

No Answer

*Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job?
There is no one on earth like him;
he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.
And he still maintains his integrity,
though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason."
Job 2:3 NIV*

Many otherwise intelligent people seem to feel they can sit in judgment on God and decide how He must act if He exists at all. Some people will say something like, "If there is a good God why is there so much evil in the world?"

Well, I must admit, I sometimes wonder the same thing. But I also recognize that God does not owe me an explanation for what He does. In fact, I believe instead that I owe God an explanation for my behaviour in this world. God does not answer to me, rather I answer to Him.

Our verse for today is startling when carefully considered. God tells Satan that there was no reason for Him to allow Job to suffer as he did. Job, the innocent man, suffered terribly and God was behind it. Nowhere does Job say that Satan was the author of his suffering.

Job knows God is sovereign and in charge of His universe. Again and again Job states that God is the One Who overrules all things and his suffering

comes ultimately from God.

Of course, it is Satan who brings calamity upon Job—but only as and to the extent God permits. God could stop Satan at any point and, as we see from the text, Satan asks for permission to do anything to Job and God spells out the limits each time (Job 1:12; 2:6). Oh, yes, God is in control and His righteous servant suffers terribly for no reason in himself.

I may speculate on why God did this to Job. For example, I might say that this story has helped God's people all through the centuries to endure in their own times of sorrow as they read the book of Job. That is true.

I might say that God was honoured by Job because Job did not take his wife's advice and "curse God and die" (Job 2:9). That is also true.

Good has come from Job's suffering. Job trusted God when he could not understand God.

When you examine yourself and cannot find a reason in

yourself for your suffering, you find yourself asking, "Why?" You cannot see how the situation is "fair".

If this is where your efforts to understand your problem have brought you, I encourage you to do what Job did. Job refused to "curse God and die." Hold on to your faith and earn the praise of God as Job did. "... the Lord...said to Eliphaz the Temanite, 'I am angry with you and your two friends, because you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.'" Job 42:7 NIV

It may be years from now but certainly, like Job, you shall receive God's commendation. Bring all your confusion, your sorrow, your frustration to your loving heavenly Father and He shall give you peace now and understanding later. Come to Him and come now.

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