

**Tragedy**  
**Why does God allow Evil and Suffering to Occur**  
**Outline – Mike Baird**

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**Opposition in all things**

- 2 Nephi 2:11  
"For it must needs be, that there is an opposition in all things. If not so, my first-born in the wilderness, righteousness could not be brought to pass, neither wickedness, neither holiness nor misery, neither good nor bad"

**Man Given Agency**

- 2 Nephi 2:16, 26-27  
" Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other  
... And because that they are redeemed from the fall they have become free forever, knowing good from evil; to act for themselves and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the law at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given.  
Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great Mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil;..."
- Spencer W Kimball  
" Could the Lord have prevented these tragedies? The answer is, Yes. The Lord is omnipotent, with all power to control our lives, save us pain, prevent all accidents, drive all planes and cars, feed us, protect us, save us from labor, effort, sickness, even from death, if he will. But he

will not.

We should be able to understand this, because we can realize how unwise it would be for us to shield our children from all effort, from disappointments, temptations, sorrows, and suffering.

The basic gospel law is free agency and eternal development. To force us to be careful or righteous would be to nullify that fundamental law and make growth impossible. " (Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg 96)

## **God Allows Innocent & Righteous to suffer at hands of Wicked**

### ***Innocent Received unto God***

- Alma 14:11  
" for behold the Lord receiveth them up unto himself, in glory"
- Alma 60:13  
" therefore ye need not suppose that the righteous are lost because they are slain; but behold, they do enter into the rest of the Lord their God"

### ***Enables Judgment of the Wicked to be Just***

- Alma 14:11  
" he doth suffer that they may do this thing, or that the people may do this thing unto them, according to the hardness of their hearts, that the judgments which he shall exercise upon them in his wrath may be just; and the blood of the innocent shall stand as a witness against them, yea, and cry mightily against them at the last day"
- Alma 60:13  
" For the Lord suffereth the righteous to be slain that his justice and judgment may come upon the wicked;"
- D&C 103:3  
" For I have suffered them thus far, that they might fill up the measure of their iniquities, that their cup might be full;"

## **Eternal perspective is necessary for understanding**

- Spencer W Kimball  
" If we looked at mortality as the whole of existence, then pain, sorrow, failure, and short life would be calamity. But if we look upon life as an eternal thing stretching far into the pre-mortal past and on into the

eternal post-death future, then all happenings may be put in proper perspective." (Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg 96)

## **We learn through suffering**

- Spencer W Kimball  
" Being human, we would expel from our lives physical pain and mental anguish and assure ourselves of continual ease and comfort, but if we were to close the doors upon sorrow and distress, we might be excluding our greatest friends and benefactors. Suffering can make saints of people as they learn patience, long-suffering, and self-mastery. The sufferings of our Savior were part of his education." (Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg 96)
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- Joseph F Smith  
" God, doubtless, could avert war, prevent crime, destroy poverty, chase away darkness, overcome error, and make all things bright, beautiful and joyful. But this would involve the destruction of a vital and fundamental attribute in man—the right of agency. It is for the benefit of His sons and daughters that they become acquainted with evil as well as good, with darkness as well as light, with error as well as truth, and with the results of the infraction of eternal laws. Therefore he has permitted the evils which have been brought about by the acts of His creatures, but will control their ultimate results for His own glory and the progress and exaltation of His sons and daughters, when they have learned obedience by the things they suffer. The contrasts experienced in this world of mingled sorrow and joy are educational in their nature, and will be the means of raising humanity to a full appreciation of all that is right and true and good." (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith, 283)

- Orson F Whitney

"No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God.... and it is through sorrow and suffering, toil and tribulation, that we gain the education that we come here to acquire and which will make us more like our Father and Mother in heaven." (As quoted by Spencer W Kimball in Faith Precedes the Miracle, pg 98)