

Why Do Bad Things Happen?



God is good. So why do **bad** things happen sometimes?

- ❖ Shouldn't God stop people from killing?
- ❖ Shouldn't He protect children from harm?
- ❖ Why does God allow nice people to be hurt?

God understands our confusion. There are no easy answers. But we can be sure that God can turn a bad situation into something good.

The Bible tells us about a young fellow named Joseph. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him because their father loved him very much. The brothers wanted to get rid of Joseph, so they sold him to slave traders, who then took him to another country, Egypt. He had a rough time there, and he ended up in jail.



But God made an opportunity for Joseph. The leader of the country – Pharaoh of

Egypt – learned that Joseph was wise and that he could tell people what their dreams meant. Pharaoh had been having nightmares, so he asked Joseph what they meant.



Joseph revealed that the dreams meant a severe famine was coming to Egypt. He told Pharaoh what to do so the people wouldn't starve but would have plenty of food.

Pharaoh could see that Joseph was wise (Joseph got all his wisdom from the Lord). So he put Joseph in charge of the country, and everything worked out well.

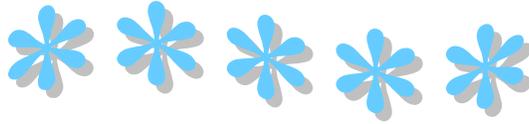
Joseph became very powerful. Years later, even his brothers came to ask him to help them because they too were short of food. God allowed Joseph to save his whole family from starvation – including his father who had missed him very much and thought he was dead.

So, although his brothers had wanted to get rid of Joseph years ago, they were so grateful (and ashamed!) now that he was able to help them. In fact, God used Joseph to bless many people.

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." – Genesis 50:20

At the time that Joseph was having all his troubles, maybe he wondered why these things were happening to him. But he never complained. He always had faith in God.

Are you having a hard time right now? Has something bad happened to you or to your family? When these things happen, God wants you to have hope.



❖ God is always in control. He will never allow anything to happen in your life that He can't turn to good.

❖ God expects us to trust Him in good times and bad.

❖ He knows that sometimes we feel very scared, like Joseph probably did when he had to leave his home. But God was preparing a good place – and a good future! – for him.

Yes, there is evil in the world. Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve (the first people that God created) disobeyed God. Since that time, many bad things have happened – often to nice people. That's not God's fault. But He helps us if we just ask Him.



And God promises that one day, sin and evil will be destroyed forever.

God never lies.

God comforts us.

Because they trust in Jesus Christ as their Saviour, anyone who is a child of God will get to see that day. *Guaranteed!*

"He [God] 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." – Revelation 21:4