

## Introduction:

We might think of tragedies in big terms-floods, earthquakes, plane crashes, mass bombings, or shootings. But tragedies can be small. Your love one dies unexpectedly, an auto accident, suicide, drug overdose, cancer, etc. can all affect us personally and be our person tragedy. A child hood friend of mine, his mother committed suicide. Hope had classmates killed in an auto accident.

### I) Common Questions We Have

#### A) Why did this happen?

1. Looking at the Book of Job, that is the question they were trying to answer.
2. We look for a reason or some way this tragedy makes sense to us.

#### B) How did this happen?

1. Perhaps phrased differently, "What happened?"
2. This looks at the means or method by which something happened?

#### C) Why do we ask these questions?

1. We are trying to make sense of events that often don't make a whole lot of sense.
2. So as to blame someone.
3. To avoid the tragedy in the future.

\*\*In this lesson we are going to focus mostly on the why. The how and what are secondary in our study.

## II) Why do tragedies occur?

### A) Big picture answer-Satan

1. Death entered when sin entered the world, *Genesis 3.1-6*.
2. From that time onward death has been in this world. *Romans 5.12; 1 Corinthians 15.22a*.
3. Resulting in two kinds of death.
  - a. Spiritual death-when Adam and Eve sinned they were separated from God. Our sins separate us from God. *Isaiah 59.2-3*
  - b. Physical death-*Hebrews 9.27*. Even good, God fearing people die.
4. So, in the big scheme of things we have to remember, Satan is a murderer. He is to blame.

### B) Smaller picture

1. There are times there is a direct correlation between our sins and our death.
  - a. *Romans 1.24-27* the drug addict, the immoral person with STD, etc.
  - b. We have to be careful because not all drug addicts die, not every immoral person get AIDS, etc.
2. Sometimes there is time and chance, *Ecc. 9.11*.
  - a. A number of my relatives have died from various types of cancer. Why not me?
  - b. The person who could have been on the plane which crashed versus the person who

almost never files but just so happened to be on it that day?

**C) Ultimately, we have to remember that death is a part of life.**

### **III) Is God To Blame?**

#### **A) God has a plan?**

1. How many times have you heard someone trying to comfort those hurt by a tragedy say something like "You know everything happens for a reason and God has His." Or, "God has a plan and we might not understand it but we have to accept it."
2. This makes sense of tragedies by making God responsible for everything that happens.
3. Folks, God does not make us sin. *James 1.13.*
  - a. God does not make the rapist, the pedophile, the drunkard, the murder, etc.
  - b. Don't blame God for Satan's work! *John 8.44*

#### **B) God has a plan!**

1. The plan of God is for our salvation. *John 3.16; 2 Peter 3.9.*
2. The plan of God was for Jesus to die for us, Jesus to be raised from the grave, ascend into heaven, send the H.S. to reveal, to convict, and to proclaim the way of salvation.

### **IV) How Do We Make Sense of Tragedies**

#### **A) Deny the existence of God or blame Him**

1. Does that make them feel better?

2. Does that stop tragedies from ever happening?
  - a. The atheist claim it is our belief in God that makes people bad and only by denying God's existence does man reach his full potential.
  - b. Has our society become better or worse with such teaching?

**B) God helps us deal with tragedies**

1. He can give us comfort and aid, *Phil. 4.13, 2 Corinthians 1.3-4.*
2. Only when we believe in God do can we have hope. *Romans 8.28, 35-39.*
  - a. The person who denies God has no hope, only sorrow. *1 Thess. 5.13.*
  - b. The person who relies on God has hope in the resurrection, *1 Cor. 15.20-22*

**Conclusion:**

Job came to realize there were things happening he did not understand. But the one thing he knew was God was not to blame and only in God could he be truly blessed.