

## GOD IS IN CHARGE – 3 DIFFERENT WAYS

11/2/24

- Today – Opportunity to give 2 presentations
- Comment – This is the last Saturday before the 2024 U.S. election
- Second presentation – “God is in Charge, 3 Different Ways”

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- This is one of my favorite subjects – I have mentioned this concept many times
  - This has been one of my favorite traveling subjects – both as a sermon and as an interactive Bible study
  - In 23 years – I have covered a version of this topic – at 52 sister congregations (the first time was in Akron, Ohio in 2001)
  - In our home congregation – I have given a direct version of this topic – in 6 presentations  
The titles of those presentations have been –
    - 2001 – Sovereignty of God
    - 2009 – The Sovereignty of God
    - 2012 – 3 Ways the Sovereign God Creates Calamity
    - 2014 – Is God Really in Charge?
    - 2018 – How Does God Create Calamity?
    - 7/6/24 – Reminder of God’s 3 Approaches
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- Why am I covering this subject again?

John 16:33	in Me you may have peace – in the world, you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer – I have overcome the world
Acts 20:25-31	Paul – heartfelt warning
1 Thess. 5:3	when they say “peace and safety” then sudden destruction comes upon them – as labor pains upon a pregnant woman
4-6	not in darkness, but in the light – not sleep & not drunk
8	faith & love – hope
9-10	we look to our Lord
11	comfort one another

- Please turn to Isaiah 45:7

How involved is God in the vicious wars occurring around the world?  
How involved is God in the evil being done by the global leaders of the world?  
How involved is God in the evil being done by the leaders of your country?  
How involved is God in the evil happening in your family?  
How involved is God in the traumatic events that are occurring in your life at the present time?  
Isaiah 45:7            I make peace and create evil

New King James	I make peace and create calamity
New American Standard	causing well-being and creating calamity
Moffatt	I bring bliss and calamity
Contemporary English	I create happiness and sorrow

· 3 general approaches – which are all found in the Bible

1. God plans the calamity – God conducts the calamity – for God’s specific purpose
2. God allows Satan to plan the calamity – God allows Satan to conduct the calamity – for God’s specific purpose
3. God allows calamity – without having a specific purpose in mind for those specific incidents at those specific times – (often called “time and chance”)

· Sometimes, God Plans the Details

Exod. 4:21                      “I will harden his heart, so that he will not let you go”

· Sometimes, God Approves the Details

1 Kings 22:19-23	God approved the spirit’s details
Job 1:6-12	God approved Satan’s details
Job 2:3-6	God again approved Satan’s details

· Sometimes, God Allows Events to Occur – Even When He Did Not Have a Specific Purpose at That Specific Time  
He Could Have Easily Intervened – but He Used the Event to Further His Overall Will

Eccles. 9:11	time and chance happens to all
Matt. 5:45	God makes His sun rises on the evil & on the good – God sends rain of the just and on the unjust
Luke 13:1-3	were these Galileans sinners above all Galileans?
4-5	were these 18 sinners worse than all the others in Jerusalem?
Phil. 4:12	God watches – poor & plenty – hungry & full
13	God watches – disciples turning to Christ for strength