

Questions About Why the Righteous Suffer While the Wicked Prosper

By Pastor Ed Anderson

Why Do the Righteous Suffer While the Wicked Prosper?

Answer:

This question has echoed through the centuries—from Job’s cries of anguish to David’s psalms of lament. *“Why do the wicked prosper? Why are those who deal treacherously at ease?”* (**Jeremiah 12:1**) expresses the heart of every believer who has ever felt the sting of injustice.

The short answer is this: **God’s justice is not absent—it is delayed.**

In our fallen world, suffering is not always a sign of divine displeasure, nor is prosperity proof of divine favor. Scripture reminds us that *“the rain falls on the just and the unjust alike”* (**Matthew 5:45**). The wicked may seem to flourish for a time, but their success is temporary; God’s purposes are eternal.

The psalmist Asaph struggled with this very question in **Psalms 73**, saying he almost lost his faith when he saw the arrogant prosper. But then he writes, *“Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end.”* When he entered God’s presence, he saw beyond the moment—realizing that the wicked may have comfort now, but they have no future apart from God.

Suffering for the righteous, on the other hand, is not wasted. God refines His people through trials, shaping their character, deepening their faith, and preparing them for eternal glory. *“Our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal weight of glory that far outweighs them all.”* (**2 Corinthians 4:17**)

In short, **God’s justice may be delayed, but it is never denied.** The wicked may have their day, but the righteous will have eternity. God’s apparent silence is not absence—it is patience, giving every person time to repent before His final judgment comes.