

Does Everything In Life Happen For A Reason?

- Introduction:
1. The sovereignty of God and the free-will of man have been a debated issue for centuries.
 2. On one extreme there are those who suggest that God has no active role in the affairs of men.
 - a. He simply sits back and watches it all play out.
 - b. Deism.
 3. On the other extreme there are those who suggest that God is in control of every event in life, and what happens, happens because it is all a part of his plan.
 - a. This view would then affirm that everything that happens is the will of God, at least in the sense that everything that happens is a piece of the puzzle in his grand picture.
 4. I believe the Bible affirms that the truth is between these two extremes.
 - a. I believe the Bible teaches that God is active in the affairs of men.
 - b. But I don't believe that everything that happens is a part of God's plan.

I. Does Everything Happen For A Reason?

- A. Some affirm that everything in life happens to us for a reason.
 1. In other words, God's hand is in every event that takes place.
 2. Even to the put of stubbing one's toe etc.
- B. To put it another way, or to say it in the negative, some would affirm that there is no such thing as "luck" or "chance" because everything is ordered and has a purpose.
- C. However, if one affirms that everything has a purpose, then that purpose would be God's purpose.
- D. However, sin happens. Is that a part of God's purpose and plan?
- E. Furthermore there is the idea of "chance" that is set forth in Scripture.
 1. (Luke 10:31).
 2. (1 Samuel 6:9).
 3. (2 Samuel 1:6).
 4. While both statements that were made in 1 & 2 Samuel were stated by uninspired men, who may have mistakenly thought there was such a thing as "chance," Jesus removes any question as to its existence by making reference to it in Luke 10:31.

II. Do Some Things Happen For A Reason?

- A. In view of the fact that God would not "will" sin, then not everything that happens happens for a reason.
- B. But can one affirm that some things happen for a reason?
- C. Absolutely!
- D. (Genesis 50:20) Joseph - You meant it for evil, God meant it for good.
- E. (Genesis 22:8,13) Abraham - Ram stuck in the thicket.

- F. (Genesis 3:15) The coming of Jesus and the thousands of contingencies that had to occur to make this happen.
- G. (Philippians 1:12) Bad things happened for the furtherance of the gospel.

III. Can We Always Know The Difference Between “Chance” and “Divine Plan?”

- A. No.
- B. (Philemon 15).
- C. (Esther 4:14).
- D. (Habakkuk 1-2) Habakkuk couldn't see God at work, though he was.
- E. I do, however, believe that we have clearer vision when we look back at God's providence than at the moment we are going through it.

IV. Questions And Observations

- A. Do bad things sometimes happen to good people?
 - 1. Yes. (Job 1:6-22).
 - 2. The bad things that happened to Job were not the work of God, but the work of the Devil.
 - 4. However, God can and does redeem situations for those who love God (Romans 8:28).
- B. God has three wills.
 - 1. His Ideal Will.
 - 2. His Circumstantial Will.
 - 3. His Ultimate Will.
 - 4. Examples of these three wills.
 - a. God's **Ideal Will** was for man to not sin, and to obey him in all things, and have fellowship with him.
 - b. However, man did sin which introduced God's **Circumstantial Will**. This will involves the penalties of sin - e.g. death, suffering, sickness, etc.
 - c. Then there is God's **Ultimate Will**. Resurrection of all men, the wicked will be punished, the saved will be rewarded, etc.
 - 5. Keep these three wills in mind when asking the question, “Is it God's will for people to die?”
 - a. The answer is no and yes.
 - b. It is not God's **ideal will** for anyone to die.
 - c. It is God's **Circumstantial Will** that all humans will die.
- C. Can God Prolong Life Or Hasten Death?
 - 1. Yes.
 - 2. (2 Kings 20:1-6) Delayed his Circumstantial Will by giving King Hezekiah 15 additional years.
 - 3. (2 Samuel 12:15-23) Hastened his Circumstantial Will by taking David's infant son.

Conclusion: 1. While God is active in the world, answering prayers and redeeming hopeless and heartbreaking situations, he hasn't pre-programmed our lives to the point where we have no free-will.