



Bible Today

God's Word for Today!

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TSUNAMI TERROR . . . MILLIONS ASK WHY

On December 26th massive waves crashed into coastal areas across south and east Asia, killing over 225,000 people and destroying the livelihoods of millions in over ten countries. Why did God permit this evil? Why did this tsunami strike at this place and at this time? Was this God's judgment upon these people?

The sad fact is, man has suffered and died in war, pestilence, famine and calamities as far back as history reaches. **THE EXPERIENCE OF DEATH IS UNIVERSAL.** Every generation has been beaten down by this great enemy. Over 100,000 humans feel the bitter pangs of death each day. So this question concerning God's permission of evil is not a new one. In fact, faithful Job asked this very question thousands of years ago.

Job, a prosperous servant of God suddenly lost all he had: animals, servants, children and his own health. Yet he didn't turn from God. Instead, he sought to know why God allowed this calamity to befall him. Job's friends suggested his troubles came as a result of sins which he had not repented of. But Job rejected this answer because he knew wicked men who experienced little suffering as they spent their days and wealth indulging in every pleasure they could imagine.

Job's search led him to this very important conclusion: man cannot judge God according to his limited understanding. To find truth concerning God's ways he must consult a higher source, God's Word. This thought is confirmed by the prophet who said, "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, . . . for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*" *Isaiah 55:8, 9*

When Job's calamity came to an end, his health was restored and he was blessed far beyond what he

formerly possessed. His severe experience with evil humbled and educated him. With this greater understanding and appreciation of God, Job was able to love and serve God more faithfully. Job's experience with evil is an illustration of man's experience with evil. We see that God's design in permitting evil is to bless man with a clearer understanding and appreciation of his Creator so that he might love and serve him faithfully throughout eternity.

Now, let us turn to the Psalmist and ask him this same important question, Why has God allowed mankind to suffer so much for so long?

The Psalmist's reply? — that man might learn God's laws. "*Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now I observe thy word. . . It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn thy statutes [laws].*" *Psalm 119:67, 71*

Standing back to view God's plan as outlined in the Bible allows us to see that evil was permitted as a learning experience with a loving purpose. In man's short life full of woe, he has learned the real consequence of sin — *sorrow, sickness and death*. In the resurrection life, man will learn the real consequences of righteousness — *happiness, health and life!* Then the decision will be his, what will man choose after this experience with evil? Doubtless, the majority will choose righteousness with all its benefits!

Too frequently, God is judged only by what man can see and discern with his human eyes and mind. This view is short sighted and is sure to fail. If your desire is to consider the beauty and grandeur of God's finished plan for the blessing of mankind, from his high and lofty perspective, we invite you to choose from a selection of literature offered free to all who will read it.



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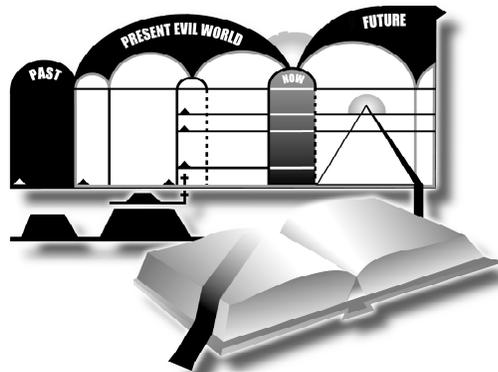
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