

5 Reasons Things Happen In Life

by Carl McMurray

Don't you love those folks who see God's purpose and plan in everything that happens? We usually don't know what's happening in the next room, but somehow they can see and understand the purpose and will of God in the universe and how he shows them various signs and omens to communicate His will to them. Don't get me wrong. There ARE reasons why things happen in our lives, but Hebrews 1:1-2 indicates that it is not for the reason of communicating God's will to us. Things happen for the following reasons.

Satan does it. This is the lesson from the book of Job. Sometimes he has permission to test/try us. Key in the book though, is that it can't be identified positively at the time. Satan came to Job in the form of a storm, thieves, enemies, disease, and discouragement. By the way, the Lord also appeared in a storm at the end of the book.

God does it. This is otherwise known as foresight/providence or God's sovereignty to act without any counsel of man or show of miracles. The story of Joseph illustrates this truth as God moved him from favored son to slave, servant, jail prisoner, to second most powerful man in the most powerful nation on earth. Again, Joseph couldn't see it until it was past, and probably wouldn't have chosen the path God chose.

Answer to prayer. God shows his permissive will in His promise to answer prayer for His children. This is seen in Matthew 7:7-8.

Consequences. The Proverbs are full of "If... then..." wisdom warning the simpleton that if certain behaviors were engaged in that definitive punishments and consequences would follow. We bring many troubles on ourself with our foolish behavior.

Time & Chance. Ecclesiastes 9:11 is probably the most telling text of this nature. There we find that the race is not always to the swift nor does the battle always go to the strong. Sometimes things just happen. No reason, no rhyme, bad things happen. This is THE text that silences those that believe that God is showing signs, omens, or feelings to communicate His will to them. We simply ask, "How do you know...?" How do you know it's God, and not Satan? How do you know it's not just coincidence (time or chance)? Embarrassing silence can be the only answer.

As stated above, we usually don't know what's happening in the next room. Why do we think we know what God is doing, thinking, or planning in this universe or in the spiritual realm. Let's go slow, read His word, and trust His inspired instructions.