

What Does The Bible Teach About Blaming God?

Thursday Indepth Bible Class of the
Trilacoochee church of Christ - 9/3/20

Job 10:1-9

- “My soul loathes my life; I will give free course to my complaint, I will speak in the bitterness of my soul. 2 I will say to God, ‘Do not condemn me; Show me why You contend with me. 3 Does it seem good to You that You should oppress, That You should despise the work of Your hands, And smile on the counsel of the wicked? 4 Do You have eyes of flesh? Or do You see as man sees? 5 Are Your days like the days of a mortal man? Are Your years like the days of a mighty man, 6 That You should seek for my iniquity And search out my sin, 7 Although You know that I am not wicked, And there is no one who can deliver from Your hand? 8 Your hands have made me and fashioned me, An intricate unity; Yet You would destroy me. 9 Remember, I pray, that You have made me like clay. And will You turn me into dust again?’”

Why Does God Get the Blame?

- “Sometimes God calms the storm, and sometimes God lets the storm rage and calms His child instead.” (Leslie Gould)
- “‘Why?!’ you ask. Because some people are just evil people, and evil people do evil things. The fact that you are racking your brain trying to understand it, just means that you’re not one of those people.” (President Donald Trump)
- “Sometimes I want to ask God why He allows poverty, indifference, and injustice in this world when He could do something about it. But I’m afraid He will ask me the same question.” (Elie Wiesel, Acceptance Speech for Nobel Peace Prize 1986)

They Don't Understand That Someone Else Is Responsible

- Satan is and always has been man's adversary.
 - John 8:44 - “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”
 - 1Peter 5:8-9 - “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.”

They Don't Understand That Someone Else Is Responsible

Gen. 3:13-19 - “And the LORD God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ 14 So the LORD God said to the serpent: ‘Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.’ 16 To the woman He said: ‘I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you.’ 17 Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field. 19 In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return.’”

People Don't Want To Be Held Responsible When They Create Their Own Problems

- Abortion, divorce, euthanasia, murder, and theft all have one thing in common. They all are ways in which people try to escape the responsibility they carry for their own dilemmas.
 - Gal. 6:7-8 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. 8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

People Don't Want To Be Held Responsible When They Create Their Own Problems

- Matt. 27:24 - “When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, ‘I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it.’”
- Ex. 32:22-24 - “So Aaron said, ‘Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. 23 For they said to me, Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him. 24 And I said to them, Whoever has any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.’”

God Is An Easy Target

- Many folks who find themselves in difficulty frequently want to blame the one in charge. God is in charge of everything; so ultimately, they reason He is to blame when something goes wrong.
- In addition, God doesn't correct them when they do
 - 2Peter 3:9-11 - "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. 11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness"

God Is An Easy Target

- One day God will answer them
 - Acts 17:30-31 - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

Some Believe They Have No Free Will

- They are convinced that God is responsible for all choices of humankind. However, God gave all of us self-determination.
 - Deut. 30:19 - “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live”
 - Joshua 24:15 - “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Some Believe They Have No Free-will

- Matt. 7:13-14 - “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

Many Believe That God Must Immediately Fix Their Problems

- They reason that since God hasn't fixed their problems, He must not care.
- “God, if you really love me, you will...”
- God has not promised to fix anything except the problem of sin
 - James 4:3 - “You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.”

Many Believe That God Must Immediately Fix Their Problems

- 1John 5:14 - “This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”
- 2Cor. 12:7-9 - “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.’”

Since God Created The Heavens And The Earth, He Is Responsible For Everything Bad In Them

- God created everything in this universe
 - Gen. 1:1 - “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
- Everything God created was good
 - Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31
- But Satan corrupted some of those things to evil purposes

Since God Created The Heavens And The Earth, He Is Responsible For Everything Bad In Them

- Humankind was created good and sinless, but they sinned and damaged what God created
 - Gen. 3:17-19 - “Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat of it”: Cursed is the ground for your sake...””
 - Isa. 24:4-6 - “The earth mourns and fades away, The world languishes and fades away; The haughty people of the earth languish. 5 The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant. 6 Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, And those who dwell in it are desolate.”

Since God Created The Heavens And The Earth,
He Is Responsible For Everything Bad In Them

- Rom. 8:19-22 - “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”

Since God Created The Heavens And The Earth,
He Is Responsible For Everything Bad In Them

- God is responsible for the good
 - James 1:17 - “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
- But He is not responsible for evil; we are responsible for the consequences of our own behavior

Since God Created The Heavens And The Earth, He Is Responsible For Everything Bad In Them

- Rom. 2:6-11 - “Who will render to each one according to his deeds: 7 eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; 8 but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness--indignation and wrath, 9 tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek; 10 but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works what is good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.”

People Assume That Bad Things Do Not Happen For Good Purposes

- When bad things happen, people often consider it punishment. But the fact is that not all bad things produce bad fruit.
- God wants us to understand that even bad things produce good results
 - Matt. 5:11-12 - “Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. 12 Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

People Assume That Bad Things Do Not Happen For Good Purposes

- 2Cor. 12:9-10 - “And He said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”
- James 1:2-4 - “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

People Often Forget To Praise God

- When people forget to praise God, it is easy to fall into criticizing Him.
- God is never worthy of criticism. He is only worthy of praise.
 - Psalm 18:3 - “I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised”
 - Rev. 4:11 - “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

People Often Forget To Praise God

- Job 35:9-16 - “Because of the multitude of oppressions they cry out; They cry out for help because of the arm of the mighty. 10 But no one says, 'Where is God my Maker, Who gives songs in the night, 11 Who teaches us more than the beasts of the earth, And makes us wiser than the birds of heaven?' 12 There they cry out, but He does not answer, Because of the pride of evil men. 13 Surely God will not listen to empty talk, Nor will the Almighty regard it. 14 Although you say you do not see Him, Yet justice is before Him, and you must wait for Him. 15 And now, because He has not punished in His anger, Nor taken much notice of folly, 16 Therefore Job opens his mouth in vain; He multiplies words without knowledge.”

Why Does God Get the Blame?

- “Disappointment is inevitable. But to become discouraged, there's a choice I make. God would never discourage me. He would always point me to Himself to trust Him. Therefore, my discouragement is from Satan. As you go through the emotions that we all have, hostility is not from God, bitterness, unforgiveness, all of these are attacks from Satan. Because God has made us for Himself, our hearts are restless until they rest in Him.” (Augustine of Hippo)

Why Does God Get the Blame?

- 1Cor. 2:9 - “But as it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”
- Isa. 49:15 - “Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you.”
- Psalm 103:13-14 - “As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”
- Psalm 121:3 - “He will not allow your foot to be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.”