

TOPIC: **WHY?** – (Questions in the Wake of any Crisis!)

TEXT: Luke 13 and Habakkuk 3

Many Questions/ Few Answers... & **WHY** is the Hardest Question of All!

- **WHY** questions are asked by intelligent thoughtful people... in that way we're unique from the rest of the animal kingdom. [Even an intelligent dog can focus on **what, who, where**, even **when**... BUT NEVER **WHY**!]
- **WHY = A search for a REASON** for things happening! (This is a "shadow" of our having been created *IMAGO DEI* --- ("in the image of God."))

A Counselor's Prayer: "Lord, save me from dispensing pat answers to complex human problems!"

Yet Today Pat Answers Seem to Abound!

- **Radical Muslims**: "Allah's wind against Satan America!"
- **Fundamentalist Christians**: "God's wrath against 'Sin City'!" (Gen 18:20-32)
- **Media and Politicians**: "Politically motivated finger pointing"

BUT, all those with pat answers rarely if ever help, because the "finger pointers" and the "pat answerers" are **playing a very dangerous game called "God"!!**

How to Find a Balance?

Determine what God says on the Subject of "Tragedy"!

I. Luke 13 Jesus' answer to two Tragedies.

- **v. 1-2 Slaughter of Galileans** [To Roman authority they were "troublemakers" and anarchists]... so as an example to all Jews, they were slaughtered at worship!
- **v. 4 Fatal Accident upon to 18 in Jerusalem** when Siloam tower fell on them.

v. 3 & 5 APPLICATION: "DON'T BE SELF-RIGHTEOUSLY SMUG! UNLESS **YOU** REPENT, YOU TOO WILL ALL PERISH!"

IMPROPER QUESTIONS: WHY THEM? or WHY ME?
PROPER QUESTION! – **WHY NOT ME?!**
(Because of God's Mercy!)

II. Habakkuk 3 The Prophet's Confidence in the Midst of Tragedy.

A picture of utter chaos...

- In natural disaster **v. 10-11a**
- In military invasion **v.11b-15**
- In a human response of fear **v. 16a**
- **Yet confidence in God v.16b-19**

Waiting on God as the Ultimate Defender **v.16b**
Rejoicing in God when the Bottom Falls Out **vss.17-18**
Finding Strength in God's Sovereignty **v.19**

Finally, when all has been said that can be said [to answer the] intellectual problem involved, it must be confessed that beyond the revealed purposes of God there still remains much of mystery. [Deuteronomy 29:29] And for this there is no answer except the attitude of worship in which we humbly acknowledge that a sovereign God cannot be required by men to give all the reason for what He chooses to do. (cf. Job 42:1-6; Romans 9:19-21 and...
***Paul's Benediction: **Romans 11:33-36**)

A sermon by Dr. Ken Hyatt | October 15, 2017
Hope Evangelical Free Church