

# I WANT TO KNOW MY BIBLE

## Why Bad Things Happen and What To Do About It

### THE MOST COMMON CAUSE

Reading: Job 1-24

Text: Job 1-2

INTRODUCTION: As we read the story of Joseph a week ago, and the first half of the Book of Job this week, we are examining two questions: **Why Bad Things Happen and What To Do About It.** Through the life of Joseph, we saw two of the three reasons why a good, all powerful God would allow bad things to happen in His world and especially why He would allow bad things to happen to His people.

- **GOD ALLOWS BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN TO ACCOMPLISH HIS GOOD PURPOSE.**
- **GOD ALLOWS BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN TO BRING ABOUT GOOD FOR PEOPLE.**

In our reading this week in the delightful book of Job (wasn't it fun?), we saw the third reason why bad things happen. However, before we examine that third reason let me share a few interesting and helpful tidbits about Job as a person and the book that bears his name.

1. **Job was a real, historical person.** He is not a fictional character in an ancient drama or poem.
2. **He is referenced by name by the prophet Ezekiel and by James,** the half-brother of Jesus, and the leader of the First Baptist Church of Jerusalem.
3. **Job lived in the land of Uz** (not the land of Oz!), **which was later named Edom,** south of the Dead Sea.
4. **Job was probably a contemporary with Abraham.**
5. **The Book of Job may be the oldest book in the Bible, completed possibly by Moses before the completion of the Pentateuch (Genesis to Deuteronomy).**

I share these things with you not merely for curiosity's sake, but to strengthen the credibility of this book which has been attacked by faithless scholars so called. While the form of most of the book is poetry as is Psalms, the account is historical. And while the assault on the value of the Book of Job comes by way of the hands of men, the origin of their thoughts comes from one who desires that a central truth revealed clearly in the book remain obscured.

It is in fact this truth that comprises the third part of the answer to the question we began to examine last week. **Why do bad things happen when God is all together good and all together powerful?**

While much in the Book of Job affirms the first two reasons we saw in Joseph's life in Genesis, it adds a third reason. In fact, we saw it in the first two chapters of the Book of Job. I would say that this reason for bad things happening in our world is the most common reason bad things happen. This is the most common cause.

- **BAD THINGS HAPPEN AS A CONSEQUENCE OF EVIL.**

Now when the Book of Job opens, Satan is on the scene and evil is present in the world. Many of us who have an inquiring mind want to ask, **what is the origin of evil?** That is the question we will answer in the **sermon tonight in our evening series DIGGING DEEPER.** For this morning, we simply must note that by the time of Job, evil is very much present in the world, and today we are looking at its consequence.

## **I. BAD THINGS HAPPEN SOMETIMES BECAUSE WE DO EVIL.**

### **A. The wicked lost always ultimately reap the consequences of sin.**

Ps. 37:1 Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity.

### **B. The saved do not suffer the consequences of sin, because Christ suffered the consequences of sin for us.**

1 Pet. 3:18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,

### **C. Bad things sometimes happen to those of us who are saved as chastisement for persistent sin in our lives.**

Heb. 12:5-8 <sup>5</sup> And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>6</sup> For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." <sup>7</sup> If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.

1. **When bad things happen, the child of God should ask, “Is this coming as chastisement because there is persistent sin in my life, and I have not repented?”**
2. **When we too quickly say to others who experience trial and tragedy, “God did not do this.” Or “This is not of God.”**

**In our attempts to magnify the mercy of God, we often obscure or even negate the holiness of God.**

**Without the holiness of God, there is no need for His mercy.**

## **II. SOMETIMES BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO US BECAUSE OTHERS DO EVIL.**

- A. The bomb does not need to be aimed at you for you to be caught up in the explosion.**

You do not have to be the one using the drugs to experience some of the bad things that happen because of drug use.

You do not have to be the cause of a dysfunctional family to suffer the pain that a dysfunctional family brings.

- B. While sometimes bad things happen as a direct consequence of our own sin, sometimes they happen as a consequence of someone else’s sin, and we are standing close by.**

But here is the thing I really want you to see today, because this is the thing that there is a purposeful attempt to hide in our world today.

## **III. BAD THINGS HAPPEN BECAUSE SATAN WORKS EVIL AGAINST US.**

- A. This is what happened to Job!**

1. **Job did not suffer because he was an unrepentant sinner.**

Job 1:1, 1:8, 2:3 <sup>1</sup> There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. <sup>8</sup> Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?*”

<sup>2:3</sup> Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who*

fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause.”

**2. Job was not caught in the fallout of somebody else’s evil.**

- This was all about Job.
- He was the target,
- but he was not being punished or chastened for sin.

**B. Bad things happened in Job’s life because Satan attacked him.**

1. Now, we can be distracted by asking, “Well why did God allow it?”
2. The answer goes back to what we saw last week in Joseph’s life.
  - a. God had His own purpose to be accomplished which He did through Job’s experience.
  - b. But ultimately, Job was blessed by what God allowed.
  - c. It all worked for Job’s good and God’s glory.
3. But the key question here is why these bad things happened to Job.
  - a. Why did he lose his wealth?
  - b. Why did he lose his family?
  - c. Why did he lose his health?

**The answer to all these questions is because Satan worked evil against Job.**

And this is important to you and me because ...

**C. Satan always desires to work evil against each of us.**

Jesus, calling the devil a thief, said,

**Jn. 10:10** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

1. **Satan wants to take your life.**

- a. That is why the devil works so hard to tell you there is nothing wrong with drugs. He delights in lives snuffed out in their prime.
- b. That is why he will spare no expense to get you to drink. He celebrates drunk drivers killing themselves and their families or total strangers on the road.

**2. Satan wants to steal what God has entrusted to you.**

- a. That is why gambling is so enticing – the devil makes it so!
- b. That is why the devil will give you every excuse in the world you are willing to embrace not to give the tithe to God. Because Satan knows that if you give the tithe, God becomes the protector of what He has already given you and promises to give you more. But the devil doesn't want that! His desire is to steal from you.

**3. Satan wants to destroy every good thing God has sent in your life.**

- a. He wants to destroy your marriage.
- b. He wants to destroy your children.
- c. He wants to destroy your family.
- d. He wants to destroy your testimony.
- e. If he cannot kill you, he wants to ruin your life!

And so how do we treat Satan today? How do we respond to who he is and what he is?

- We joke about him.
- We mythologize him.
- We try to get as close to him as we dare and not get burned.

We look at the devil's way as the fun way, as the good life, and we treat God like an ole fuddy duddy who just wants to keep us from having a good time.

Students, listen to me this morning. Young adults, listen to me this morning. Friend of every age, listen to me this morning.

One of the very important messages that you can glean from the Book of Job is to see the true character of Satan and to recognize his purposes. You want to be like Job? You want to lose it all, including your family and your health, then just give the devil the opportunity to have his way in your life.

The number one reason bad things happen in people's lives is because bad things are a consequence of evil.

**CONCLUSION:** So **what is the solution?**

- **Come to Christ. Exchange your sin for His righteousness.**
- **Live for Christ. Put off the flesh, the ways of the devil, and put on Christ.**