

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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SHALL WE BLAME GOD?

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Some where along life's path, we will experience the heartache of losing a friend, a family member, or an acquaintance in an accident. The word “*accident*” is defined as “*a happening; and event that takes place without one's foresight or expectation...*” (*Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary*). While we understand that an accident occurs without OUR foresight or expectation, some will blame the omniscient God for not using HIS wisdom and power in stopping the events that lead to the deadly accident, causing so much pain in the lives of men. Because the accident occurs, God is blamed.

We must remember that the All-Wise and All-Powerful God allows events to occur by time and chance. Solomon reminds us, “...but time and chance happeneth to them all. For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare, even so are the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them” (Ecclesiastes 9:11-12).

How do we explain those

times when the race is not won by the swift, or those times when the battle is not won by the strong? Solomon reminds us that these unsuspecting occasions occur by chance. God allows this in his universe.

God also places man, empowered with free will, upon the earth governed by His immutable natural laws. Car wrecks remind us of the immutable law that two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time. When a person ignores God's law concerning drinking alcoholic beverages (Proverbs 23:29-35, Ephesians 5:18), and becomes intoxicated, thus hampering his ability to safely drive a fast moving vehicle, and consequently runs into another object causing death, is he not to blame for ignoring God's wisdom? God allows man to freely ignore Him. But God also allows man to experience the consequence of ignoring His immutable laws.

Before you rush to propose that God should stop the car from wrecking in order to avoid the responsibility for the deaths, you must remember that deliberately putting ourselves in harms' way and demanding that God save us

from the deadly consequences is a form of the sin of “tempting God”.

Jesus was tempted by the devil to prove that He was the son of God by casting himself down from the high pinnacle of the temple. Jesus refused to defy God's law of gravity, in order to prove God's faithfulness. He refused by saying, “Again it is written, thou shalt not make trial of the Lord thy God” (Matthew 4:5-7).

I shall not blame God if I make the choice to board an airplane and it crashes due to the deliberate actions of another who freely chooses to do evil. Free choice, the law of gravity, time and chance can all come together with deadly consequences. I shall not begin to make trial of the Lord in demanding He miraculously intervene to save me from harm, or blame Him for not intervening.

God has intervened to take the fear of death away through the resurrection of Christ (Heb.2:15). In Christ, we are prepared for the consequences of time and chance.