

“If God Loves Us, Why Are There Tragedies?”

**Dear Antwort Mann,**

**I know God loves me and all people. He also created all things and controls them. My question is that when God created all things in six days, He would have to know that the earth's weather would destroy so many of the people that He loves. One example is the typhoon that hit the Philippines. There was a lady on TV who lost everything and said she was in hell. She was wearing a cross around her neck. What did she do wrong? This is so very hard for me to understand.**

**Signed,**

**“Can't Sleep at Night,”**

**Dear “Sleepless,”**

As difficult as it is for us to understand, the world, as it presently is, is not the world as God created it to be. All of the devastating things we experience now are the result of the Fall into Sin, and God's judgment upon mankind for that sin and rebellion against Him. The creation itself was cursed by God as part of the punishment upon sinful man, and often becomes the “mechanism” that brings about man's death.

When you say that, “God loves me and all people,” the question needs to be asked: “What does this mean?” If you are thinking in terms of sentiments or feelings, like a husband loving his wife, then it becomes very difficult to reconcile how God could “love us” and still allow/cause these tragedies to come upon us. But if you understand His love for us in the way the Bible talks about love, then you see something quite different from feelings and emotions.

God's love for us is all about Christ. In Him, God takes on human flesh and nature, becomes one of us, suffers along side of us and for us, lays down His life for our lives, and bears the Divine judgment for sins in our place. God's “love” for us is an act of His will to save us, not so much from the consequences of living in this fallen world, but from an eternity of real hell which all people deserve because of our sins. Instead of eternal death and hell, those who trust in Christ have eternal life and heaven.

As far as that woman in the Philippines, she is not suffering because of some particular sin she committed, but because she is a sinner (like all of us) who lives in a sinful, fallen creation. While God may not actively be causing these kinds of tragedies, in His divine providence He does allow them to occur. To specifically try to figure out the “Why” in a particular situation will drive us nuts and cause us to doubt God's goodness and justness. But we do have a general explanation for the “Why.” It is a call to everyone experiencing these things directly, or indirectly through news reports, etc. to repent (Definitely read Luke 13:1-5). These are all powerful reminders of the coming Judgment and an opportunity to repent and receive eternal life in Christ before it's too late.

So, in a very mind-blowing way, even these tragedies are evidence of God's love for fallen man. True, they are a kind of “severe mercy,” but a mercy nonetheless. If everything were perfect, no one would be led to see the need to repent. They would live out their lives, die in

their sins, and be eternally lost. These tragedies often lead many to repentance who otherwise would not even consider their need to repent. And for the one who does believe in Christ, these tragedies often are what God uses to usher the believer into heaven to wait for the resurrection and the end of all sorrow, death and sin.

Yes, the tragedies we see and experience are terrible. Sin is terrible and so is God's judgment on it. But in God's mercy, He has provided the ultimate deliverance from the final judgment through His Son, Jesus Christ. In Him, we can be assured that "nothing [not trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword] shall be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom. 8:35-39)."

***"God works all things together for good for those who love Him." Romans 8:28***

**Best regards,**

**Der Antwort Mann**

***Kids and adults are encouraged to send their questions to Der Antwort Mann for publication in the newsletter. These questions can be sent to, or dropped off at church.***