

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People

BY JOSEPH F. ROBERTS, THD, PHD

A SERIES OF LESSONS TO HELP CHILDREN OF GOD UNDERSTAND
WHY BAD THINGS IN LIFE COME THEIR WAY

International Missionary Baptist Ministries Publishing

SPONSORED BY: MAYFIELD DRIVE BAPTIST CHURCH | SMYRNA, TENNESSEE

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People

Copyright © 2019 IMBM Publishing

All rights reserved. No part of the material protected by this copyright notice may be reproduced or utilized in any form of by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any informational storage system without written permission from the copyright owner, with the following exception: Permission is granted to download and print for classroom and personal study purposes provided credit is given. Content may not be changed and must be used “as is.”

Designed by Joseph F. Roberts

Printed in the United States of America

Table of Contents

Chapter 1 Lesson 1: Introduction to the Series.....Page 3
Chapter 2 Lesson 2: Problem of Sin.....Page 6
Chapter 3 Lesson 3: Purpose of God.....Page 11
Chapter 4 Lesson 4: Permission of God.....Page 16
Chapter 5 Lesson 5: Persecution for God’s Sake.....Page 21
Chapter 6 Lesson 6: Provision of God.....Page 26
Chapter 7 Lesson 7: The Passion of Jesus Christ.....Page 33
Closing Thoughts.....Page 39

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People

Lesson 1

Introduction To The Series

TEXT: Psalm 73:1-28 1 <<A Psalm of Asaph.>> Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

- 2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.
 3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
 4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.
 5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.
 6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.
 7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.
 8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.
 9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.
 10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.
 11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?
 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.
 13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.
 14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.
 15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.
 16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;
 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.
 18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.
 19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.
 20 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.
 21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.
 22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.
 23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.
 24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.
 25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.
 26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.
 27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.
 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

INTRODUCTION:

One of the oldest questions to come to the mind of mankind is “Why do bad things happen to good people?” The Book of Job is believed to be the oldest book of the Bible. This question is raised in that book. Job’s friends seemed to be of the opinion that bad things do not happen to good people; therefore, they proceeded to accuse Job of doing very bad things. They told Job that the things that he was experiencing were the judgment of God because of his sins. But, of course, we who have read the Book of Job know they were wrong as are the majority of people today.

The writer of Psalm 73 struggled with the same question. As he observed life, he saw good people suffering and evil people seemingly getting along just fine. His observations caused him pain, 73:16-17. “When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.”

I. THE DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING THESE THINGS.

We are finite and God is infinite. Isaiah 55:8, 9 *8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Sometimes, there are differences in the definition of what is good and bad. We too often see things from our limited perspective and not from God’s perspective.

We often do not distinguish between God’s action and Satan’s action. A striking example is found in the man Job. We sometimes think that God’s permitting bad things to happen means that God is either unfair or He does not care.

There is the tendency to accept the good and to expect God to make sure that only good comes our way, Job 2:9-10. *9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. 10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.* When bad things happen, our tendency is to listen to Satan’s accusation that God is not doing what is right and that God is being unfair.

We often do not understand the purpose of the event, and we want an answer right now rather than waiting on the Lord. Just because it does not make sense, our sin nature in the flesh automatically causes us to think the worst of God, Genesis 37: 50:19-21.

We sometimes have difficulty in trusting God with our lives. Can we really trust God Who gave His only begotten Son to save us to do what is good and right for us? Genesis 18:23-25; *23 And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? 24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? 25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*

1 Kings 8:56. *Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.*

II. EXAMPLES FROM THE BIBLE.

✚ The death of Abel. 1 John 3:12 *Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.*

✚ Job.

- ✚ The ill treatment of Joseph.
 1. By his brothers. Genesis 37
 2. By Potiphar's wife. Genesis 39.
 3. By the king's cupbearer. Genesis 40.
- ✚ The death of Uriah. 2 Samuel 11:
- ✚ The death of David's infant son. 2 Samuel 12:15-23
- ✚ The three Hebrew children. Daniel 3:
- ✚ Daniel. Daniel 6
- ✚ The death of many babies by Herod's order after the birth of Jesus. Matthew 2:13-18
- ✚ The beheading of John the Baptist. Matthew 14:1-12
- ✚ The suffering and death of Jesus Christ.
- ✚ The beating of the apostles. Acts 5
- ✚ The stoning of Stephen. Acts 7:54-60
- ✚ The beating of Paul and Silas. Acts 16:14-40

CONCLUSION:

The writer of Psalms 73 went to the house of the LORD and there learned from God those things that helped him understand.

The Psalmist was convicted that he was wrong for thinking that God was unfair. Psalms 73:21-22 21 *Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. 22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.*

Upon receiving understanding from the LORD, he confessed his weakness and received strength from the LORD. Psalms 73:26-28 *26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. 27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee. 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.*

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People

Lesson 2

The Problem Of Sin

TEXT: Genesis 3:1-21 *1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?*

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

INTRODUCTION:

One of the oldest questions to come to the mind of mankind is “Why do bad things happen to good people?” It has been a very difficult question for many people to deal with.

In introducing this series, the difficulty of understanding these things was discussed. Some things which make it difficult to understand why bad things happen to good people are:

1. We are finite and God is infinite.
2. Sometimes there are differences in the definition of what is good and bad. Too often, we see things from our limited perspective and not from God’s all-encompassing perspective.
3. We often do not distinguish between God’s action and Satan’s action.
4. There is a tendency to accept the good and to expect God to make sure that only good comes to us.
5. When bad things happen, we tend to listen to Satan’s accusation that God is not doing what is right and that God is not being fair.
6. We sometimes do not understand the purpose of the event and we want an answer right NOW rather than waiting on the LORD. Just because our present circumstance is perceived to be a bad thing and does not make sense now, our sin nature in the flesh automatically causes us to think the worst of God.
7. In this Lesson, Lesson 2, let us look at the problem of sin as one reason why bad things happen to good people.

I. SIN MAKES US SUSCEPTIBLE TO BAD THINGS.

The origin of sin

The scriptures trace the origin of sin to Satan. Genesis tells us how sin entered into the world. The Bible relates the long history of the evil and bad things brought about by sin. It sets forth Jesus Christ as the divine remedy for sin necessitated by the guilty act of man and by the nature of man that is unrenewed is itself sin.

Apart from Scripture, there is no understanding of the horror, shame, evil and impact of sin. Non-Christian moralists largely treat sin as ignorance, misfortune, and weakness but rarely as guilt. The human remedy for man’s problems is culture of the mind and body. In the irony of history, the world was never so vile as when pagan culture was at its peak.

Definitions of sin

1. Sin is action against or failure to act in accord with the will of God, Romans 3:23. *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.* This can be in the mind or can be accompanied by some outward act, Matthew 5:27-28; *27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: 28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*
Acts 5:3. *But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*
2. Sin is a nature, Romans 5:19, *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.* Men do not become sinners by sinning - they sin because they are sinners from birth. Even in the believer, the sin nature is still active but can be controlled by the greater power of the Holy Spirit.
3. Sin is a state of being, Romans 3:9 *What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;* Galatians 3:22 *But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.* God has declared the whole human race - Jew and Gentile - to be in the state of complete absence of righteousness, without merit and utterly condemned; therefore, man is susceptible to bad things happening to him as related to his state of total depravity.

II. SIN OFTEN INFLUENCES OUR DECISIONS AND CAUSES BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE.

When sin influences our decisions, bad things happen.

When Satan influenced the decision of Adam and Eve, they lost their purity and their home in the Garden of Eden.

1. They began to know sorrow, Genesis 3:16 *Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.*
2. They began to experience difficulty in providing food for themselves because Adam's decision brought the curse upon the ground, Genesis 3:17-19, *17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

Sin influenced Lot's decision and bad things happened.

Lot chose to live in the land of Sodom and Gomorrah, Genesis 13:5-13. Note carefully verses 11

13. *11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other. 12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom. 13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.*

Lot was vexed by the conduct of the wicked, 2 Peter 2:6-8. *6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; 7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked: 8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)*

The word “vex” in verse 7 means “to wear down by hard labor, to get worn out.” The word “vex” in verse 8 means “to torture, afflict with pain.” Lot lost his home, his wife, his possessions, his wealth, and his daughters disgraced him.

Sin influenced some of David’s decisions and bad things happened. He chose to commit adultery with Bathsheba and bad things happened. He chose to kill Bathsheba’s husband and then chose to attempt a cover up the murder and bad things happened, 2 Samuel 11-12.

He chose to be influenced by sin and bad things happened. His baby son died. His daughter was raped by another son. His son was killed. Another son led a civil war against David in an attempt to kill him.

He chose to number the people of Israel after having been told not to do so and bad things happened, 2 Samuel 24. As a result, 70,000 men died.

III. SINS OF OTHERS CAUSE BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE.

The sin of Cain caused Abel to be murdered, Genesis 4; Hebrews 11:4; 1 John 3:11-12 *11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.*

The sin of Joseph’s brothers caused him to be sold as a slave, Genesis 37.

The sin of the high priest, the Sadducees and the Sanhedrin caused the Apostles to suffer, Acts 5:17-42. Carefully note the Apostles’ reaction to the sins of others as recorded in verses 38-42.

The sins of some religious people caused Stephen to be stoned to death, Acts 6:8-7:60.

The sins of parents in disobedience to God sometimes cause the children to suffer, Exodus 20:4-6 *4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.*

Idolatry, adultery, and other acts of sin by parents will sometimes impact their children with bad things happening to good people.

CONCLUSION:

The problem of sin is one reason bad things happen to good people, but it is not the only reason why bad things happen to good people.

Sin is the root cause of bad choices and decisions that others and we make.

Sin blinds the mind, blurs the vision, and seeks to block the making of right decisions. Our thoughts and decisions determine our actions.

Sin influences those we often consider to be good people to reject Jesus Christ as Saviour and to remain lost.

Sin sometimes influences the decisions of believers concerning baptism, church membership, service, and commitment to God through the church thereby robbing us of blessings and fellowship.

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People

Lesson 3

The Purpose Of God

TEXT: Genesis 37:12-28 *12 And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.*

13 And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.

14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

15 And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?

16 And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.

17 And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

INTRODUCTION:

The question “Why do bad things happen to good people” has troubled people for centuries. It is still a troubling question. Because this question is so difficult to understand, Satan often uses it to cause us to question God’s love and goodness.

The account of Joseph being sold as a slave by his brothers is an account of a bad thing happening to a good person. The question naturally arises, “Why did this happen to Joseph?” Why did God

permit this to happen to Joseph who was only 17 year of age, Genesis 37:2?

In Lesson 2, we learned that bad things sometimes happen to good people because of sin whether it is because of their own sin or because of the sins of other. Whichever the case, bad things happen to good people because of sin.

In this lesson, no sin is mentioned as the cause of this bad experience happening to Joseph. A careful study of Joseph's life will show that God allowed it because of His Divine purpose for Joseph as well as for the brothers selling him and for his father.

I. THE PREPARATION OF JOSEPH.

The prophecy, Genesis 37:7, 9. *7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.*

9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

The problem with the brothers

Intense hatred for Joseph, Genesis 37:4-5. *4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him. 5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.*

Extreme envy of Joseph, Genesis 37:8, 11. *8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words. 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.*

The perplexing accusation by Potiphar's wife, Genesis 39:1-3, 7-20.

Although Joseph did not understand why he was sold by his brothers, he still trusted God and followed God's standard for living, Genesis 39:1-3, 8-9. *1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. 2 And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand.*

8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; 9 There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

The false accusation resulted in Joseph being put into prison; but even there, God blessed him, Genesis 39:21-23. *21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22 And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. 23 The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.*

This prison experience served as a valuable preparation for Joseph in fulfilling the purpose of God.

From envy to hatred, from being sold to be a slave to false imprisonment because of a false accusation by a wicked woman, Joseph, like Job, maintained his integrity before God.

Although he did not understand why these things happened, Joseph trusted God and God blessed him while he was imprisoned.

While Joseph was in prison, two of Pharaoh's servants were also imprisoned. While confined, the servants dreamed dreams they did not understand. Joseph told them that interpretation of dreams belongs to God, Genesis 40:7-8, 20-22.

The Prime Minister of Egypt, Genesis 41.

Look at Joseph's rise from slavery to Prime Minister.

- a. Joseph was sold as a slave when he was 17 years old, Genesis 37:2.
- b. When he was 30 years old (after interpreting the dreams of the two servants), he was called before Pharaoh to interpret his dreams, Genesis 41:46.
- c. As with the two imprisoned servants, Joseph did not take credit for being able to interpret dreams by declaring that interpretation of dreams belongs to God, Genesis 41:14-16.
- d. Pharaoh told his dreams to Joseph and Joseph responded by telling Pharaoh that God had given him the dream to show what He (God) was about to do, Genesis 41:25, 28, 32. After Joseph interpreted the dream, he was exalted to the position of Prime Minister of Egypt.

Look at the events that happened to Joseph over a 13-year period.

- a. He was sold as a slave by his brothers.
- b. He lost the fellowship and love of his family.
- c. He was imprisoned because of false accusation.
- d. He was forgotten by Pharaoh's chief butler.

Note carefully that none of the bad things happening to him resulted because of anything Joseph had done. Sometimes bad things happen to good people in order that the purpose of God will be fulfilled. All the while bad things were happening to Joseph, God never stopped blessing.

- a. God blessed Joseph in Potiphar's house.

- b. God blessed Joseph in prison.
- c. God blessed Joseph with the position of Prime Minister of Egypt.

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE EVENT FOR JACOB.

Reaping what he sowed

Deception. He deceived his father and father-in-law and reaped deception, Genesis 37:31-34.

Partiality. The object of his love was taken from him. It was not wrong for Jacob to love Joseph; but he ought to have loved the other sons as well, Genesis 37:3-4.

Provision for his family in a time of famine.

III. THE PURPOSE OF THE EVENT FOR THE BROTHERS.

Pride and envy dealt with.

Their pride and envy, Genesis 37:8, 11.

Their humility.

- a. Bowing before Joseph, Genesis 42:6, 21-23.
- b. Asking for forgiveness 30 years after having sold Joseph into slavery, Genesis 50:15-17.

Proof that they could not defeat the purpose of God, Genesis 37:6-11, 18-20.

III. THE PURPOSE OF GOD. Genesis 50:19-21.

To prepare Joseph for special service.

To provide for the children of Israel.

CONCLUSION:

When bad things happen, we often do not know the purpose behind them immediately.

The main thing to remember is to keep trusting and obeying God, even though we do not understand the reason. God knows all things and He knows what lies ahead for us.

It is possible to keep trusting and serving God even when bad things happen.

The purpose of the event may be different for different people.

Joseph trusted God in his difficult time and God blessed him all the way.

Can you trust God to do what is right even though you cannot understand the reason right NOW?

Why Bad Things Happen To Good People

Lesson 4

The Permission Of God

TEXT: Job 1:1-21 *1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.*

2 And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

3 His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.

4 And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them.

5 And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually.

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

13 And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

14 And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them:

15 And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

16 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

17 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

18 While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house:

19 And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.

20 Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

