

A loving God would not allow disasters or suffering

How often have we questioned why some disaster or suffering was allowed to happen.

Essentially it boils down to asking ‘Why’.

Why did God allow it?

Let’s take a look at who Yahweh God is and what He can and cannot do. Also where mankind is positioned after the fall of Adam and Eve.

Who is God

Love

1 John 4:8 *The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.*

John 10:30 *"I and the Father are one."*

Heb 13:8 *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

These three scriptures reveal God is Love. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

His love is fixed. His love cannot change.

To make the claim that a loving God would not allow suffering or disaster is refuted by these scriptures. It would imply God is not acting in love.

A loving God who is the same yesterday, today and forever can only operate out of love, because His is love.

Perfect

Matthew 5:48 *Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.*

Because God is perfect nothing He does or allows is imperfect or wrong.

Upright, Faithful, Just, without Injustice

Psalm 25:8 *Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.*

Deuteronomy 32:4 *"The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.*

From these scriptures we know Yahweh God is perfect, good and upright. We know His Ways are just, and without injustice.

Eden was a perfect place to live, but!

Gen 2:17 *but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."*

Adam and Eve did not die physically immediately after they sinned. Father God in His great mercy extended Grace. The death their sin brought upon them was that they would no longer live eternally in God's presence.

Who is sin against

Psalm 51:4 *Against You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your sight, So that You are justified when You speak And blameless when You judge.*

2Samuel 12:13 *Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die.*

King David says he sinned against the Lord.
He also states that God is blameless when He judges.
All sin is against the God of Righteousness.

The wages of sin is death.

God is bound to judge sin so that injustice does not occur.

A Judge who fails to jail a known murderer would be an unjust judge.

The wages of his crime would not have fitted the penalty warranted by his crime.

We know all sin is against God.

That is why God has to judge sin.

Acts 9:4 *and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"*

In this verse Paul is persecuting the saints. The Lord says Saul, Saul why have you been persecuting Me.

Persecution of the saints is viewed by Yeshua as persecuting Him.

Here is another reason He will judge evil.

Vengeance is mine says the Lord.

Romans 12:19 *Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.*

The consequence of choosing sin over righteousness

Genesis 3:16 *To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you."*

Genesis 3:17 *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the man who has sinned. Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die. But because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.*

The consequences for Eve was that pain in childbirth would be multiplied. Her desire would always be for her husband, who will rule over her.

For Adam the ground was cursed and he will toil all the days of his life to eat from it.

Death is another consequence, as sin brings death.
(Genesis 2:17 above)

Sin has consequences. It has been said ‘the temptation to sin is nothing compared to the consequences of sin, consequences can last a lifetime’.

How often has it been said a loving God would not allow disaster and suffering to take place.

What does God say about Suffering and Sickness?

Proverbs 18:14 *The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, But as for a broken spirit who can bear it?*

We see in this scripture Yahweh God has not left man alone in sickness. He has built within him a spirit that can endure it.

This is a good scripture when discussing euthanasia. Remembering too, man is made in the image of God, so euthanasia is also killing the image of God in the person.

1 Samuel 2:6 *"The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up.*

It is the Lord who gives and takes life, not man.

God made the mute, deaf and blind.

Exodus 4:11 *The LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him mute or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?"*

The two scriptures above combined may help to explain the tremendous exploits some people have achieved in spite of the disabilities and barriers they have faced.

God gave them a spirit to endure, and it is He who made them mute, deaf or blind.

Blind poet and hymn writer Fanny Crosby was one who's spirit certainly triumphed and endured over her blindness.

She was blinded in childhood from misguided medical treatment.

As a poet and hymn writer she wrote as many as 9,000 hymns in her lifetime. God says he puts an enduring spirit within us. It would be hard to find a better example of that truth than in the life of Fanny Crosby.

Made to Heal

It is a recognised stage of grief to be angry with God.

Psychologically Yahweh God has made us with emotions that contribute to healing as we work through loss and bereavement.

Psalm 47 tells us the Lord heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.

Psalm 147:3 *He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.*

Death

Psalm 116:15 *Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints.*
Yahweh God has a different take on death.

Death of His saints is precious in His sight.
He delights to have us with Him.

Disasters

What about disasters?

Sin has consequences as we saw with Adam and Eve.
But what about Nations where natural disasters, famine, drought and other catastrophes occur.

Genesis 15:16 "*Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.*"

We see here the cup of iniquity of the Amorites was not yet complete.
Once it is full judgement will come.

It is this principle that helps us understand why there was so much bloodshed when Israel went into Caanan, the promised land.

The atrocities these Nations had perpetrated through idol worship, human sacrifice and other abominations would no longer be tolerated by a Holy and Just God.

Once the cup of iniquity is full He will judge.
It is probably fair to say He has to judge.

Australian disasters and Evil

Can man, governments or nations cause or bring on disasters.
In Australia the States of Victoria and Queensland enacted laws decriminalising abortion in recent years.
Within two months in both instances disaster struck these states.
Below are extracts about these disasters with the details from our article on Abortion.

In December 2008 the Australian state of Victoria legalised abortion up to 24 weeks.
Again just months later in February 2009 they had the worst fires in history.
Four hundred fires burned, 180 lives were lost, 414 were injured, 2029 homes were destroyed and 19,000 personnel were deployed.
450,000 hectares (1,000,000 acres) of land was burned.

At the end of January 2018, and the beginning of February 2019 just a few months later Townsville in North Queensland was impacted by its worst flooding in history in spite of the long range weather forecasts predicting few cyclones for the season.
3,300 properties were flooded, record breaking rains were recorded and Townsville was declared a disaster-

Sin has consequences but our politicians are slow to learn.

Ezekiel 18:23 "Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked," declares the Lord GOD, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?"

It is not Yahweh God's first choice to judge wickedness. He prefers that we turn from our wicked ways. Repentance requires to turn and walk another way.

We saw the cup of iniquity can become full. The time for repentance has passed. Judgement will come. (Genesis 5:6)

Let's talk about God's love at Work

We know Adam and Eve were created in a perfect world and therefore were without sin.

However they had the capacity to sin should they choose-
Their choice to disobey brought sin into the world.

Ever after they had sinned Yahweh God still pursued them in the garden in the cool of the evening to find out what was up.

Because man was created with free will he has the capacity to do good or to do evil. He was given the capacity to choose so as not to be governed or controlled.

Love lets go, it does not restrict or control.

This may be why God who is Love chooses not to prevent every calamity.
What does happen only happens because He allows or causes it. Could it be
evil bringing it on and not God who is just and righteous. (Genesis 5:6)

It is said, something is only free when you let it go.

Love lets go and does not control.

What would it have been like if Adam and Eve and mankind were like programmed robots who could only do as God chooses. There would be no freedom to choose.

Would that be love or bondage?

We only have to look at controlling relationships to know how detrimental these relationships can be.

Being controlled restricts the person, stifles their freedom and does untold emotional damage.

Free will and a sovereign Father

In considering the subject of man's free will we need to balance it with scripture that shows us instances where Yahweh God has acted in ways that might surprise us. Sometimes there is intervention to achieve His purposes.

One example is Paul's blindness on the Emmaus Road.

Another, Yahweh God hardening Pharaoh's heart at the time of the plagues in Egypt.

Paul

Acts 9:4-8 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

(v5) And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,

(v6) but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do."

(v7) The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

(v8) Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.

There is no record of God telling Paul there would be an encounter on the Emmaus Road with the King of Kings, and that he would be blind for a time.

In Exodus 7 below Yahweh God says that He will harden Pharaoh's heart. He also gives the reason why. That is, His signs and wonders would be multiplied. The supreme, almighty God is showing His strength and power over the gods of Egypt.

Pharaoh

Exodus 7:3 "But I will harden Pharaoh's heart that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.

Yahweh God has power to incline hearts, and to harden hearts.
He also caused blindness to come upon Paul to bring him into His purposes.
God said of Paul, he is a chosen vessel of mine.
Blindness was the means God used to bring Paul into His calling as a chosen vessel of the Lord's.
The Father knows how to get our undivided attention.

Yahweh God's sovereign power and authority is being exercised in these circumstances with Paul and Pharoah.
What marvellous examples of God acting supernaturally on behalf of His people. (persecution and slavery)

A loving God frees us to make right decisions.

Our freedom to make good and bad choices means God takes enormous risks with us. Like Adam and Eve we may make wrong choices.
He knows controlling us would bring us into bondage.

Freeing love needs good stewardship, with wise choices to prevent self imposed sickness and disease.
Our lifestyle choices can contribute to sickness and disease.
Good stewardship of our bodies brings us protection.

Scripture tells us we have everything needed for life and godliness.

2Peter 1:3 *seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*

Why then does Yahweh God allow suffering and disasters

Isaiah 45:7 *I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.'*

In this scripture Yahweh God says He forms darkness, He makes peace

and creates calamity.

Calamity is a tool in The Father's hands to draw attention to the need for repentance, or alternatively a failure to repent that brings judgement.

Romans 2:6 who "WILL RENDER TO EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS":

Our responsibility is seen here as according to our deeds so it shall be.

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.*
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God's Plans are for peace and not for evil. For a future and a hope.

To summarise what the scriptures have taught us

Love

God is love

He is perfect

God is righteous and upright

He is faithful and just

He is without injustice

Sin

Our sin is against Yahweh God

God viewed Paul's persecution of the saints as persecuting him

Sins consequence is death

Sickness and Death

Man has a spirit to endure his own sickness

We are given emotions that bring about healing (grief)

Yahweh God heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds

The death of the saints is precious in God's sight

Justice

When the cup of iniquity is full over a nation. Judgement will come
Two disasters occurred in Australia just months after decriminalisation of
abortion legalisation.

God is blameless when He judges

God prefers repentance over the death of the wicked

Unless we are free to make choices, we are being controlled

At times God intervenes to achieve His purposes. As we have seen with Paul
and Pharaoh.

His plans

Yahweh God's plans for us are for peace and not evil

For a future and a hope

It has been said 'What Now' is a better question to ask than 'Why'.

Perhaps there is some wisdom in this counsel as we may never understand
why something happened in this life.

**Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and
knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways
past finding out!**