

Why Does (Did) G-d Let It Happen? ⁱ

Wisdom is viewing life from G-d's perspective. G-d's ways are higher than our ways (“⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways,’ says ADONAI. ⁹As high as the sky is above the earth are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:9). It is entirely possible to turn tragedies into G-d’s classroom. If we interpret events from our own point of view, we will experience such emotions as discouragement, disillusionment, ungratefulness, fear, or anger. It is amazing how a person's attitudes will change to hopefulness, gratefulness, peace, and contentment if he sees the same events or circumstances through a different set of eyes. It is amazing to me that people do not give G-d credit for creation but they do for tearing His creation apart (tornadoes, storms, earthquakes are called ‘acts of G-d’).

Attitudes are controlled by viewpoints

A car accident can be viewed from two perspectives, ours and G-d's. Are there any benefits to a fender bender? Why would G-d allow us to go through any such trial?



From Our Perspective

Anger that it happened
Guilt for being responsible
Blame for other causes
Sorrow over loss of money
Grief over injury
Regret over carelessness
Worry over lack of a car
Concerns over its repair
Frustration over time lost

Benefits

To see the frailty of things
To set our affections on things above
To learn to be more alert
To be thankful for safety
To show that life is like a vapor
To be a testimony to others involved
To humble us for more of G-d's grace
To remind us that we are stewards
To cry out to G-d in the day of trouble

Prerequisites to Know Why it happened

The ability to see from G-d's perspective does not come naturally. It is a discipline that G-d wants us to develop in connection with other aspects of spiritual growth. Notice that in the following verses, special wisdom about the ways of G-d is given to those who meet specific prerequisites:

- If we yield our rights – if we have meekness: “Adonai leads the meek to do what is right and teaches the humble <to live> his way.” (Ps 25:9).
- If we are pure in heart - no hidden iniquity: “How blessed are the pure in heart! for they will see G-d [see as G-d sees]” (Matthew 5:8).
- If we obey Yeshua's commandments: “¹⁴You are my friends, if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I no longer call you slaves, because a slave doesn't know what his master is about; but I have called you friends, because everything I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.” (John 15:14-15).
- Think Scripture - If we develop spiritual discernment: “Now the natural man does not receive the things from the Spirit of G-d - to him they are nonsense! Moreover, he is unable to grasp them, because they are evaluated through the Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 2:14).
- If we consider the opposite of our natural inclinations: (Isaiah 55:8-9).
- If we are spiritually minded: “¹⁵But the person who has the Spirit can evaluate everything, while no one is in a position to evaluate him. ¹⁶For who has known the mind of ADONAI? Who will counsel him? But we have the mind of the Messiah!” (1 Corinthians 2:15-16).
- If we fear the Lord: “The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.” (KJV) “ADONAI relates intimately with those who fear him; he makes them know his covenant.” (CJB), (Psalm 25:14).

Scriptural Principles to Help Us Know Why it happened

- All things work together for good: “²⁸Furthermore, we know that G-d causes everything to work together for the good of those who love G-d and are called in accordance with his purpose; ²⁹... so they would be conformed to the pattern of his Son...” (Romans 8:28-29).
- We have the mind of Messiah: (see 1 Cor. 2:14)
- We are commanded to rejoice in everything: “¹⁶Always be joyful. ¹⁷Pray continually. ¹⁸In everything give thanks, for this is what G-d wants from you who are united with the Messiah Yeshua.” (1 Thes. 5:16-18)

Case Study 1: Why did G-d let me have a difficult roommate?

1. Motivates me to give self control
2. It uncovers rights I had not surrendered
3. Teaches me to love neighbor as self
4. It taught me to relate to others
5. It prompted me to pray more often
6. It turned me to G-d as a friend
7. It drew me closer to my own family
8. It made me glad (appreciative) for those that I do get along with
9. Showed me ways not to irritate others
10. It caused spiritual growth in me
11. It made me look forward to heaven
12. It helped me to be sensitive to other's needs

Some Basic Questions to Ask

What character qualities does this promote in me?

How will this allow me to be more like Yeshua?

What have I done to cause them?

How can I use this to counsel others?

How can this help me get an eternal focus?

How can I rejoice in this? By thanking G-d I receive the power of the Spirit, e.g., love, joy, peace, etc. (“My grace is enough for you...” see 2 Cor. 12:9-10)

Case Study 2: Why did G-d let Yosef suffer?

To overcome attitudes of pride – *Before G-d honors a person, He humbles him.* (See Proverbs 15:33.)

To teach him a servant's spirit – *The secret of greatness is learning to serve.* (See Matthew 25:11.)

To be faithful – *If you are faithful in little, G-d will give you much.* (see Matthew 25:21.)

To prepare him for leadership – *A wise leader knows the needs of those who serve him.* (See 2 Timothy 2:12.)

To test him for moral purity – *Enduring temptation brings a crown of life.* (See James 1:12.)

To respond to false accusations – *Responding correctly to false accusations brings eternal rewards.* (See Matt 5:12.)

To be an energy giver in prison – *Bearing others' burdens will open doors of opportunity.* (See Galatians 6:2.)

To teach him how guilty men think – *Those who are guilty tend to blame others.* (See Romans 2:1-2.)

To prepare his brothers to repent – *Justice must be established before giving mercy.* (See Proverbs 16:6.)

To learn patience in G-d's timing – *After you have suffered for a while, G-d will establish you.* (See 1 Peter 5:10.)

ⁱ Adapted from *A Comprehensive Course in Effective Counseling* Booklet 3, Institute of Basic Life Principles, 1994