

Heaven Can't Wait

John 14:1-6

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Introduction

One of the constant preoccupations of our culture is to ask the question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" If you are at all a reader or if you browse at all in bookstores or if you read newspapers and magazines you know that this question is seemingly addressed in every month and every week as we march our way through these current years. Somebody is writing a new article or a new book, having a new discussion on this matter.

It has to do with the fact that people aren't willing to recognize, first of all, that they're sinful and secondly, that they live in a sin-cursed, sin-stained fallen world. They have such an elevated opinion of themselves, such a lofty view of who they really are that it's somehow inconceivable to them that something bad might happen. After all, they would imagine themselves to be the good people.

Even among Christians there are new books coming out almost monthly, a very popular new book recently having been written on

this subject, addressing the same issue, why is it that bad things happen to good people. Or where is God in the midst of my trouble. Or how am I supposed to figure out God when everything I would assume to be characteristic of his treatment of His people is not happening.

You would think...you would think that the answer to the question was obscure. You would think that trying to solve the problem was very difficult when in fact it isn't. In fact, it would seem that you wouldn't even need a whole book to answer the question, it could be answered rather summarily and rather briefly. Bad things happen to good people because of sin. We live in a sinful world and we ourselves are sinful people. And while that is an answer, it is not a satisfactory one because it doesn't give us enough information to sort out some other things that certainly come into play in comprehending this issue. So let me see if I can't help you with that.

Bad things do happen to good people. Let's put it another way, bad things do happen to God's people. Let's even go further. God allows bad things to happen to His people. And the question is...why? I don't think any of us is questioning that this indeed is true, all of us have experienced to one degree or another difficulties and trials and troubles. We know they happen. The question is, why? Why does God allow bad things, devastating things to happen to His people?

Let me see if I can't give you a list of answers to that question that will sum it up.

Number one, God allows bad things to happen to His people to test the validity of their faith...to test the validity of their faith. That is to say, to determine if their faith is a lasting faith. To put it another way, to determine if it is a destructible faith. Because if it is a destructible faith, it is not a saving faith. Because saving faith is indestructible, saving faith endures to the end. Saving faith perseveres.

Secondly, God allows bad things to happen to His people to wean them from the world...to wean them from the world. To help us break our attachments to the world because we tend, you see, to trust in all of the worldly things, all of the worldly resources, human reason and money and power and prestige and influence and friendships and whatever else. And the Lord brings us to trials in order that we might be weaned away from confidence in worldly things.

Thirdly, the Lord allows bad things to happen to His people to call them to heavenly hope...to call them to heavenly hope, to fill our hearts with anticipation for the glories to come so that we will live in hope. **Romans 5:3** says, "Tribulation brings perseverance, perseverance brings proven character, proven character brings hope and hope never disappoints."

Fourthly, the Lord allows bad things to happen to good people to show us what we really love...to show us what we really love. It's all part of our sanctification. You see, trials will reveal what is most precious to you. If proven character is most precious, if enjoying the sufferings of Christ for the sake of being a fellow sufferer with Him is most precious, then you'll endure anything. If bearing the cross and the reproach of Christ is most precious, then you'll suffer the loss of anything for that.

But if your bank account is most precious, when stock market goes down or when the savings and loan where you had your money folds or when a depression hits, you're going to be in big-time despair. You're not going to be able to back up and say...Well the Lord I love supremely must have in mind to do some wonderful work of molding and shaping my character after the image of Jesus Christ, so I praise Him for this.

Number five, God allows bad things to happen to His people in order that He might reveal His compassion in our misery. God is ever and always concerned to manifest Himself. It is God's desire that we understand who He is, we know His nature and that we

see His nature displayed to us. And if God is a God of compassion and if He's a God of mercy, if He's a God of grace, if He's a God of pity, if He is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, as verse 3 in our chapter says, then He needs an opportunity to demonstrate that. No calamity, no comfort. No loss, no need for loving kindness. No pain, no need for pity.

Psalm 63:3 says it so magnificently. The psalmist says, "Because Thy loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee."

Number six, God does allow bad things to happen to His people to develop their spiritual strength for greater usefulness...to develop their spiritual strength for greater usefulness. You have to have a tested person in the really difficult ministries. The more you are tested and refined by trials and trouble, the more useful you become.

Number seven, the Lord allows bad things to happen to good people to enable them to help others in their trials...to enable them to help others in their trials. One of the reasons that I have difficulty is so God can come to me in my difficulty and strengthen me and then I can come to you with the strength He's given to me.

'A prudent man sees trouble coming and ducks; a simpleton walks in blindly and is clobbered.' Proverbs 27:11

New International Version Psm 88:3

I am overwhelmed with troubles and my life draws near to death.

Job 17:1

My spirit is broken, my days are cut short, the grave awaits me.

Psalm 6:3

My soul is in deep anguish. How long, LORD, how long?

Psalm 107:18

They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death.

Psalm 107:26

They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away.

Psalm 116:3

The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow.

Psalm 141:7

They will say, "As one plows and breaks up the earth, so our bones have been scattered at the mouth of the grave."

I. The Command

1. "Let not your heart be troubled;

Command- Stop being troubled

tarassó: to stir up, to trouble

Original Word: ταραάσσω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: tarassó

Phonetic Spelling: (tar-as'-so)

Short Definition: I agitate, stir up, trouble

Definition: I disturb, agitate, stir up, trouble.

HELPS Word-studies

5015 *tarássō* – properly, put in *motion* (to agitate back-and-forth, shake to-and-fro); (figuratively) to set in motion what *needs to remain still* (at ease);

to "trouble" ("agitate"), causing inner perplexity (emotional agitation) from getting *too stirred up inside* ("upset").

[5015 (*tarássō*) translates 46 Hebrew words in the LXX (*Abbott-Smith*), showing the enormous connotation power of OT Hebrew vocabulary.]

John 14:27

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. ²⁸ You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming *back* to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,'

John 11:33

³³ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. ³⁴ And He said, "Where have you laid him?"

Isa 43:1

But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob,
And He who formed you, O Israel:
"Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called *you* by your name;
You *are* Mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I *will be* with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overflow you.
When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned,
Nor shall the flame scorch you.

³ For I *am* the Lord your God,
The Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

II. The Community

v 1 you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

you believe in God,

The orthodox teaching of Judaism is the Shamah of Israel

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְיָ אֶחָד

Sh'ma Yis'ra'eil Adonai Eloheinu Adonai echad.

Hear, Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One.

believe also in Me.

a claim to equality with the Father

a claim to Deity

John 11:25

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 12:44

⁴⁴ Then Jesus cried out and said, “He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. ⁴⁵ And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me.

I John 2:23

²³ Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

In my Fathers House are many mansions

Father House= Heaven

2 Cor 5:1

For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Hebrews 11:10

Abraham

¹⁰ for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

Rev. 21:22

²² But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb *is* its light. ²⁴ And the nations of those who are saved

shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. ²⁵ Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). ²⁶ And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. ²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

mansions

moné: an abiding, an abode

Original Word: μονή, ἡ, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: moné

Phonetic Spelling: (mon-ay')

Short Definition: lodging, dwelling-place, room

Definition: lodging, dwelling-place, room, abode, mansion.

HELPS Word-studies

3438 moné (from **3306 /ménō**, "to remain, abide") – an *abiding* dwelling-place (i.e. *not transitory*). **3438 /moné** ("an *individual* dwelling") is only used twice in the NT (both times by Christ).

III. The Coming

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.

I go to prepare a place for you

Prepare

hetoimazó: to prepare

Original Word: ἑτοιμάζω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: hetoimazó

Phonetic Spelling: (het-oy-mad'-zo)

Short Definition: I make ready, prepare

Definition: I make ready, prepare.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: **2090** *hetoimázō* – *prepare, make (made) ready*. See **2092** (*hetoimos*).

receive

paralambanó: to receive from

Original Word: παραλαμβάνω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: paralambanó

Phonetic Spelling: (par-al-am-ban'-o)

Short Definition: I take, receive

Definition: I take from, receive from, or: I take to, receive (apparently not used of money), admit, acknowledge; I take with me.

HELPS Word-studies

3880 *paralambánō* (from **3844** /*pará*, "from close-alongside" and **2983** / *lambánō*, "aggressively take") – to take (receive) by showing strong *personal initiative*.

Matt 1:20

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife,

Matt 2:13

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt,

Matt 17:1

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; ² and He was transfigured before them.

Mark 4:36

³⁶ Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

that where I am, *there* you may be also.

I AM ego eimi

John 17:24

²⁴ “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will

declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

I Thess 4:13-18

¹³ But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

IV. The Concern

⁴ And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

⁵ Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”

can

dunamai: to be able, to have power

Original Word: δύναμαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: dunamai

Phonetic Spelling: (doo'-nam-ahee)

Short Definition: I am powerful, am able

Definition: (a) I am powerful, have (the) power, (b) I am able, I can.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: 1410 *dýnamai* (a primitive verb) – to show *ability* (power); *able* (*enabled by God*), *empowered*. See the cognate-noun, 1411 /*dýnamis* ("ability, power").

V. The Conclusion

⁶ Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

I remember listening years ago to a radio broadcast of the Bible Study Hour, when Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse, pastor of the Tenth Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia, was the speaker. I'll never forget his telling of the occasion when his first wife had died. He, with his children, had been to the funeral service for her. As he was driving his motherless children home, they were naturally overcome with grief at the parting. Dr. Barnhouse said that he was trying to think of some word of comfort that he could give them. Just then a huge moving van passed them. As it passed, the shadow of the truck swept over the car. And as the truck pulled on in front of them, an inspiration came to Dr. Barnhouse. He said, "Children, would you rather be run over by a truck, or by its shadow?" The children said, "Well, of course, Dad, we'd much rather be run over by the shadow! That can't hurt us at all." Dr. Barnhouse said, "Did you know that two thousand years ago the truck of death ran over the Lord Jesus ... in order that only its shadow might run over us?" And he went on to explain how David had said in the 23rd Psalm,

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me. (Psalms 23:4a KJV)

This is the promise which every believer has from the lips of
Jesus himself: "I will come again and will receive you unto myself,
that where I am, there you may be also."