Have you ever asked yourself, "why is God punishing me?"

Jn 9:1 And as He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?"

This was a tragedy! The man had been born blind.

Consider how you would feel if this happened to someone in your family.

A common misunderstanding of the Scriptures. Who sinned, this man or his parents. Many people assume that God is punishing them on this earth for some sin or shortcoming.

#### Jesus tells them – neither.

Jn 9:3 Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him. When troubles beset us, we need to remember God is not the one causing the trouble.

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. Satan and his agents are the cause of suffering, pain and death in this world!

1 Pet 5:8 Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. We have to carefully examine men who are often servants of Satan.

2 Cor 11:14 And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their deeds.

One of the biggest lies Satan and his helpers tells us is that if you are an obedient child of God, God will protect you from all harm. They quote Rom 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren;

# How do all things work together for good?

# We are to be conformed to His image?

## Did Jesus ever suffer on this earth?

He died on the cross for your sins!

If Jesus suffered and you are conformed to His image, you are going to suffer! Does God protect His faithful from problems?

Job 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job, and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God, and turning away from evil. ... 8 And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil."

9 Then Satan answered the LORD, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Hast Thou not made a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. 11 "But put forth Thy hand now and touch all that he has; he will surely curse Thee to Thy face."

v. 14 Job lost his oxen and donkeys and servants v. 16 lightening wipes out the sheep and servants v. 17 Job loses his camels and the servants v. 19 a wind kills his 7 sons and 3 daughters 2:7 Job is hit with boils (painful sores) from his head to his feet

Eliphaz has the same opinion a lot of Christians and many in the religious world have.

Job 4:7 "Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished? Where were the upright ever destroyed?

Bildad has the same incorrect idea. Job 8:3 "Does God pervert justice Or does the Almighty pervert what is right? 4 "If your sons sinned against Him, then He delivered them into the power of their transgression. 5 "If you would seek God and implore the compassion of the Almighty, 6 If you are pure and upright, surely now He would rouse himself for you and restore your righteous estate.

Zophar speaks the same foolishness. Job 11:14 If iniquity is in your hand, put it far away, and do not let wickedness dwell in your tents. 15 "Then, indeed, you could lift up your face without moral defect, and you would be steadfast and not fear. 16 "For you would forget your trouble, as waters that have passed by, you would remember it.

17 "And your life would be brighter than noonday; darkness would be like the morning. 18 "Then you would trust, because there is hope; and you would look around and rest securely. 19 "You would lie down and none would disturb you, and many would entreat your favor.

Job 32:1 Then these three men ceased answering Job, because he was righteous in his own eyes. 2 But the anger of Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite, of the family of Ram burned; against Job his anger burned, because he justified himself before God.

Job 42:7 And it came about after the LORD had spoken these words to Job, that the LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.

Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar accused Job of sin. He was not guilty. The Lord allowed Satan to tempt Job and then took the blame for allowing it to happen Job 2:3

### Does God always strike sinners on this earth?

Luke 13:1 Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And He answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered this fate? 3 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 "Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? 5 "I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

God does not send bad things to punish people here on earth.

God does allow bad things to happen to both good and bad people in order to warn others to wake up before it is too late.

Rev 9:20 And the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, so as not to worship demons, and the idols of gold and of silver and of brass and of stone and of wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk; 21 and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.

Rev 16:5 And I heard the angel of the waters saying, "Righteous are You, who are and who were, O Holy One, because You judged these things; (6) for they poured out the blood of saints and prophets, and You have given them blood to drink. They deserve it." (7) And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments." (8) The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. (9) Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

Rev 16:10-11 Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became darkened; and they gnawed their tongues because of pain, (11) and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

Put the blame where it belongs - on Satan and his agents not on God

### Judgment is surely coming –

Heb 9:27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment

2Th 1:5 All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. (6) God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you (7) and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. (8) He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

Joh 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name,

Col 2:11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; (12) having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Have you been buried with Him?