



Where is God When Tragedies Strike the Innocent?

Psalms 102:1-2: (NASB) ¹Hear my prayer, O LORD! And let my cry for help come to You. ²Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress; Incline Your ear to me; In the day when I call answer me quickly.

CHARDON, Ohio (The Blaze/AP) - The death toll rose to three Tuesday in the shooting rampage in an Ohio high school cafeteria as schoolmates and townspeople grappled with the tragedy and wondered what could have set the teenage gunman off.

Comment from Christian Questions' Facebook page a few weeks ago: My son who was born with cerebral palsy just died. He was sick for 2 weeks before he passed. During those 2 weeks we prayed and prayed for his recovery. He passed anyways. Why did god forsake me and take my son? Posted: 2/15/2012 6:11:09 AM

STONINGTON, Connecticut - A 15-year old male died at his home yesterday afternoon of suicide.

Losing a loved one, especially a child, can bring unbearable pain and anxiety. It can cause us to question even those things we hold dearest - even the existence and plan of God. We will look into this grief and into God's plan to try and understand where God is when tragedy strikes.

Is God hiding?

Psalms 27:7-9: (NASB) ⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice, and be gracious to me and answer me. ⁸When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, Your face, O LORD, I shall seek. ⁹Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not abandon me nor forsake me, O God of my salvation!

When a child dies, God crossed the line, Parents' Perspective, Part 1

- *When I held my 16-year old son's body in my arms I realized that God was doing something remarkable. I remember crying out to Him that if everything I preached was true over those many years of ministry, He would have to show me because at that point I did not believe it. I felt as though God had crossed the line and that this suffering, this horrible pain, would never go away.*

Psalms 102:1-8: (NASB) ¹Hear my prayer, O LORD! And let my cry for help come to You. ²Do not hide Your face from me in the day of my distress; Incline Your ear to me; In the day when I call answer me quickly. ³For my days have been consumed in smoke, and my bones have been scorched like a hearth. ⁴My heart has been smitten like grass and has withered away, indeed, I forget to eat my bread. ⁵Because of the loudness of my groaning my bones cling to my flesh. ⁶I resemble a pelican of the wilderness; I have become like an owl of the waste places. ⁷I lie awake, I have become like a lonely bird on a housetop.

So, if God seems to hide, then how can we depend on him? How can we have assurance that he is actually caring for us? How can we have any rest in faith when we see such deeply personal tragedies happen before our eyes?

How to deal with grief, complications after birth, youtube.com

- *(after the birth of a baby girl) ...more and more people started coming in, and then doctors with lab coats started coming in. The doctor was very clear about what was going on. He told me they were having trouble getting her to breathe, she had a little bit of fluid, her heart rate was dropping.*



- *I was actually standing beside her when they took her to the table to work on her...I remember running down the hallway to where our family was and we all started praying...*

We will begin to develop the analogy that sometimes as a good parent, we have to do things we may not want to do or like to do, but they are for the good of our children.

God's Precious Promises

Isaiah 55:10-11: (NASB) ¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth and making it bear and sprout, and furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater; ¹¹So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

How did grief and sorrow become part of God's plan?

 How to heal from grief, part 1, griefshare.org

- *...they died in November, in February I fell apart...*
- *A heaviness just came over me where I started weeping uncontrollably...*
- *It's like your whole world fell apart, it seemed like God put the pause button on...*
- *I just wanted to stay by myself...*



A good parent will offer their children choices, will tell them they should be obedient, and will put consequences in place.

God offered the choice of obedience, along with the consequences of disobedience:

Genesis 2:16-17: (YLT) ¹⁶And Jehovah God layeth a charge on the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden eating thou dost eat; ¹⁷and of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou dost not eat of it, for in the day of thine eating of it—dying thou dost die.

Dying thou dost die, meaning "the process of dying begins." This was a test to see how well Adam would obey.

The test of obedience was presented in the form of a test of true loyalty:

Genesis 3:4-6: (NASB) ⁴The serpent said to the woman, You surely will not die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. ⁶When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

It becomes a test not just of obedience, but also of loyalty. Satan gave them a different perspective by telling a partial truth. Were they going to really trust and believe in the one who put them in the garden, or were they going to trust and believe Satan?

When we have a traumatic experience of grief, we have a choice of what to do with it. We can go back to those things which were originally most important to us and hang on to them, or let it destroy us.

Mankind went down the path of grief because of disloyalty to God. But yet we suffer because of what Adam and Eve did. Why was this allowed to be a part of our lives? More to follow!

The fulfillment of consequences began:

Genesis 3:23-24: (NASB) ²³therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

If God didn't keep His word and implement the promised consequences, we wouldn't be able to trust Him.



How to deal with grief, I just lost my baby, [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

- *The doctors tried everything... She came to me and just said there was nothing else they could do and that they couldn't save her. I just didn't know what to do. I just screamed. I just lost my baby, just like that.*



Even God's spiritual creations had choices:

Genesis 6:1-5: (NASB) ¹Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, ²that the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. ³Then the LORD said, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years. ⁴The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown. ⁵Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

God creates with free will. Taking the risk to create with choice means that the wrong choice is a possibility. Free choice is a major part of the plan of God.

Mankind would further see the consequences of evil intention and disloyalty to God:

Genesis 6:7-8: (NASB) ⁷The LORD said, I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them. ⁸But Noah found favor in the eyes of the LORD.

Did Satan's free will ruin our free will?

🔊) Stunned with no warning, How to deal with grief, [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

- All this stuff went through my head - why can't you fix her? Why can't you do surgery? Why can't you fix her? I wasn't comprehending what they were saying. The family came in and we just sat there in astonishment and shock. Our families are very strong Christians. We all believe in God and we all believe that He has a purpose, but we were all stunned because we had no idea. We had no warning.



2 Corinthians 4:3-4: (NRSV) ³*And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

If Satan has blinded the eyes of unbelievers, they can't be held fully accountable. How does that fit into God being a fair and loving God? God is bigger than the tragedies and understands us because He created us.

Mark 4:14-15: (NASB) ¹⁴*The sower sows the word. ¹⁵These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.*

There is a principle in nature that is played out in every aspect of every life ever lived. It sometimes brings us goodness and joy and sometimes brings us heartache and sadness. To grasp the seeming lack of fairness in God's plan, we must take hold of and apply this principle. Once we grasp its depth, we will begin to see His plan in a whole new light...

This principle is the ripple effect...



Dropping a stone in water creates ripples. But the stone can't control where those ripples end up going. Every action causes reactions. Some of these reactions are planned or anticipated and some are completely unintentional and bring results that are contrary to that which was intended. Evil has ripple effects, as does good.

Satan masquerades as an angel of light:

2 Corinthians 11:14-15: (KJV) ¹⁴*And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.*

Eventually, however, grief and tragedy are going to die.

 **Helping parents grieve - it's unthinkable, paracletepress.com**

- *When you lose a child, something is happening that is just unthinkable. It's something that seems to shatter the foundation of your very life. It breaks the order of the universe and there's no preparation. There is no way anyone has ever simulated this with any other kind of loss.*

We still choose our master:

Joshua 24:14-16: (NASB) ¹⁴*Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. ¹⁶The people answered and said, Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;*



Why doesn't God override our sinful and selfish choices?

Talk about unintended effect...

 Intro, I will not be broken, *Jerry White*, [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

- *I took my junior year abroad at Brown University and went to study in the Holy Land since I was a Religious Studies major. I went camping with two American friends, we went to the northern part of Israel looking for a place to spend the night and pitch our tent. It was April 12, 1984 and I just move out ahead of my friends and it's green and lush and gorgeous and suddenly - BOOM! The earth opens up. My leg was blown off below the knee. It was a pretty gruesome site.*

The ripple effect of our lives include unforeseen consequences of our actions - sometimes good, sometimes bad. God allows the ripple effect to take place.

God often allows us to take our own road - even after he has unmistakably told us what road he would have us to take:

1 Samuel 8:4-10: (NASB) ⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah; ⁵and they said to him, Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations. ⁶But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed to the LORD. ⁷The LORD said to Samuel, Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them. ⁸Like all the deeds which they have done since the day that I brought them up from Egypt even to this day—in that they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are



doing to you also. ⁹Now then, listen to their voice; however, you shall solemnly warn them and tell them of the procedure of the king who will reign over them. ¹⁰So Samuel spoke all the words of the LORD to the people who had asked of him a king.

Man's free choice has led us to a life of sin. An outgrowth of sin is tragedy. That's where it comes from. God didn't inherently build tragedy into the Garden of Eden.



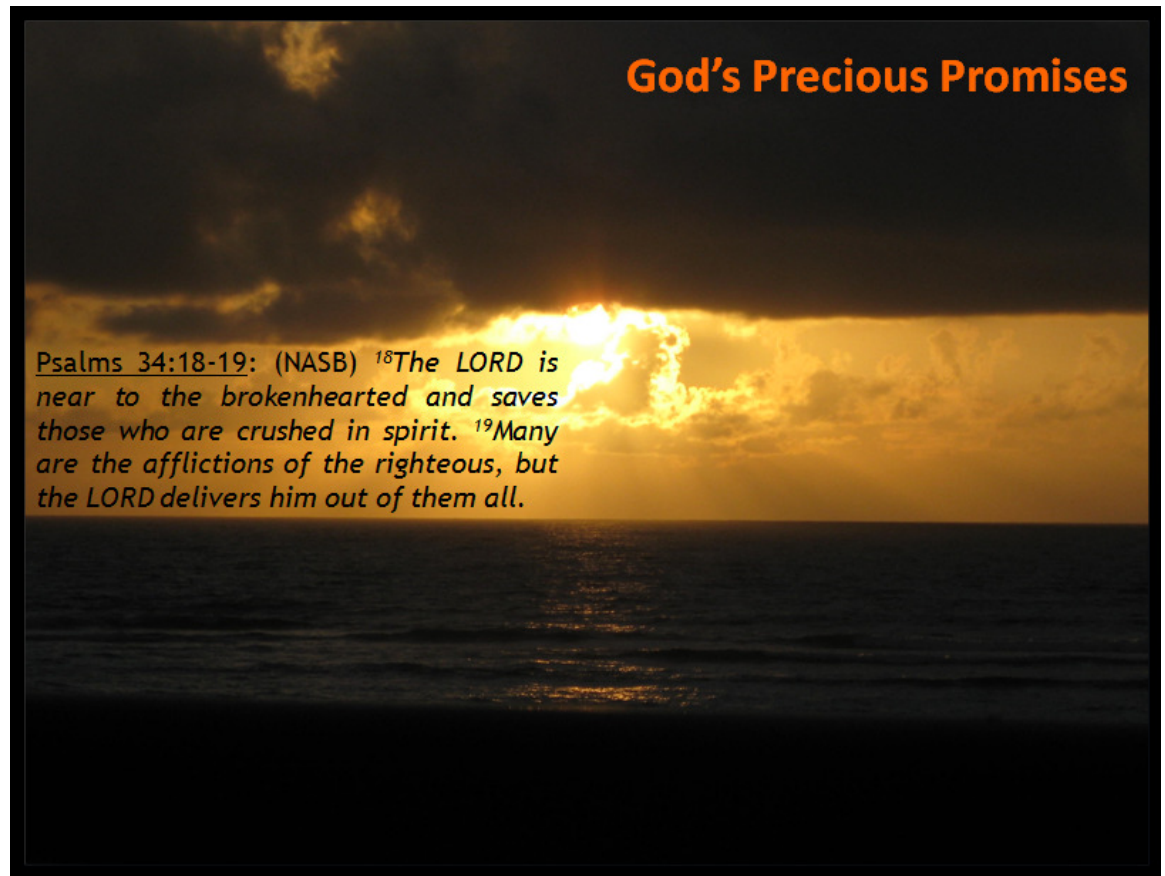
Application: The ripple effect of sin is devastating, deep and incalculable. God wants us to understand this so clearly and fully that He allowed the entire human family to be turned over to Satan to experience sin and its ripple effect. The ripple effect takes generations and generations to really show itself.



How to deal with grief, she had Scott's nose, [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

- *I had the nursery ready, I washed clothes for her, we had our diaper bags packed, we were ready! We were going to be moms and dads. We had the car seat in the car ready to take her home and we couldn't. So we held her when she was alive...*
- *Every family member held her and hugged her and kissed her and saw who she was. She had Scott's nose and she had my eyes...*

The Lord doesn't erase the afflictions from our lives, but God won't abandon us in tragedy. His plan has much more to offer.





How does God reclaim those swallowed up in the ripple effects of free will?

God unmistakably planted hope for *all* in Abraham - a reward for heartfelt obedience:

Genesis 22:15-18: (KJV) ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, ¹⁶And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: ¹⁷That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; ¹⁸And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.



Here is the "counteractive" ripple effect! When God says something, it is going to happen. This is the beginning of countering the ripple effect of sin and tragedy.



How to deal with grief, I grieved, [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

- *I was just so mad! I was like, why would this happen to me? I would just cry and I would scream and I would just get mad. I would go to her cemetery every day and that was a healing process for me, that's how I grieved.*

We have a God who is the ultimate parent
and can help us work through difficulty.



Here are more plantings of the counteractive ripple effect:

1 Corinthians 15:22: (KJV) *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*

1 Timothy 2:5-6: (KJV) ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; ⁶Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

John 5:28-29: (NIV) ²⁸Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹and come out...

John 1:29: (NRSV) *The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"*

Hebrews 2:9: (NRSV) *but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

The theme here is "all." God understand the pain and suffering of our lives. As the ultimate Father, He is doing something about it. The final effect has not yet been seen, but the work is being done.



Life more than the body, I will not be broken, Jerry White, [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

- *Losing your limb traumatically, whether in a minefield or some other way, taught me that I am more than my body.*
- *Thirteen years after losing his leg, Jerry dedicated his life to helping other victims by co-founding the Land Mine Survivor's Network. Landmines kill more people than nuclear, chemical and biological weapons combined.*

We can't erase the pain, but we can deal with it in a Godly way.



Romans 5:18-19: (NASB) *¹⁸So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.*

Read these Scripture slowly and carefully. All men came under the ripple effect of sin because of Adam. If that's the case, all men come under the counteractive ripple effect of Jesus' sacrifice. Jesus was the perfect example of Godly obedience.



Application: The ripple effect of Godly obedience is magnifying, deep and incalculable. Once we, as a human family, have experienced the ugliness of sin and its utterly destructive ripples, we will run towards Godly obedience and loyalty. We will dwell forever in the light of God's will and bask in the never-ending discovery that each new ripple of His love and plan brings us.



2 Corinthians 12:9: (NASB) And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

God's Precious Promises

A caller contributed: (Luke 23:28) In the small hours of the night of tragedy, we ask God, Where is Elijah to raise *this* child? Where is Moses to lead us from *this* moment? (1 Corinthians 2:2) ...Hearts cry out not for answers but for friends who will share suffering with us. We know our God sits with us.

We agree...by God's grace, we can get comfort. There is a coming time, however, where all this will change.



Where is the relief for all those who suffer?

How to deal with grief, how can God allow this, youtube.com

- *I even had a friend ask me, how can God let something like this happen to good people? But the work He's trying to do is bigger than what we even understand...*

If you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, we know His word will be fulfilled. Ultimately, our *permanent* relief comes through the eternal fulfillment of prophecy. Jesus came to do the work of buying back the human race from sin, death and the damaging ripple effect they have caused. The result of that purchase has been known to God all along. God's spoken words began the ripple of righteousness long ago...these prophecies are as good as done because the Lord promised them.

Zephaniah 3:8-9: (NASB) ⁸Therefore wait for Me, declares the LORD, For the day when I rise up as a witness. Indeed, My decision is to gather nations, to assemble kingdoms, to pour out on them My indignation, all My burning anger; for all the earth will be devoured by the fire of My zeal. (This is the culmination of the ripple effect of sin and death...but wait! Keep reading!) ⁹For then I will give to the peoples purified lips, that all of them may call on the name of the LORD, to serve Him shoulder to shoulder.

When Zephaniah wrote this thousands of years ago, the promise was just a little tiny stone dropped into the water that created a tiny ripple. Through the passage of time, that ripple gains such strength because God wrote it. It is going to happen.

This following verse from a song reflects our distress at the first part of this Zephaniah verse - we struggle through the pain and suffering of the world of sin and sometimes need to cry as we grieve over losses in our lives.



"I Still Cry," Ilse DeLange

I'm makin' flowers out of paper
while darkness takes the afternoon
I know that they won't last forever
but real ones fade away too soon
I still cry sometimes when I remember you,
I still cry sometimes when I hear your name,
I said good-bye and I know you're alright now -
But when the leaves start falling down, I still cry...

Daniel 2:44: (NASB) ⁴⁴In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.

Micah 4:1-5: (KJV) ¹But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. ²And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ³And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any



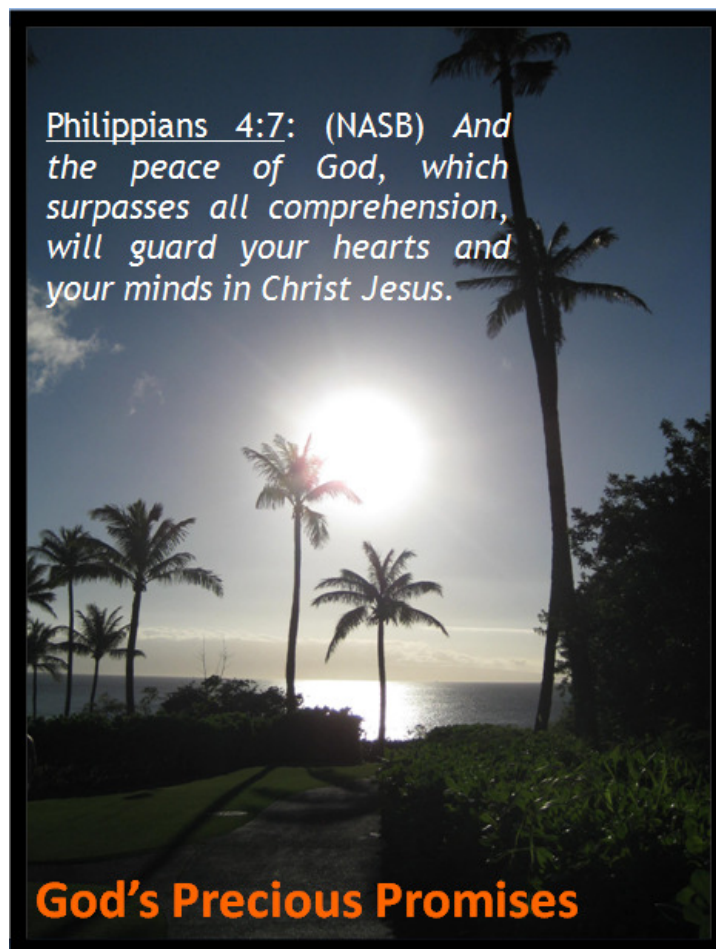
more. ⁴But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. ⁵For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.

So here is the ripple effect of God's righteousness written in prophecy thousands of years ago that says there will come a time on this planet earth where there will no longer be implements of war. Nation will not go to war against nation.

Revelation 21:4: (KJV) *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*

While we go through our grief and tragedies, we can find comfort in the promises of God and in His working with us and walking us through these things with Jesus. But later, because of the ransom of Jesus, the pain and sorrow and grief and anguish will be erased forever. We know this because the word of God spoke it, so it is true.

We deal with grief through God's grace.





**So where is God when tragedies strike the innocent?
For Jonathan and Rick (and Kathy!) and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!**

**And now even more to think about...
only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!**



Read carefully of the universal application of Jesus' sacrifice - its ripple effect covers all that the ripple effects of Adam's sin covered!

Romans 5:12-19: (NRSV) ¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- ¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Hebrews 9:24-28: (NRSV) ²⁴For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

Just a few more of the ageless prophecies of the future

Jeremiah 31:29-34: (NRSV) ²⁹In those days they shall no longer say: The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge. ³⁰But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge. ³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt--a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.



Notice the clear references to the earthly environment:

Isaiah 11:1-9: (NRSV) ¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Notice the world-wide application of the healing that Jesus did long ago:

Isaiah 35:5-10: (KJV) ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. ⁶Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. ⁷And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. ⁸And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Notice the unity of nations:

Zechariah 8:20-23: (KJV) ²⁰Thus saith the LORD of hosts; It shall yet come to pass, that there shall come people, and the inhabitants of many cities: ²¹And the inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, Let us go speedily to pray before the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts: I will go also. ²²Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. ²³Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.

Death and sorrow will be destroyed:

Isaiah 11:9: (KJV) They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

All of this is what Jesus died for, and what he taught us to pray for:

Matthew 6:9-10: (NRSV) ⁹Pray then in this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.