

If God exists, why so many wars & injustice?

If you are used to sharing your faith with unbelievers, you have surely heard someone answer you... If God is really love, why does he allow all these wars, these disasters and why do thousands of children starve? Truly I say to you, Their doubts and their fears are completely legitimate. How could you love and trust such a God, a God who is powerful and sovereign but who seems to be indifferent to the pain and needs of his creation, even worse, who is perhaps the one who inflicts this pain to teach them something, the one that triggers these disasters to judge them.

Yes God is love, and God is sovereign, but in order to answer this question, we must first examine and understand what God's sovereignty is.

The Collins dictionary defines the word sovereign:

- 1) Independent and not under the authority of another (a sovereign state).
- 2) The person or institution with the highest authority.
- 3) Superior; supreme.
- 4) Excellent; exceptional.

In other words, God is supreme, excellent, powerful, above all and everything, but that does not mean that God controls everything and everyone. If that were the case then He would make sure that all are saved. The Word says in *2 Peter 3:9* "*The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*"

In this verse it is clear that God's will is that all receive salvation but yet many perish and go to hell, even though it is not the will of God.

We must understand that even if something is His will, it will not happen automatically, we have a role to play, God has made us free to choose and He will never force us to do anything.

Deut. 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Choose life, so that you and your posterity may live."

Because God is love, He leaves us free to choose, and that's exactly what happened in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve were free to choose, and they chose death, even though it was not God's will.

Religion introduced the notion that if God is all-powerful and is above all things, it automatically means that nothing can happen without his permission and approval.

I remember hearing the testimony of a young woman. She and her mother had been raped, beaten, her mother was dead but she thanked the Lord for allowing this tragedy because through all this she had learned so much. For her it was clear that it was God who had allowed this for a divine purpose. But how can a God who is our father and who is love allow this?

To understand all of this we must go back to the beginning, when God created the earth and man. God said: *"Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness, and **let him rule over the fishes of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, all the earth.**"* Gen. 1:26

God in his sovereignty gave the earth to man and delegated his authority to him to dominate and manage the earth.

Psalm 115:16 "The heavens are the heavens of the LORD, but he has given the earth to the sons of men."

*Psalm 8:4-7 "When I contemplate the heavens, the work of your hands, The moon and the stars that you have created: What is man, that you may remember him? And the son of man, so that you take care of him? You made him a little lower than Elohim, and you crowned him with glory and honor. You gave him dominion over the works of your hands, **You put everything under his feet.**"*

Adam had received all authority on earth, but when tempted by the devil he did not exercise his authority, did not resist the devil and he yielded to temptation. By obeying the enemy he became subject to him (*Rom. 6:16*), and by default he relinquished his authority to him. *"And the devil, leading him to a high mountain, showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the inhabited earth. And the devil said to him, I will give you all this authority and the glory of these kingdoms; for it has been given to me, and I give it to whomever I want."* Luke 4: 5-6

Who had the authority, and who gave it to him? ADAM!

Today the earth is still under the domination of the devil. *1 John 5:19 We know that we are of God, and that the whole world is under the power of the evil one. 2 Cor. 4:4* call the devil the god (small g) of this world.

Why didn't God do anything? Why didn't he intervene to stop all this?

If he had intervened, he would have broken his own word because legally he had given the earth and authority to Adam and could not take it back. *Ps. 115:16*

Ps. 89:34 "I will not break my covenant, I will not change the word that came out of my lips."

Ps. 138:2 "You magnified your word above all Your name."

We see that for God to keep His Word is imperative because the whole universe is supported by the Word of His Power, and His Word is power because His word has all integrity. Heb. 1:3

Yes, God is sovereign, but in his sovereignty he has limited himself to His word.

Here is a good example. If I have a day off, I'm free to do anything. The pastor asks me to help him clean the church. I agree to come from 2 to 6 pm. If a friend invites me to go see a movie at 3pm, I will not be free to go because I gave my word to my pastor. In my freedom, I limited myself by giving my word.

God is the creator and owner of the world, but he cannot do whatever he wants on earth!

Here is another illustration. If I rent a house, I accept a lease that the owner and I will sign. I will then receive the keys of the house, this will give me the authority and the right to allow or stop anyone from entering the house.

If the owner wants to repaint the house or do any type of repair, now by law, he must first ask permission to enter, he cannot just come and do what he wants, even if I made a big mess of the house. He can only come by permission and invitation. God is the owner of the earth, but we have a lease and the keys, and now legally, according to His laws and His word, He works on the earth through those who invite Him and give Him access.

Matt. 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven and anything you allow on earth will be allowed in heaven." Complete Jewish Bible.

When wars, catastrophes happen on earth, it is not God who is the author but the devil, it is not God who allows but it is Man. That's why Jesus came to earth ... to destroy the works of the devil (*1 John 3:8*), to do good (*Acts 10:38*), to show us that God is a good Father (*John 14, Luke 11:1-13*), and finally to pay for all sin and free man from the dominion of the devil. Jesus recovered that authority which man had yielded to the devil and after his resurrection Jesus declared: *"All authority was given to me in heaven and on earth"*, and that authority He delegated to those who put their faith in Jesus (*Mark 16:17-18*).

We may not be able to stop some of the wars or injustices that some governments bring about (this is why it is important to vote for candidates who promote values as close to the Kingdom of God as possible and to pray for those in power and position of authority) but the good news is that you and I have the privilege and responsibility to use this authority in our own lives and families. We are no longer at the mercy of the devil but the Bible commands us to hate evil (*Rom. 12: 9*) and resist the devil (*James 4:7*). Let's not allow the devil to enter our Garden of Eden. Let us not be like Eve who believed in the lie and doubted the love and goodness of God, not knowing that God is a good Father and that he desires the best for us. Let us not be like Adam who remained passive, but when the enemy knocks on our door, resist him, and do not open the door to him through a passive attitude and negative words. Remember *Matt. 16:19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven and anything you allow on earth will be allowed in heaven."*

God gives us the keys of the Kingdom, and we know that a key opens or closes a door. Have you noticed that what is allowed on earth through our words will be permitted in the spirit world, and what we do not permit on earth by our words will be forbidden in the spirit world? Let us pay attention to our words, because through them often the enemy gets permission to steal, destroy and kill. It is also through our words, our prayers that God can also act in our lives. When God wants to do something on earth, He tells us and then we have to ask him, invite him. This is what authority and prayer are all about!

Lilian B. Yeomans said: "It seems that God can do nothing on earth unless men first ask Him."