

## The Big Question

### Where's God when disaster strikes?

When disaster strikes, it leaves more than physical devastation in its wake. Cities may be ravaged, homes and businesses ruined, treasured possessions lost forever; but many people find in the aftermath that the greatest devastation is within their hearts. Losing possessions—or even loved ones—causes us to experience a vast range of emotions: confusion, fear, anger, desperation, and grief.

When such tragedies hit, do you ever wonder, “Where was God?” Do things like this “just happen”? Do they leave you troubled by even more questions you cannot answer? If so, rest assured: You are not alone in asking questions. In fact, you are not alone at all.

It's a good thing that we are not left to figure out all the answers on our own. We have a reliable source to answer our burning questions. Here's what the Bible has to say about it:



- God is in control of all things—even disasters (Psalm 66:7; 103:19).
- God is close by—even when we feel abandoned or alone (Psalm 34:18; Jeremiah 23:23).
- Sometimes, to accomplish His wise purposes, God allows awful things to happen to good people (Psalm 34:19).
- God is able to bring good out of evil (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28), and He will do so in His time.
- God will always act in a trustworthy manner and will never abandon those who believe in Him (Psalm. 9:10; Hebrews 13:5).

## Amazing Facts

### Bad Disease, Great Grace

The disease Satan brought on Job's entire body caused Job constant affliction. Job suffered from painful itching (Job 2:8), disfiguration (2:12), sleeplessness (7:4), oozing sores infected with worms (7:5), bad breath (19:17), extreme weight loss (19:20), fever (21:6), excruciating pain (30:17), diarrhea (30:27), and shriveling skin (30:30).

Why such intense symptoms? Satan knew Job's faith was strong. He knew He had to make Job's life as miserable as possible to break Job's trust in God. Ultimately, Satan lost the battle with God because God's grace was sufficient for Job. Though Job still had lessons to learn as his disease persisted, he never cursed God.



### Ponder Points

1. What is your reaction to Job's symptoms?
2. How do you think you would respond to having all his symptoms?
3. What does Job's experience reveal about the power of God's grace?  
See 2 Corinthians 12:7–10.

