

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: Difficulties

Good From "Bad"

Bill Brinkworth

What a world this would be if bad things never happened. Since sin entered in, however, all will experience many difficulties during their life.

Many think that hard things should not happen to good people or Christians, but they do! Just because a person is born into the family of God does not mean they will be exempt from the consequences of natural disasters, disease, aging, others' actions, and death.

Being saved from Hell does not magically put a force field around a person. Yes, God does protect us many times, but it still rains on the "just and the unjust." (Matthew 5:45). Calamities and hard times will happen to everyone.

God could certainly protect us from all misfortunes, but our trials and tribulations often do much to strengthen us and get us closer to Him. It is during the hard times that we should grow closer to God and trust Him to carry us through them. It is also during those times that our faith can grow, as we see his mighty hand of deliverance.

Many wonderful things have happened because of the "bad" times. Here are some "bad" events that happened to godly people in the Bible, and how God used those events to bring honor to Himself, to bless those going through the dilemma, and to bless others:

- Noah. If Noah had not obeyed God and spent many years building the Ark, humanity would not have had a second chance.
- Abraham. If Abraham had not come to the point that he chose God over everything else, including his son's life, he may not have had God's blessings on him and his generations.
- Joseph: If Joseph's jealous brothers had not thrown him in the pit and sold him into slavery, he never would have been second-in-command to the pharaoh and been able to help his family during a time of drought and starvation.
- Children of Israel: If they had never been in hard bondage, they may have accepted their plight and never turned to God for deliverance. Think of all the mighty miracles they saw when He answered their prayers.
- Moses: If he had never kept his father-in-law's, Jethro's, sheep and suffered loneliness in the wilderness, he would never have been in the place to see the burning bush and be called to be God's people's leader.

- Moses: If the angry Egyptian pharaoh had not pursued the people of Israel, they never would have seen the Red Sea part, would not have seen their enemy destroyed, and would not have known that God would guide them.
- Ruth: If Ruth had not been faithful to her mother-in-law and worked to support her, she never would have met the man she was to marry.
- Hannah: If she had never gone to the temple to pray with a broken heart because of her barrenness and made a vow to God to dedicate the child to Him, she may never have been the mother of Samuel and given Israel a godly leader.
- Elijah: If Elijah had never stood faithful to God when it was not popular, Israel may have indulged longer in the idolatry of Baalism.
- Nehemiah: If Nehemiah did not love God and weep for Jerusalem, Jerusalem would never have been rebuilt.
- Job: If Satan had never tested Job, the man of God never would have had twice as much wealth and belongings as he had had originally (Job 42:12-13).
- David: If David had not had hard times and heartbreaks, he never would have helped write much of the book of Psalms, which has encouraged and blessed billions of people.
- Daniel: If Daniel had never been a captive of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, he never would have been able to interpret the king's dream and spare the lives of the other wisemen (Daniel 2) or be the leader he was.
- Paul: If Paul had not shipwrecked on Malta, the island's ruler's father would never have been healed of his fever.
- Jesus: If Jesus was never mocked, persecuted, whipped, beaten, lied about, and eventually died on the tormenting cross, we would never escape a punishment in Hell.

Sometimes hard times do come to people to turn them in a godly direction, or stop them from doing more damage to themselves or others. The difficult tribulations can get them closer to God, so they can see his mighty hand in helping them. Other times, the trials can be to change a situation to the way God has planned.

Some people spend their whole life mad and blaming God for the death of a loved one or for a trial they went through. Do they possibly think that their loved ones would miss death, or that they will have a perfectly sheltered life because they are so "good"?

Hard times will and do come to everyone. No one is exempt. Those times are either a time to foolishly shake your fist at God (which can only make matters worse) when you need Him the most, or to draw close to Him and see His mighty hand produce "good" from what seemed "bad".

Why should bad things not happen to us? Are we more special than even God's only Son, who also went through hard times? God has a plan for all that happens in our lives, even though its purpose may be cloudy when we are going through it.

When going through a "valley", it is the time to call for the God of the mountain. He sees what we are facing and is willing to guide us through the hard times. It is during those difficult times that we should get close to Him and seek His help.

"I have never met a strong Christian who had not faced many trials and tribulations! Those difficulties made them the person they are now."

The Canvas God Is Painting

Caitlin Hockenburry

When you feel you are all alone
With nowhere else to go
What is going on, you don't know
But life is changing.
This side of Heaven's shore
We don't know what's in store.
We feel we cannot go on anymore
Without fainting.

When you feel like fainting,
Remember God is painting.

When things do not fall in place
And it's a struggle to run life's race
God's love we strongly chase
Just to keep on going.
So often we don't know His way
Because we can't see the display
Of the Canvas that will one day
Be fully showing.

When you feel like fainting,
Remember God is painting.

Oh, the strong, strong blasts
From troubles in the past
The sky seems always overcast
Is God not watching?
A loved one's health is on decline
You don't know if they'll be fine.
Wondering how much more time
God is giving?

When you feel like fainting,
Remember God is painting.

Satan is fighting hard
He wants to see you scarred
Your faith discard
In his trying.
So keep on pressing on
Until this life is done
And the battle won
By not complying.

When you feel like fainting,
Remember God is painting.

Forgetting the hurt I've seen
Knowing there's a veil between
Where I cannot see
The canvas God is painting.
We need to trust His Name
Know He is always the same
He will get you through the pain
You are facing.

When you feel like fainting,
Remember God is painting.

When I see God's face
And feel His gentle love's embrace
I'll thank Him for His abiding grace
That is life-changing!
When you feel all distressed
Just remember how you are blessed
And one day you will see the rest
When looking at your life's painting.

Just remember when you feel like fainting,
God is painting!

“God is most likely not done with you yet!”