

# Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Job 1:1, 8, 13-18

## Introduction:

- A. Why do bad things happen to good people? A question pondered for ages.
- B. Conversely, why do good things happen to bad people? (Cf. Jer. 12:1)
- C. Likely, no man can fully answer either question. Can understand much about it.
- D. Several things to consider while groping with the problem:

## Discussion:

### I. We Live in a World Cursed by Sin.

- A. In the beginning everything was good - including man (Gen. 1:31; Ecc. 7:29).
- B. Sin brought a curse upon man and the world. (Gen. 3:16-24)
  - 1. Pain, suffering, and sorrow a part of dying process of man.
  - 2. God removed man from the “tree of life” — immunity to death.
    - a. Without this immunity the body deteriorates — disease and pain.
    - b. Without this protection “nature” can be agent of death and destruction — accidents, etc.
- C. No one is immune to this curse (Eccl. 9:2,3; 1 Cor. 15:22; Heb. 9:27).

### II. We Must Give the Devil His Dues.

- A. Saying “it is the Lord’s will” does not fully explain a tragedy.
  - 1. Everything — even sin — is the “Lord’s will” in that He permits it to happen.
  - 2. Not everything is Lord’s will in that he desires or causes it to happen.
- B. We must recognize Satan’s role in both moral and physical evil in world.
  - 1. Satan is source of sin and its consequences. (Gen. 3:5, 22; cf. John 8:44; 1 John 3:8).
  - 2. Satan was the source of Job’s troubles.
  - 3. Satan was source of Paul’s thorn. (2 Cor. 12:7).
  - 4. Satan hindered Paul from going to Thessalonica (2 Thess.2:18).
  - 5. Satan was source of woman’s infirmity (Luke 13:16).

### III. We Are Limited in Our Vision.

- A. Only God can see from beginning to end. (Ecc. 3:11).
- B. Today’s trouble may be tomorrow’s blessing — but cannot see it today.
  - 1. Joseph’s troubles (Gen. 45:8).
  - 2. Paul’s troubles (Phil. 1:12-14).
  - 3. Stephen’s death and persecution at Jerusalem (Acts 8:1-4).
- C. “Worst thing that can happen” sometimes “best thing that could happen.”

### IV. God Has the Final Word.

- A. Ill: A child listens to father read story and laughs at villain’s behavior. Had already heard last page..
- B. Would not be best for man to live in sinful world, immune from the effects of sin (cf. Jas. 1:2-4, 12).
- C. God will remove the redeemed from such a world in due time.
  - 1. Will be no more pain, sorrow and death. (Rev. 21:4)
  - 2. No more bad things for good people, no good things for bad people.

## Conclusion:

- 1. God will not allow us to be tempted (or tried) beyond limits. (1 Cor. 10:13).
- 2. One day we can live in a place with be no bad things or bad people.