

Episode # 624 - The Why Question 9: Why So Long?

I. One of the most difficult questions we must ask ourselves regarding God, life, and the world is the “why” question. We who believe that there is a God Who is all-good and all-loving and Who made the world must answer why then this world is such a terrible place and in such a mess.

II. Even though it is our (Adam’s) fault that the world is in the mess it is in, the God of love could still act to save us and not allow this mess to go on. Why has He not done this?

III. Why is there so long in between the fall and God saving the world?

A. The mystery is why God delays so long. Mr. Otis Q. Sellers has said on the subject, “It hardly needs to be said that it is not at all strange that God will someday put forth His power to bring about the victory of good. It is what you would do if you were God. It is what I would do if I were God. It is no mystery at all that He will do this. THE GREAT MYSTERY IS THAT HE DELAYS SO LONG.”

B. Adam and Eve thought God would save them quickly.

1. Genesis 4:1. The birth of Cain. Cain means “Acquisition.” This might be translated, “I have acquired a man, the LORD.” Eve assumed this very first child of hers was the promised Savior! Was Eve trying to have faith like Adam had had? If so, she made a mistake.
2. Genesis 4:2. Abel means “Emptiness.” At Abel’s birth, Eve decided all God’s promises were just emptiness. She sounds a lot like a very young woman.
3. Eve thought God would save them soon-any day! Not 6,000 years later. She surely had no idea of the thousands of years that would pass before God actually would send the Savior!

IV. To save us, the two sides of God had to be satisfied.

A. God has two poles like a magnet.

1. Government=His justice, judgment, order, righteousness. Results in people getting exactly what they deserve.
2. Grace=His love, forgiveness, mercy, undeserved favor. Results in people getting blessings regardless of whether or not they deserve them.

B. Grace and government cannot work at the same time.

C. God must satisfy both sides of His character.

1. God cannot ignore justice in order to just let us off the hook. Romans 3:23-26.
2. God cannot ignore His love and enact coldhearted justice. Titus 3:4-5.

D. The solution: the cross.

1. Christ died for us while we were still sinners! Romans 5:8.
2. His death paid the penalty of our sins. I Corinthians 15:1-4.
3. He took our sin upon Himself! We are healed by His suffering. I Peter 2:24.
4. Christ’s death satisfied God’s judgment. II Corinthians 5:14-15.
5. Christ had to come at the right time: God’s time. Galatians 4:4-5.

V. For God to deal with Adam and Eve right away would have meant justice, which would have meant their deaths. Instead, He waited for the right time to suffer and die for us to take our penalty upon Himself.

VI. We must also not forget our second session on the “why” question. We needed rescuing from Satan’s power as well, not just from God’s justice. Acts 26:17-18.

VII. Conclusion: The fourth part of our answer: God needed to satisfy both His justice and His love in order to save us. This He did on the cross. Not until the cross could we be rescued.