

Why Me?

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When bad things happen in our lives we often ask, why me? What have I done to deserve this? Where did I go wrong? It has been common teaching amongst Christendom that if evil falls upon you, you must have angered God, or sinned against God, or that you messed up somewhere along the line. Many of these assumptions have come from readings of the Old Testament, where God gets angry, God is vengeful, God does evil to people. To truly understand the reality of this subject we must go back to the basics of understanding Biblical truths we *must* adhere to. One of those great truths is understanding that difficult verses must be understood in light of the many clear verses.

Psalm 5:4: For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.

Very clear.

I John 1:5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Very clear

Psalm 145:9 Psa 145:9 The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works.

These verses are very clear. If God is in fact light and his nature is love, then there must be some other sort of explanation of why we might think that the true God might be causing wickedness and darkness in our lives, and therefore I must do something to rectify this. In our logic and rationality as human beings we, many times, search for cause and effect. There is, in fact, cause and effect to evil, but it is not what is often taught or thought about. To better understand this, we'll take a look at a record in the Gospels where Jesus Christ is posed with a similar question to this subject in the Gospel of John, chapter 9.

John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

2 And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? 3 Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. 4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

Most translations have rendered Jesus Christ's response in this way in alignment with the teaching that God causes evil towards people. What is it when we read in the Old Testament that mention God causes bad things to happen to people, what's that all about? Many of these words and phrases are figures of speech called, "idioms". An idiom is a phrase or expression that has a figurative meaning that is different from the literal meaning of the words in the phrase. In the Old Testament, the Devil was unknown to people, therefore both good and evil were attributed to God Almighty. God had to communicate to people so that they would understand His intent. Jesus Christ came to uncover the works of darkness and expose the Devil and his methods of evil.

Additionally, you may remember from our previous teachings that there were no punctuations in the Greek and Aramaic manuscripts that English Bibles trace back to, and that punctuation is simply at the discretion of the translators and editors. Knowing that these punctuation marks are not divinely inspired, we may consider whether an alternative punctuation in this record would solve the problem that is posed in the KJV.

The latter part of verse 3, **"that the works of God should be made manifest in him,"** gives a reason for something, but it is not the reason for this man's blindness. Looking at verse 4, we see a statement for which the reason is given in verse 3. So, what did Jesus really say and what was he teaching?

This consideration of the punctuation in verses 3 and 4 removes the difficulty posed in the KJV. The works of God in this record are the works of healing, not blindness of the man. In order for the works of God to be made manifest in the blind man, it was necessary for Jesus to do the works of God, Who had sent him, while it was day. Thus the beginning of a new sentence in the middle of verse 3 that continues into verse 4, it should read: **"Jesus answered,**

Neither has this man sinned, nor his parents. 4 However, that the works of God should be made manifest in him, I must work the works of him that sent me while it is yet day."

It would be day as long as the light was present, and Jesus Christ said that as long as he was in the world, he was the light of the world, as stated in verse 5. Therefore, Jesus Christ was to do the works of God while he was present in order for the works of God to be made manifest in the blind man.

Jesus Christ was teaching a very important truth here. It wasn't that this man's parents sinned that he was born blind, and it wasn't that the man had sinned in a previous life, as some rabbis were teaching at the time about reincarnation. Nor was it God that caused this man to be born blind just so that Jesus Christ could show off the power of God. Since the man was blind, he needed healing. Therefore, since Jesus came to do the works of God, it was up to Jesus to minister healing to the blind man. Verses 6-7 illustrate the great miracle that Jesus manifested.

John 9:6: When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, 7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

The fact of the matter is that we still live in a fallen world, ruled by whom the Bible calls the god of this world, Satan, the Devil. His agenda is stealing, killing and destroying. The Devil would have enjoyed nothing better in this situation than the blind man lived his entire life with being blind. It is GOD'S nature that is good, peaceable, just, true and full of goodness. It's was the Devil's doing that caused this infirmity. There were many more people who suffered from blindness in that day and time, just like there are many who live today in blindness. In many cases, it is spiritual blindness, rather than physical blindness that is the major problem. Here is an illustration of both the Devil's MO and God's MO.

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: 4 In whom the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

This is a very straightforward section of Scripture. Is it God's will that people live in darkness? NO! When the light of God's Word is presented to them, they have the freedom of will choose to have the light in their lives, just like it was the blindman's decision to received sight in John 9. If the light of the glorious good news of Jesus Christ is presented to them, then they too can receive their sight from their spiritual darkness.

So, the sin wasn't this man or his parents', but the original man, Adam's. Adam was originally given dominion over God's creation. But it ended abruptly when Adam sinned. Let's briefly look at this command that God gave to Adam and Eve.

Genesis 1:28 And God blessed them [Adam and Eve], and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

After the fall of man in Genesis 3, Adam transferred this dominion to the Devil; God's arch-enemy. The Devil is quite aware of this fact that this dominion was transferred to him from Adam, to the end that he even tried to tempt Jesus Christ with his dominion and authority during Christ's temptation in the wilderness.

Luke 4:6 And the Devil said unto him [Jesus], All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.

The very deep subject of the Devil's dominion over mankind is a teaching for another time But, in retrospect, Adam was given only one commandment to obey, and the disobedience of that commandment caused sin and spiritual death to enter into the world. Physical death came into the world at that point, along with all evil.

Romans 5:12a KJV Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men...

Now, it's also supremely important to remember that we as human beings have free will. Free will is given to EVERY human being to choose between right and wrong, blessing and cursing, good and evil. God spells out this reality in the Old Testament in the book of Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 11:26 Behold, I set before you this day a blessing and a curse; 27 A blessing, if ye obey the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you this day: 28 And a curse, if ye will not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside out of the way which I command you this day, to go after other gods, which ye have not known.

God is encouraging to His people... always! Here, in Deuteronomy it is no different. He spells out the simplicity of what He has outlined for His people. A blessing if they obey and follow His Word, and a curse if they don't. Now, it was up to them to perform, because if they didn't, there were the consequences of sin, of being disobedient. It's not God's will for anyone to perish in eternity, as mentioned in II Peter.

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

This very thing is true today. In the spiritual sense, if a person obeys the truth set forth in Romans 10:9, then they are saved at that very moment. All hell can't stop them from going to heaven. It's black and white. But it is still up to each individual person to decide whether to believe or not. Once saved, a person can still decide to not renew their mind to God's Word. In such cases, the benefits of salvation of the more abundant life will not be manifested and realized in their life. 😞 We, like Adam, have the ability to follow God's Word and reap the benefits, or to choose not to, and then reap the consequences. Our own free will decisions to choose to follow after the sin nature will result in our own detriment. However, much of the mishaps that occur in life trace back to the fact that we live in a fallen world due to one man's sin (Adam), and the fact that because of this sin, the consequences of sin and death has been passed to all people; including every human being that has ever lived. Jesus Christ came to stop the destructive work of Satan, and restore mankind's fellowship with the true God, and make the more than abundant life available to anyone who cares to believe on the great work that God and Jesus made available once again.

People are responsible for their own behavior, but when terrible things happen to us, it's important to keep all these things in mind so that we aren't constantly beating ourselves up. Evil so often disguises itself as good and makes good look like evil, and only due consideration will bring out the truth.

II Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

While I'm not particularly interested in theology nor what people say about the Bible, I do believe it is vital to our understanding that we see that the forces of evil are still among us, and still try to make God appear evil, and to make evil appear as good. Even amongst much of Christianity, people have either ignored or talked themselves out of believing that which the Bible so simply teaches about a personal adversary and his agents. So as to not let him get an advantage of us, let's take a brief look at how Satan operates. The Devil's M.O. was explained very eloquently by Jesus Christ in ***John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.***

The first part of this verse tells us the thief, referring to the Devil, only comes to **steal, kill and destroy**, that's it. That's the Devil's end-game. Jesus Christ, on the other hand, who always did the will of his Father, came to bring the **more abundant life** to people. Here we see two completely different agendas, complete opposites... they are as different as night and day. Theft, murder, and destruction... versus a more, or super abundant life in all of its manifestations. Jesus also mentions a brief explanation of the Devil's motives in an exchange with some religious leaders at the time of his earthly ministry.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Here, we see it's part of the Devil's nature to lie, he is the father of lies. This is how he steals our thoughts, our convictions to God. As we mentioned earlier, the Devil is also called the god of this world. His authority and dominion was transferred to him from Adam when he sinned. It's also clear from the book of Hebrews that the power or authority of death is the Devil's, who is the author of death, not the true God.

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he [Jesus] also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy [paralyze] him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Again, this verse is very clear: God, nor Jesus Christ is not the author of death... the Devil is the one who brought death into this world. So, if everything we've read is true, why, and how does the blame for all of these operations of evil get put on the true God so often?

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.
15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

The Devil is sly. He blames God's people for what he, himself does. He's very slick and he uses trickery and deception in order to get people to believe the slander he speaks about the true God! He's may not be directly involved specifically in each of the deceptions, but he "pushes the buttons and pulls the levers" behind the curtain. As Ephesians 6:11&12 so beautifully describes our action toward Satan's deceptions. **11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."**

The Devil rarely makes his presence known and can work his agenda because his web of deception reaches so far, as he is the god of this present world, and the unbelievers are willing accomplices. However, not all is lost. There is the true God that helps people, loves people, heals people, and desires to be brought back together with all people. The true God never steals, he never murders people, he never causes catastrophe toward his people. Even though the Devil causes all the bad in this world and blames the true God for it, we do not have to be tricked by it at all. We can know that the blame lies solely on the Devil... **always!**

I John 4: 7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

The true God is all love. The true God is glorious light, and in Him is no darkness at all. When we ask, **"Why me?"** it is not you or the true God. We have to begin to understand the good things that the true God does and the evil which the Devil, the god of this present world does, so that we're not attributing evil to God the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, and place all evil on the Devil himself. Let's put on the whole armor of God. Let's walk with the love of God, and hold forth the Word of Life and Light!

God bless you

Recommended Reading: **"Select Studies: Chapter 7, "A Consideration of Job."** This shows the stark contrast of what the Devil does, and what the true God does to comfort, to heal and to make a person's life better than before.