

DEALING WITH DEVASTATION

When God Doesn't Make Sense

Acts 17:26-27 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. ²⁷ God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. (NIV)

Job 38:2-6 “Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? ³ Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. ⁴ Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶ On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone” (NIV)

Job 38:12-13 “Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place, ¹³ that it might take the earth by the edges and shake the wicked out of it?” (NIV)

Job 38:16-21 “Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea or walked in the recesses of the deep? ¹⁷ Have the gates of death been shown to you? Have you seen the gates of the shadow of death? ¹⁸ Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth? Tell me, if you know all this. ¹⁹ What is the way to the abode of light? And where does darkness reside? ²⁰ Can you take them to their places? Do you know the paths to their dwellings? ²¹ Surely you know, for you were already born! You have lived so many years!” (NIV)

Job 38:33-35 “Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you set up [God’s] dominion over the earth? ³⁴ Can you raise your voice to the clouds and cover yourself with a flood of water? ³⁵ Do you send the lightning bolts on their way? Do they report to you, ‘Here we are?’” (NIV)

Job 40:1-5 The LORD said to Job: ² “Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!” ³ Then Job answered the LORD: ⁴ “I am unworthy - how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. ⁵ I spoke once, but I have no answer - twice, but I will say no more.” (NIV)

5 Things I Know Without a Shadow of a Doubt

1. God is faithful

Psalms 33:4 For the word of the LORD is right and true; he is faithful in all he does. (NIV)

Psalms 145:13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made. (NIV)

Psalms 146:6 the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them—the LORD, who remains faithful forever. (NIV)

2. God is just

2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷ and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power (NIV)

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (NIV)

3. God is patient

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (NIV)

1 Timothy 1:16-17 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (NIV)

4. God is good

James 1:13 When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; (NIV)

James 1:17 But whatever is good and perfect comes to us from God, the Creator of all light, and he shines forever without change or shadow. (TLB)

Psalms 119:68 You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. (NIV)

5. God is loving

Psalms 106:1 Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. (NIV)

1 John 4:8-11 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.
⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (NIV)

CG Questions

1. Why is it important for us to remember that every week is somebody's first week to attend People's Church and experience Christ?
2. What does it mean for us to invest and invite?
3. What unchurched family, friend or co-worker do you need to invest in and invite to church?
4. In 1,000 years from now, what are the things that will really matter?
5. Is your life centered around and focused on the things that really matter?