

**IF**  
**Week 4 – May 14, 2017**



## **Why Does God Allow Bad Things To Happen To Good People?**

### **Two Questions Must Be Answered.**

#### **1. Who Are Good People?**

Summary of *When Bad Things Happen To Good People* by Rabbi Kushner  
Because man is good and God is good and bad things happen to good people, God is not involved in bad things, not only not allowing them, but not able to stop them from happening.

Jesus' Perspective:  
Matthew 19:16-22

Romans 3:19-20

Romans 3:11-12

According to Jesus – no one is good

#### **2. What Are Bad Things?**

There are more important things to God than keeping sinful man from suffering.

God allows what He hates to accomplish what He loves.

### Three things God loves:

- 1) He loves exposing man's sin so as to make him seek God.

*When God Weeps*, Tada & Estes, pg. 142 & 143

The beauty of being exposed and empty is that God can then cover you. Like a surface that must be scrubbed clean before you can bond anything to it, the bonding of intimacy between God and us won't adhere until the film of dirt goes, the ambitions, the vanity, everything that sets itself up against others and God....

Affliction is the gristmill where pride is reduced to powder, leaving our souls naked, bare, and bonded to Christ. And it feels beautiful.

- 2) He loves perfecting a person's inner being, keeping his heart where it was designed to be.

James 1:2-4

*When God Weeps*, Tada & Estes, pg. 202 & 204

Earth's pain keeps crushing our hopes, reminding us this world can never satisfy; only heaven can. And every time we begin to nestle too comfortably on this planet, God cracks open the locks of the dam to allow an ice-cold splash of suffering to wake us from our spiritual slumber. Suffering keeps swelling our feet so that earth's shoes won't fit....

Suffering sandblasts us to the core, removing sin and impurities so that intimacy with Jesus is possible.

- 3) He loves administering justice so that His righteousness is not compromised.

Numbers 23:19

<sup>19</sup> "God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

The true Rabbi's perspective (Jesus)

Because man is not good and God is good, bad things happen to people, not merely because they deserve them, but better yet because those who do or will follow Him need them.

## **Is Jesus The Only Way To God? What About Other Religions?**

### **John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

1. Fulfilled Old Testament Prophecies Regarding Jesus
2. A Life Of Working Miracles
3. The Resurrection
4. A Legacy Of Changed Lives

### **Kenneth Scott Latourette**

"Through Him movements have been set in motion which have made society for what mankind believes to be its best - the inward transformation in human lives, in political order, in the production and distribution of goods to meet the physical needs of men, in healing physical ills, in the relations between races and between nations, in art, in religion and in the achievements of the human intellect. Gauged by the consequences which have followed, the birth, life and resurrection of Jesus have been the most important events in the history of man. Measured by His influence, Jesus is central in the human story."

## What About All The Other Religions?

### Options

- 1) None Are Correct  
(No way to God)
- 2) All Are Correct  
(Yet they contradict each other)
- 3) Only One Is Correct

### Recommendation For Investigation

- 1) Pick The Religions And Their Leaders Which You Think Have The Most Merit, i.e.:
  - Confucianism (Confucius)
  - Buddhism (Siddhartha Guantama)
  - Islam (Mohammad)
  - Christianity (Jesus)
- 2) Pick A Handful Of The Most Critical Evaluative Issues And Do A Comparative Study, i.e.:
  - Teachings
  - Moral Life
  - Miracles
  - Prophetic Power
  - Present Status

### Religions & Their Leaders

- 1) Confucianism (Confucius)
  - From China
  - 551 B.C. – 479 B.C.
  - Largest following at one time = 300 million
  - Only 6 million now
- 2) Buddhism (Buddha)
  - Siddhartha Guantama
  - From India
  - 563 B.C. – 483 B.C.
  - 360 million followers

- 3) Islam (Mohammad)
- 570 A.D.
  - 1.2 billion followers

- 4) Christianity (Jesus)
- 2 billion followers

\***Note:** Hinduism is not included because:

- no central leader associated
- no single God represented
- some consider it a social system more than a religion

## Areas Of Contrast

### 1) Teaching

- Confucius
  - “Analects”
  - Wisdom editor only
- Buddha
  - Four Noble Truths (took from Hinduism)
  - First writing 400 years later (oral tradition)
  - “Scholars are increasingly reluctant to make unqualified claims about the historical facts of the Buddha’s life & teachings” – Wikipedia
- Mohammad
  - Koran
- Jesus
  - Old Testament & New Testament Of Bible

### 2) Moral Life

- Confucius
  - OK but not perfect
- Buddha
  - OK but not perfect
- Mohammad
  - Many moral struggles
  - Violated his own teaching (exceeding # of wives)
  - Changed his own teaching mid stream
- Jesus
  - Perfect

### 3) Miracles

- Confucius - none
- Buddha - none
- Mohammad - none
- Jesus - many
  - Not “if”, but “how”

### 4) Prophetic Power

- Confucius - none
- Buddha - none
- Mohammad - few
- Jesus - constantly

### 5) Present Status

- Only Jesus claimed to be alive/overcoming death



TO SUBMIT A QUESTION ELECTRONICALLY:  
Text your question to: 678-829-8879  
Email your question to: [ifgod@perimeter.org](mailto:ifgod@perimeter.org)