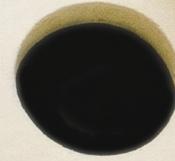


When Forgiveness Doesn't Make Sense

Forgiving God?

SELECTED SCRIPTURES



Introduction: Today as we conclude our series on forgiveness, we will examine whether it is ever necessary to forgive God.

I. Potential "Blame" Targets For Our Problems

A. Window #1: Other **People** (Ephesians 4:32)

Ephesians 4:32 "And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."

B. Window #2: **Ourselves** (Psalm 103:14)

Mark 2:7 "Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming; who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Psalm 103:14 "For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are but dust."

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C. Window #3: **Circumstances** (Luke 13:4)

Luke 13:4 "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem?"

D. Window #4: **Satan**

II. God's Role In Our Suffering

Job 42:2 "I know that You can do anything and that no one can stop You." (The Living Bible)

Psalm 119:68a "Thou art good and doest good;"

Hebrews 4:15 "For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin."

Romans 9:20-21 "²⁰On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, 'Why did you make me like this,' will it? ²¹Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?"

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- A. God Assumes **Responsibility** for Everything in His Creation. (Exodus 4:11; Acts 2:23)

Exodus 4:11 "And the Lord said to him, 'Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes him dumb or deaf, or seeing or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?'"

Acts 2:23 "This Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death."

- B. God's Plan for You Is Conceived in **Love**. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Exodus 15:13a "In Thy lovingkindness Thou hast led the people whom Thou hast redeemed;"

Psalms 139:16 "Thine eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Thy book they were all written, the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them."

Jeremiah 29:11 "'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.'"

- C. God's Plan Is Often Beyond Our **Understanding**. (Job 38:2-5)

Romans 8:28 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:29 "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren."

Hebrews 5:8 "Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered;"

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Genesis 45:5, 7-9 “⁵And now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁷and God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. ⁸Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay.’”

Genesis 50:20 “And as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.”

Job 38:2-5, 12-13 “²Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ³Now gird up your loins like a man, and I will ask you, and you will instruct Me! ⁴Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth! Tell Me, if you have understanding, ⁵who set its measurements, since you know? Or who stretched the line on it? ¹²Have you ever in your life commanded the morning, and caused the dawn to know its place; ¹³that it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?”

Job 39:26 “Is it by your understanding that the hawk soars, stretching his wings toward the south?”

Job 40:12 “Look on everyone who is proud, and humble him; and tread down the wicked where they stand.”

Conclusion