

and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven.

**THEISM 9:** Because God defeated Satan at the cross, we can be assured that God will once again ultimately drive out this fallen enemy. This will usher in an age of peace and joy without the existence of suffering.

**John 12:31**—Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.

**Revelation 21:4**—And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and . . . there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.

**NKJ Nahum 1:9**—What do you conspire against the Lord? He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time.

**THEISM 10:** When tragedy strikes, we can be assured that God is not the source, rather He is a co-sufferer with us. Also we can be assured that if some Divinely unpreventable tragedy does come our way, God has promised His abundant grace to get us through and bring good out of the evil meant for us. Because of the existence of freedom, God cannot promise that bad things will never happen to us, but He can promise that good will ultimately come out of Satan's intended evils.

**Matthew 25:40, 45**—“The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’ . . . Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’”

**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.

**NJB Genesis 50:20**—The evil you planned to do me has by God's design been turned to good, to bring about the present result: the survival of a numerous people.



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# WHY DID GOD ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN TO ME?

*The Relationship of Love, Freedom & Risk in a Trinitarian Warfare Theodicy*

**THEISM 1:** Most assume that if God wanted to prevent some tragedy from occurring, He could. Therefore, whatever happens, He must have wanted it to happen for some good reason. This would mean that all things happen for a Divine purpose, or according to God's ultimate will, following a supposed Divine blueprint. Yet the Bible teaches that not everything happens according to God's will. Not everything is turning out the way He wants it to. Therefore, it is not true to say that all things happen for a Divine reason, for some events are not God's desire, or wish.

**Matthew 6:10**—Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

**NKJ Luke 7:30**—But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by Him.

**1 Timothy 2:4**—Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**2 Peter 3:9**—The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

**THEISM 2:** God made us for love. He can draw us into the experience of love. Yet love, by its very nature is something even an omnipotent God can't make us experience. Love is spontaneous. The capacity for love, therefore, requires a certain degree of self-determining freedom to love or not to love.

**2 Corinthians 3:17**—Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

**NKJ Psalm 115:16**—The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth He has given to the children of men.

**THEISM 3:** Therefore, there are some things that, by their very nature, even an omnipotent God cannot do.

**Titus 1:2**— . . . in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago . . .

**THEISM 4:** Freedom, in order to be genuine, must also be irrevocable. Then when things happen that God does not want, He cannot always prevent them. Therefore, because of its irrevocable nature, genuine freedom comes with the element of chance and subsequent risk.

**Ecclesiastes 9:11**—I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the

“God is Love.” —1 John 4:8

\*All Scripture References are from the updated New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.

wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all.

**Isaiah 5:20**—Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

**THEISM 5:** Jesus is the perfect revelation of the Father. We can therefore be assured, through Christ, that there are times when God’s lack of intervention is not because He chooses not to intervene but because He *can’t* intervene.

**Acts 10:38**—You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

**BBE Matthew 13:58**—And the works of power which he did there were small in number because they had no faith.

**Ecclesiastes 9:11**—I again saw under the sun that the race is not to the swift and the battle is not to the warriors, and neither is bread to the wise nor wealth to the discerning nor favor to men of ability; for time and chance overtake them all.

**Daniel 10:1-3, 5, 11-14, 20-21**—In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a message was revealed to Daniel, who was named Beltshazzar; and the message was true and one of great conflict, but he understood the message and had an understanding of the vision. In those days, I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks. I did not eat any tasty food, nor did meat or wine enter my mouth, nor did I use any ointment at all until the entire three weeks were completed. . . . I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, there was a certain man dressed in linen. . . . He said to me, “O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, “Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future. . . . Then he said, “Do you understand why I came to you? But I shall now return to fight against the prince of Persia; so I am going forth, and behold, the prince of Greece is about to come. However, I will tell you what is inscribed in the writing of truth. Yet there is no one who stands firmly with me against these forces except Michael your prince.”

**Ezekiel 22:29-30**—The people of the land have practiced oppression and committed robbery, and they have wronged the poor and needy and have oppressed the sojourner without justice. I searched for a man among them who would build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, so that I would not destroy it; but I found no one.

**Lamentations 3:33**—For He does not afflict willingly or grieve the sons of men.

**Romans 8:20**—For the creation was subjected to futility [disappointment], not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope.

**James 1:17**—Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

**3 John 1:2**—Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

**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.”

THEISM 7: The tragedies and calamities we witness and/or experience are not acts of God, but rather acts of God’s most formidable enemy—Satan.

**John 10:10**—The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

**Matthew 13:28**—And he said to them, “An enemy has done this!”

THEISM 8: Satan (originally named Lucifer) was created perfect. Pride grew into the slandering of God’s character in heaven with Satan’s intent to exalt himself and depose God.

**Ezekiel 28:14**—“You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire.”

**Exodus 25:19-20**—“Make one cherub at one end and one cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim of one piece with the mercy seat at its two ends. The cherubim shall have their wings spread upward, covering the mercy seat with their wings and facing one another; the faces of the cherubim are to be turned toward the mercy seat.”

**Ezekiel 28:15**—“You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you.”

**NKJ Isaiah 14:12-14**—“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’”

**Ezekiel 28:17**—“Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor.”

**Ezekiel 28:16**—“By the abundance of your trade [rekullah—the root can also be translated ‘slander, gossip, talebearing’] you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.”

**Revelation 12:7**—And there was war [polemos—the Greek word from which we get our English word polemics, meaning “a war of words, ideas, or concepts.” This war was a war of words over the character of God and how the universe should be overseen] in heaven, Michael