

John 9:1-3 - As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.

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- He's a man now
- Born blind
- His parents could no longer take care of him (v.18)
- He was poor and begged for his needs (v.8)

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- His parents could no longer take care of him (v.18)
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- Jesus noticed him (we need to notice the blind around us)

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- Eve - multiply your pain in childbearing
- Adam - cursed is the ground because of you

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- But...specific sin doesn't always mean specific suffering

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v. 7 - ...and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

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- God was the cause!

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- He was designed that way!
- And so were you!

Exodus 4:10-11 - But Moses said to the Lord, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.”

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11 Then the Lord said to him, “Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the Lord?”

Psalm 139:13 - For you formed my inward parts;
you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

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- There is no child created outside of God's purpose
- There is no suffering outside of God's purpose

Isaiah 46:8-11 - "Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, 9 remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,' 11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

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- God is trying tell us that we need to understand what it means to be God
- There is no other God
- There is nothing like Him

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- Including human events

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- The future is the purpose of God, being accomplished by God – John Piper

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- The reason God's prophecies come true is because they are His purposes, and He accomplishes them
- There is nothing that comes about that God does not purpose to happen
- Everything that has ever happened or will happen, God designed it that way

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- As you mature in your walk, the sovereignty of God will become a pillar you cling to
- It provides comfort in hard times
- Do you want a God that is not fully in control? (what does it mean to be God?)

We have 2 choices when we finally come to grips with God's sovereignty

- worship an absolute sovereign God (master, Lord)
- resist God and think we can do it better

Proverbs 16:33 - The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

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Matthew 10:29- Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.

Matthew 10:30 - But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

Psalm 147:15-18 - He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.

16 He gives snow like wool;
he scatters frost like ashes.

17 He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs;
who can stand before his cold?

18 He sends out his word, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow and the waters flow.

Job 37:11-13 - He loads the thick cloud with moisture;
the clouds scatter his lightning.

12 They turn around and around by his guidance,
to accomplish all that he commands them
on the face of the habitable world.

13 Whether for correction or for his land
or for love, **he causes it to happen.**

- snow, frost, cold, wind, water, clouds, rain, all because **God caused** them to happen

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“Cuomo is right. Prayers do not effect the virus. **Some imaginary God does not effect the virus.** But people, human behavior, can and do effect the virus.” – Reporter Michael Stone

Amos 3:6 - Does disaster come to a city,
unless the Lord has done it?

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unless the Lord has done it?

Mark 4:39 - And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

- snow, frost, cold, wind, water, clouds, rain, all because God caused them to happen
- There is no storm, no tornado, no shooting, no global pandemic that God cannot simply say "Peace! Be still!" and it would obey!

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- Suffering can only make sense and have an ultimate meaning when we connect it to God
- If God is the one who planned and then accomplishes this suffering, then there must be a reason
- That reason is so that the works of God can be put on display

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- God revealing Himself to us forces everyone to place God on the scales
- We can value Him more than anything else, or we can deny Him and trust in ourselves to control things

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- God gets the most glory through he one who suffers