

No “Act Of God”

Recently in our local community we were shocked by the death of a young child as a result of an accident which was in any ordinary way impossible.

To this day, no-one knows just how the accident occurred.

It just should not have happened, yet it did.

When it was being investigated, a certain phrase was used by one of the investigators, a man with long experience in such matters.

He said that the accident was so impossible to explain, that all he could say was that it was “*an act of God.*”

It is difficult to imagine a more terrible and more blasphemous phrase.

What kind of God can people believe in, when they attribute the accidental death of a young child to an act of God?

How can anyone who is left pray to a God who would do a thing like that?

Any such accidents or incurable disease is certainly **not** the will of God.

It is due to some human failure or to some human selfishness.

The Creator God gave human beings free will because there could neither be goodness nor love without free will.

It is exactly for this reason that the actions of some humans can run right counter to the will of God.

I do not think that anyone can calculate the vast amount of damage that has been done by suggesting that terrible and tragic events in life are the will of God.

When Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was on this earth in the form of a human being, He healed the sick, He raised to life the little daughter of Jairus, [Mark 5:22-24, 35-43], and the son of the widow at Nain, [Luke 7:11-17].

Quite clearly, Jesus Christ did not think sickness and illness or untimely death was the will of God.

Quite clearly, Jesus Christ thought such events were the very reverse of the will of God. They were the very things that He had come to help and to overcome.

What then can we say at a sad time of untimely death?

We can say, by the example of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, that God is as grieved as we are, that He is sharing in our sorrow and our grief, that He is afflicted in all our afflictions, that His heart is going out to meet our hearts.

What we can say is that the Creator God has it in His power to make it up to those who are taken away too soon, and those to whom sorrow and suffering has tragically come.

The God that I worship is just and is love itself, [Acts 22:14; 1 John 4:8, 16] and has the power to resurrect all who have died and in that resurrected life give such people a chance to blossom and flourish, and the lives involved in such tragedy to find compensation.

The eternal world can redress the tragedies of the world of time, [Revelation 21:4-5].

Christianity has never pretended to fully explain sorrow and suffering.

It may often be that in any tragedy there is traceable an element of human fault, human sin, in any disaster the reason may well lie in human error.

Yet even when all such cases are taken into account, there remains much that is sheerly inexplicable.

Christianity offers no cheap and facile explanation.

In the fact of such things happening, Christians have often to say *“I do not know why this happened.”*

But what Christianity does triumphantly offer is the power to face these things, to bear them, to come through them, and even to transform them so that the tragedy may become a powerful incentive to look to the Creator God and develop faith in the love He has for all humanity.

John 3:16-18 [New King James] *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ‘He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.’”*

Always trust in the perfect and all-powerful love of the Creator God.

When tragedy strikes, let us at least stop blasphemously talking about their being the will of God.

Then use such an incident in our present limited physical life to encourage us to seek the real will of our Creator God.

2 Peter 3:8-9 [New King James] *“But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 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.”*

Our loving Creator God desires that we will **all** repent of our sinful rebellion against Him, seek His grace, that is His forgiveness, so that He can then give us eternal life in a world that is founded of love for Him and our fellow human beings.

The wonderful world tomorrow after the Second Coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ, this time to rule in justice and love all humanity.

I do **not** write this article without personal experience, for my firstborn grandchild died in her late teens.