



## QA: Why Do Bad things Happen To People? by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

### QUESTION: Why do bad things happen to people? - January, 2020

**ANSWER:** Without the Bible, there is no adequate explanation. Re-read **Genesis** chapters **1-3** and realize:

(1) God's World for humans was perfect, but human sin ruined that set-up.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned. (**Romans 5:12**)

(2) The curses of Difficulties and Death were placed on Adam & Eve (and subsequently every human!) when they left Eden. "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble" (**Job 14:1**). Bad things happen as a consequence of sin.

(3) Every difficulty or death afterward gives humans the choice to turn toward God or turn away from God. Despite the complete losses of his riches and children, "In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong" (**Job 1:22**).

Say to them: "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live." (**Ezekiel 33:11**)

Reminders of life's frailty are all around us.

(4) Even Jesus Christ was faced with this problem:

Who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him. (**Hebrews 5:7-10**)

- (a) Jesus was "human" while in "His flesh" and was subject to all the temptation, weakness, pain and anguish as we all are;
- (b) Jesus felt strongly the emotional need to present His fears to God, Who could have spared Jesus all of this struggle. If God "heard," why didn't He change things? If God could, why didn't He change things? Just because we are in anguish, and present it to God, doesn't mean God will immediately

respond in the way we would like it: He didn't for His own Son, why should He for us? With "godly fear," "this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (**1 John 5:14**).

The guarantee is that we are heard, not that God acts according to our will!

- (c) Jesus "learned obedience by the things which He suffered," and shows, by example, that all suffering is a learning experience.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

(**2 Corinthians 4:17**)

- (d) Only those "who obey Him" can be perfected by tribulation and have the promise of "eternal salvation."

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (**Mark 16:16**)

—-- *John T. Polk II, January 19, 2020*