



“Does this mean that God has no real power in this world, or that He does not care what happens to us, here and now?” **No, emphatically, no!** But we need to understand that God will not miraculously overturn the laws of nature that operate in this world, to avert the natural calamities. Tornadoes *will come* when the conditions are right; hurricanes *will come* when the conditions are right; and, yes — danger and death *will come* when the conditions are right.

God has allowed humans the power to choose Him or Satan, so He will not *make* us choose to be faithful to Him through all the trials of life, and He won't *make* us do the right things. But as long as we keep our hand in His, we can know that He has promised in Romans 8:28 that He will see to it that even the tragedies of life are turned around and used for our good. That is a promise, and He won't fail to keep it.

Does this mean that He will “build a wall” around His children, so that they will be spared the disasters of this world? Or does it mean that God's children are as helpless in facing life as those who don't belong to Him? Neither scenario is correct. Not through miracles, but through His providential care, God does work in His children's lives. Often, one's greatest spiritual growth develops through

dealing with the negatives and struggles, while the countless good things brought into our lives serve as reassurance of God's care. He overrules and balances whatever comes to His children, so that ultimately we will be the victors.

The challenge for every person is to study the message of the New Testament, to understand how we are born through penitence and immersion into Christ, so that we can be called after His name (Acts 2:38-47). Then through humble submission to His will, we can walk with confidence through the days and the good times as well as the bad, knowing that “*No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it*” (1 Corinthians 10:13).



## Why Did God Do This To Me?

Betty Burton Choate

“Oh, that I were as in months past, as in the days when God watched over me; When His lamp shone upon my head, and when by His light I walked through darkness; Just as I was in the days of my prime, when the friendly counsel of God was over my tent; When the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were around me; When my steps were bathed with cream, and the rock poured out rivers of oil for me!” (Job 29:2-6)

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“And now my soul is poured out because of my plight; The days of affliction take hold of me. My bones are pierced in me at night, And my gnawing pains take no rest.

“I cry out to You, but You do not answer me; ...You have become cruel to me; With the strength of Your hand You oppose me. ...When I looked for good, evil came to me; And when I waited for light, then came darkness. My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest; Days of affliction confront me. I go about mourning, but not in the sun; I stand up in the assembly and cry out for help.” (30:16,17; 20,21; 26-28).

“Is it not destruction for the wicked, and disaster for the workers of iniquity? Does He not see my ways, and count all my steps?” (31:3,4)

“He [God] tears me in His wrath, and hates me; He gnashes at me with His teeth; My adversary sharpens His gaze on me. ... I was at ease, but He has shattered me; He also has taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces; He has set me up for His target, His archers surround me. He pierces my heart and does not pity; He pours out my gall on the ground. He breaks me with wound upon wound...” (16:9, 12-14).

“My eyes pour out tears to God. Oh, that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleads for his neighbor!

“For when a few years are finished, I shall go the way of no return. My spirit is broken, My

days are extinguished, The grave is ready for me” (16:21,22; 17:1).

In anguish of soul, often when humans fall into disaster, we cry out with many of the same words Job used in the long ago: **“Where is God?” “Why is He doing this to me?” “I’m not evil – I don’t deserve this!” “Why doesn’t God hear me and ease my pain?” “I’m broken by this grief that’s more than I can bear. Will there never be peace in my heart again?”**

With Job, we may *accuse* God of silence, but the accusation is wrongly made. For His children, there is genuine peace and comfort from God, and there is direction for our steps to help us through any trouble or disaster. **In the words of His Bible,** He *speaks* to us. He *shows* His love. He *calls* us to come to Him in good times and in bad.

Do you remember what the Scriptures say of this world when God had completed it on the sixth day of creation? *“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good”* (Genesis 1:31). The world God planned included no disaster, no evil, no tragedy, no death. It was perfect, and it was wonderful — just as we think things should surely be “if there is a God.”

There is an adversary, though, an enemy who is God’s enemy first and, secondly, the enemy of

the creation He loves so much that He allowed His only begotten Son to die for us. That adversary is Satan. He was the one who brought sin into the world, and sin has thrown all of creation into a turmoil that can maim and destroy. *“For the creation was subjected to futility...because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now...”* (Romans 8:20-22).

Job did not know who was causing all of his trouble, and he wrongly thought it was God. But the Bible tells us from the very beginning of the account that it was Satan who was attacking Job — Satan who was using nature to bring storms and disaster, in repeated attempts to destroy him.

“But,” you might ask, “if God is all-powerful, why does He allow Satan to bring such terrible things into the world?” Because when man continually chooses to sin, he makes Satan the “ruler of this world”. Jesus came to provide the way to the *“new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells”* (2 Peter 3:13). It will be in that world that everything will be very good again, and it is to that world that He came to show us the way, if we are willing to follow Him.

