Why? | Part 2

Lesson 8
Habakkuk 1:2, 13; John 1:29; Romans 5:12; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:7-12
January 14, 2024

Why Does God Allow So Much Evil?

INTRODUCTION

The Rogers family consisted of Frank and Marie and their two children Mike, 16, and Anna, 12. Frank was a pastor at the local church, and Marie was active in every aspect of the music ministry at that church. Their children were doing well in their lives. One day a great evil came to their front door. While preparing for their family dinner, two men came to their home and attempted to destroy this family. In the end, both parents were killed; Anna was violated, and both she and Mike were shot multiple times.

Mike and Anna survived and went on through their lives to heal, both physically and emotionally. Through their healing, God used both to change lives—whether it was advocating for victims' right legislation or showing grace and forgiveness to the two evil men that walked through their door that day. This is a story of "in all things God works for the good of those who love him". (Romans 8:28) As we study this lesson, let's not forget in the lives of His children, He will be the victor.

Memory verse: "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." —1 Peter 5:8

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What do the passages say?

1.	As Habakkuk looks on the leadership and morals of Judah, what is confusing him regarding God's tolerance of the conditions? (Habakuk 1:13)
2.	How did evil come into the world? (Romans 5:12)
3.	What is God's plan for dealing with sin? (John 1:29; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4.	What should we be doing knowing that the devil is prowling around? (1 Peter 5:8)
5.	Why is the devil filled with fury? (Revelation 7:12)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Why is Habakkuk (1:2-4) crying out to God? (2 Kings 21-22)

2. What is God's nature? (Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 7:11; Isaiah 6:3)

3. What is mankind's nature? (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 1:18-32)

4. Habakkuk prophesied to the nation of Judah but had little understanding of why God allowed the evil he saw. We are no different. We pray fervently, asking God to stop the evil in our society, but we don't always get the answers we want. Why is God "slow" in answering those prayers? (2 Peter 3:9) What societal provisions does God give us to help endure evil? (Romans 13). Who established the "authorities"? (Romans 13:1)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

- 1. A survey was done asking non-religious people what suggestions they have for God to stop evil. The top three responses were as follows.
 - A. God could change the personalities of "evil people."
 - B. God could supernaturally intervene 100% of the time when someone was going to commit an act of evil.
 - C. God could change history so Adam and Eve never ate from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

What is the problem with these suggestions, and what do you see as the end results if God implemented them? How do they compare to His plan of "changing hearts"? (Jeremiah 24:7, 31:33; Ezekial 11:19)

2. Share a story where God turned an evil experience into an experience of spiritual growth. (Romans 8:28)

3. We all have people in our lives that have caused us pain and sorrow. Write a prayer asking God to come into their lives and change their hearts from stone to flesh.