

Why?

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Why? This one word question has probably been asked more than any other question in the history of man. It is asked by curious children as they learn about life here on earth. It is asked by highly educated scientists. In fact, it is the basis of all the sciences! It is asked by devastated survivors in the wake of some sudden and unexpected tragedy. It is asked by those who have received an unfavorable, and perhaps terminal diagnosis by their doctor. Why?

Sometimes there are very real answers to this common question. For example, a disease may be hereditary. A particular tragedy might be explained as mechanical failure, or an act of violence. All of these *might* provide an answer as to why, even if we don't like the answer. Even with these very real answers one might still ask, "Why?" The truth is, many times this one word question will be left unanswered. This in itself leads us to ask in frustration, "Why?"

The book of Job is very much a book about one man's search for an answer to this one word question. Job wanted to know *why* so much tragedy had befallen him. In his search for answers, Job asked a very common question:

"Why is light given to him who suffers, And life to the bitter of soul,
Who long for death, but there is none, And dig for it more than for hidden treasures, Who
rejoice greatly, And exult when they find the grave?

Job 3:20-22

People have been asking this same *why* question since before the time of Job. Why is there suffering? Why does pain exist? Why are there tragedies? Why is there so much evil in the world? Why do bad things happen to good people?

In the end of the book of Job, the man of faith received no answers to his many *why* questions. What he did receive was a greater sense of faith in God, and a comforting realization, that even though he didn't understand all that was going on in the world, he could be at peace knowing God was in control. The same can be true for us. The prophet Habakkuk said it well:

Though the fig tree should not blossom and there be no fruit on the vines, though the yield of the olive should fail and the fields produce no food, though the flock should be cut off from the fold and there be no cattle in the stalls, yet I will exult in the Lord, I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.

Habakkuk 3:17-18