

MESSAGE

**“Who’s Responsible?
God? You?”**

“Why do bad things happen to good people?”

1. **Pain is a mystery without explanation.**

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- 2. Pain is a blessing from God.**

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 - 3. Pain is not from God and needs to be eliminated.**
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**1. Pain is a mystery
without explanation.**

***Surrenders any and all quests for
meaning, benefit or growth from
painful experiences.***

2. Pain is a blessing from God.

The traditional Hebrew understanding;

All things (+ & -) have their origin in God, even if those maladies are originated by humans (i.e. wars);

The “cure” = repentance. Obedience and right living would dispense with the trouble.

3. Pain is not from God and needs to be eliminated.

Babylonian (and lesser degree) Persian influences;

“God” has an enemy causing maladies and troubles;

Hebrew word for enemy = satan

The “cure” = exorcism.



Ecclesiastes 3

*A time to be born,
and a time to die;
A time to kill and a time to heal;
A time to weep and a time to laugh;
A time to break down,
and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time for war,
and a time for peace.*

“The promise of all bogus religion
is the promise of a peaceful life
without pain.”

(Will Willimon)



“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

1. *O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.*

(George Matheson 1882)

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

“O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there
blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

