

# WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

## PART 2

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### Love & Suffering

- Are people getting away with evil?
  - Justice delayed is not necessarily justice denied
  - We can not blame God if the story hasn't finished? Peter 3:9
  - We also can not say how much pain is enough. No one knows the limit, only God. The level is subjective, "I have pain so there is too much pain in the world." Or "If I were God I wouldn't allow this much pain"
- Is there a purpose to suffering?
  - Only when people experience suffering do they turn to God. This is God's plan!
  - It sometimes leads to repentance.
  - Read p60
  - Suffering is compatible with God's love if it is medicinal, remedial and necessary. It is the sick who need a doctor. Mat 9:12-13
  - If there was no suffering (result of sin/evil) we would not see God's love and would not need Christ.
- How do we respond to suffering?
  - There is a choice (remember the free will thing!).
  - In the midst of suffering we can either:
    1. Turn away from God
    2. Turn to God
    3. No third option
- It was in God's plan -> it started and ended in the beginning. Gen. 3:6 – 3:21

Verses 14-15. God passes sentence; and he begins where the sin began, with the serpent. Under the cover of the serpent, the devil is sentenced to be degraded and accursed of God; detested and abhorred of all mankind; also to be destroyed and ruined at last by the great Redeemer (Christ), signified by the breaking of his head.

War is proclaimed between the Seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent. It is the fruit of this enmity, that there is a continual warfare between grace and corruption, in the hearts of God's people. There is a continual struggle between the wicked and the godly in this world.

A gracious promise is here made of Christ, as the Deliverer of fallen man from the power of Satan. Here was the promise of the gospel day: no sooner was the wound given, than the remedy was provided and revealed. This gracious revelation of a Saviour came unasked, and unlooked for. Here was a revelation of mercy, giving some hope of forgiveness.

By faith in this promise, our first parents were justified and saved. Notice is given concerning Christ.

1. **His incarnation**, or coming in the flesh. It speaks great encouragement to sinners, that their Saviour is the Seed of the woman, bone of our bone, Hebrews 2:11,14.
2. **His sufferings and death**; pointed at in Satan's bruising his heel, that is, his human nature. And Christ's sufferings are continued in the sufferings of the saints (believers) for his name. The devil tempts them, persecutes and slays them; and so bruises the heel of Christ, who is afflicted in their afflictions (sufferings). But while the heel is bruised on earth, the Head is in heaven.
3. **His victory over Satan thereby**. By his death he gave a fatal blow to the devil's kingdom, a wound to the head of this serpent that cannot be healed.

Therefore God introduced loss (by removing perfection) that when we receive what was lost we would understand the value of it. When we understand the suffering Christ(God) did on the cross we can then understand God's love for us.

Therefore, suffering was introduced through sin, so that we could know His love and know Him.

In reality, we never lost anything, God did! We only gained eternity.