**
 - **"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not."** – Job 14:1-2
- **Life is as a vapor; with a sure and swift end and no guarantee of a tomorrow!**
 - **"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."** – James 4:14-15



Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 18

Because, I Don't Know!

- No logical explanation for some things that happen!
 - Only God knows!
 - Must leave these in His hands!
- Must learn and accept the truth that we do not have an answer for some happenings in this life!
 - Eccl. 12:13-14



Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 19

The Most Important Question!

- Is not "**WHY** do bad things happen?"

How Will We Respond When They Do Happen ?

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 20

What We Not Do!

- We must not **ENVY** the wicked!
 - Psa. 73:2-3
 - Their destiny is everlasting destruction!
 - Psa. 73:15-20
- We must not **BLAME** God!
 - Remember Job!
 - "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly"
 - Job 1:22
- We must not **DEPART** from God!
 - "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."
 - Hebrews 3:12, 13

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 21

A Gospel Preacher's Quote

"We cannot afford the luxury of forgetting or ignoring what God has promised us. Certainly, no one is justified in blaming God for his troubles, when he has failed to apply this truth in his life. God is not the author of bad things, but of good. James said, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (Jas. 1:17). It is the Devil who is the source of our problems, not God. Peter said, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). We must be careful that we not falsely charge God with our troubles. He is not the cause of the troubles — he is the help and deliverance from them.

I was just thinking, if all of these things are true, and they are, why do many Christians, in time of trouble, drift away from God instead of toward him? It is one of the sad facts of our time that we frequently will not turn for help to the only true and reliable source of help — the Lord God."

Quote by Lewis Willis - Guardian of Truth XXXVII: 11, p. 3-4, June 2, 1994

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 22

What We Must Do?

- **Count your blessings!**
 - Take a "spiritual and physical blessing inventory!"
- **Remember others who are suffering!**
 - 1 Peter 5:9b; Philippians 2:3-4
- **Make the most of each day of your life!**
 - Eccl. 8:15
- **Always seek God when trials come!**
 - Hebrews 4:14-16; Job 1:20-22
- **Remember, God blesses the righteous!** – Psa. 73:1
 - Job was blessed because he endured – Job 42:12
 - Seek the **Eternal** blessings! – Matthew 6:33
- **Draw near to God!** – Psalms 73:21-28
 - He will draw near to you – James 4:8-10
 - Promised a **UNIQUE** place of rest – Rev. 21:1-7

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 23

Heaven - Revelation 21:1-7

- And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. 4 **And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.** 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People 24

Heaven - Revelation 21:1-7

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Love God as Paul Did!

- "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: 'For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.' 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"** – Romans 8:35-39

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Bad Things Happen To Good People

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"What Shall We Do?"

Acts 2:37

- An alien sinner must...**
 - Hear the Gospel - Romans 10:17
 - Believe - Romans 10:10
 - Repent – Acts 17:30
 - Confess Christ - Acts 8:37
 - Be Baptized in water - Acts 8:38
- A wayward child of God must...**
 - Repent and Pray - Acts 8:22
- Be Faithful UNTO death! – Rev. 2:10b**
 - Cf. vs. 13

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

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A Unique Reward

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away"
(Rev. 21:4)

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