

# Who's "In Charge" Here?

Who is truly "in charge" in this world? Is God "in charge" or has Satan seized control?

Have you ever wondered if God is causing world events or is Satan causing them?

Does God "cause" bad things to happen or does the Devil do so, and if so, why?

VBS "20-20 Vision"  
Meeting to be determined



Can God actually "cause" bad things to happen in this world? Take a close look at Isaiah 45:7 "I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things." Well, there it is in black and white. Do you recall reading when God sent fiery serpents to the Israelites in the wilderness? They spoke *against* God and Moses. They could not appreciate what God was doing for them and could only find words of complaint—they grumbled! God was so displeased with them, He sent poisonous snakes and many died (Numbers 21:4-9). Did you read why God sent the snakes? Because the people had sinned and they needed to repent. When God sends (or creates) calamity, it is always for the people to repent and come back to Him. God, being just, holy, loving, and patient creates opportunities for us to repent. Do we recognize them? When the people repented, He made a way of escape just like the promise we read about in 1 Corinthians 10:13, "No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it." God provided a bronze serpent (through Moses) and put it on a pole. When the people were bit by the snakes and looked at it, they could live. What a tremendous lesson to remember!

God is righteous and He brought salvation to us. God alone provides what we actually need. In Isaiah 45:8 we read "Rain down, you heavens, from above, And let the skies pour down righteousness; Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation, And let righteousness spring up together. I, the LORD, have created it." What greater escape from sin do we have than the blood of Christ brought to mankind at a time of God's choosing? Righteousness has been "poured" upon the earth God created.

Can the devil cause bad things to happen? Recall the book of Job. The devil was allowed to inflict bad things upon Job. None of the suffering was his fault. The devil worked through other people to try and get Job to sin against God. The devil is allowed to provide opportunities for us to sin. He is the "tempter." He is the father of lies (John 8:44). He deceives us. Remember his first encounter with Eve? She was deceived. The devil convinced her that she could be as wise as God (an appeal to the pride of life) and that desire provided the pathway to her sin. The devil still works that way today. We sometimes feel that we know best and forget God's wonderful words of counsel or even His existence! We sin when we start to think that we can do it alone and without any assistance.

We are experiencing a time of distance and reflection are we not? We may be experiencing hardship, depression, or other challenges in this life. Did God "cause" the COVID-19 virus? Did the Satan see to the creation? Did mankind create it? Truly, God is the only One who knows, unless God clearly shows us the answer. We have learned from the few scriptures mentioned above that what we are responsible for is being faithful to God. Yes, without complaining, without speaking against God in His wisdom, and without letting ourselves be deceived by the lies of Satan. How do we know if we are believing a lie? You have to check out the facts and trust what the Bible says...

Isaiah 45:14 shares: "...Surely God is with you, and there is no other; there is no other God."

So, who's "in charge" here?

**Bday/Anniv Lunch:** ...when we can!

**Bible Study:** Consider your study of God's Word (see **2 Timothy 2:15**) Take time to learn Scripture today...

**NMCCH:** collecting aluminum foil and kitchen trash bags (pick up is later...)

\* —THANK YOU for reading this!