

WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING

The relationship of Love, Freedom, and Risk and their implications on Divine Capability

John 9.2, 3—His disciples asked him, “Teacher, whose sin caused him to be born blind? Was it his own or his parents’ sin?” Jesus answered, ‘Neither did this man’s sin nor his parents’, rather, let the works of God be manifested in him.” [Imperative]*

Luke 13.1-5—At that time some people were there who told Jesus about the Galileans whom Pilate had killed while they were offering sacrifices to God. Jesus answered them, “Because those Galileans were killed in that way, do you think it proves that they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No indeed! . . . What about those eighteen people in Siloam who were killed when the tower fell on them? Do you suppose this proves that they were worse than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No indeed! . . .

* The Greek simply has hina with the aorist subjunctive passive of phaneroo (“to manifest”) and can readily be translated as, “But let the works of God be manifested.” As is certainly the case in Mark 5:23, Ephesians 5:33, 2 Corinthians 8:7; as is likely the case in Mark 2:10, 5:12, 10:51 and a host of other passages; and as is frequently the case in the Septuagint and later postapostolic writings, the hina here should be taken as forming an imperative, not a purposive, clause. (See *Biblical Greek*, M. Zerwick, pp 141-142; *An Idiom-Book of New Testament Greek* 2nd ed. pp 144-145; *Grammatical insights into the New Testament*, pp 145.)

Matthew 6.10—Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Luke 7:30 (NKJV)—But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

1Timothy 2.4—Who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

2Peter 3:9—The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

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

Psalms 115.16—The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to humankind.

Titus 1:2—In hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

Hebrews 6:17, 18—Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us.

Ecclesiastes 9.11—I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all.

Isaiah 5.20—Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter.

Daniel 10.12-14—Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”— John 10.10

*All texts quoted from the New American Standard Bible unless otherwise noted.

Revelation 21.4—‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’

Nahum 1.9—Whatever they plot against the LORD he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time.

Matthew 25.40—The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

Romans 8.28 (NASB)—And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Genesis 50.20 (NJB)—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.

response to them. But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”

Matthew 17.21—But this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.

Mark 8.23-25—Jesus asked, “Do you see anything?” He looked up and said, “I see people; they look like trees walking around.” Once more Jesus put his hands on the man’s eyes.

Matthew 13.58—And He did not do many miracles there . . .

John 16.33—These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.



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