

## HOW DOES GOD CREATE CALAMITY?

11/3/18

- \* Purpose of study -- reminder about how God manages the events of this world and the events in your life
- \* For the record -- much of this material was given here in our congregation during the following sermons:

10/20/01 -- Sovereignty of God

11/3/12 -- 3 Ways the Sovereign God Creates Calamity - Part 1

11/3/12 -- 3 Ways the Sovereign God Creates Calamity - Part 2

9/6/14 -- Is God Really in Charge?

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- \*How involved is God in the terrorist attacks around the world?
- \*How involved is God in the evil being done in your country?
- \* How involved is God in the school shootings?
- \* How involved is God in the traumatic events that are occurring in your life at the present time?

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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

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Here are 3 general approaches (which are all found in the Bible) about God's involvement in calamity:

1. God plans the calamity -- God conducts the calamity -- for His 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 God having a specific purpose in mind for those specific incidents at those specific times

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\*All 3 approaches are found in the Bible

\* God has operated in all 3 ways -- at different times

\* Beware of people who dogmatically claim to speak for God

Jer. 23:16                      don't listen to them -- vision of own heart

17 imagination of own heart  
21 I have not sent them  
Matt. 23:7-15 people exalting themselves

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SOMETIMES, GOD GETS DIRECTLY INVOLVED FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE

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\* God was directly involved in birth of His Son  
Matt. 1:22-23.....Isaiah 7:14  
Matt. 2:5-6.....Micah 5:2  
14-15.....Hosea 11:1

\* God was directly involved in calamity  
Gen. 11:6-10                      Exod. 14:26-28  
Gen. 6:7,13,17                      1 Sam. 15:3,33  
Gen. 19:24                      2 Sam. 6:7  
Exod. 12:29                      Acts 5:1-10

Exod. 4:21                      "I will harden his heart"  
   Exod. 7:3-4,13                      Exod. 10:1  
   Exod. 8:15,32                      Exod. 14:8  
   Exod. 9:12,35  
Rom. 9:14                      is God unfair?  
15                      life depends on God's mercy  
16                      life does not depend on our efforts  
17                      mentioned Pharaoh in Exod. 9:16  
18                      can choose to have mercy and can choose to harden  
a heart

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SOMETIMES, GOD ALLOWS EVENTS TO OCCUR FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE

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1 Kings 22:19-23                      God gave a lying spirit freedom to visit Ahab  
Job 1:6-12                      God said -- do what you want with anything that belongs  
   to him, but don't harm him  
Job 2:1-6                      God said -- make Job suffer as much as you want,  
but just don't kill him

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SOMETIMES, GOD ALLOWS EVENTS TO OCCUR -- EVEN WHEN HE DOES  
NOT HAVE A SPECIFIC PURPOSE AT THAT SPECIFIC TIME

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Luke 13:1-3                      these Galilaeans sinners above all Galilaeans?

4-5	these 18 sinners above all others in Jerusalem?
Eccles. 8:11	God allows men to do evil works
Eccles. 9:11	time and chance happens to all
Matt. 5:45	God makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good
	-- God sends rain on the just and on the unjust
Phil. 4:12	God watches -- poor & plenty -- hungry & full
13	God watches -- your decisions -- your turning to Christ