



CIRCLE OF ATONEMENT

What is God's Role in the World's Trials and Tragedies?

ACIM RADIO #6 EPISODE GUIDE

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Everywhere we look there are tragedies playing out around the globe and it's tempting to wonder "where is God" when faced with it all. How much does He know about our suffering and how involved is He in the pain that is so much a part of our everyday life?

In this episode of A Course in Miracles Radio, Circle Founder Robert Perry and Executive Director Emily Bennington explore the world as a meeting point between human mistakes and God's correction. As the interview covers, heartbreaking events result from the combination of ego and free will, but God responds by giving us ways to correct for those mistakes including the opportunity to choose again and Guides that will lead us back home.

1. The original instant of time held the original mistake, with all its specific variations, along with God's Correction of the one mistake and all its variations.

The tiny tick of time in which the first mistake was made, and all of them within that one mistake, held also the Correction for that one, and all of them that came within the first. (T-26.V.3:5)

2. "External conditions are produced by the thoughts of many, not all of whom are pure in heart as yet."

This is because it [the association of free will with imprisonment] can be internally controlled only if *external* conditions are peaceful. This is not safe, because external conditions are produced by the thoughts of many, not all of whom are pure in heart as yet. Why should you be at *their* mercy? (T-2.I.25:1-4)

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3. In response to the Holocaust, Jesus shed many tears and said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”

One of the more horrible examples of inverted or upside-down thinking (and history is full of horrible examples of this) was the Nazis’ “Final Solution.” I shed many tears over this, but it is by no means the only time I said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” (T-1.43.8)

4. Into this hopeless situation, God sends His teachers, so that forgiveness can be born, can grow and become stronger and more all-embracing, until it brings a happy ending to the world.

Into this hopeless and closed learning situation, which teaches nothing but despair and death, God sends His teachers. (M-In.5:1)

The Call is universal. It goes on all the time and everywhere. It calls for teachers to speak for It and redeem the world. (M-1.2:4-6)

5. The celestial speed-up: “People all over the world were being called on to help” the worsening world situation.

From Helen Schucman’s autobiography: “According to this ‘information’ the world situation was worsening to an alarming degree. People all over the world were being called on to help, and were making their individual contributions as part of an overall, prearranged plan. I had apparently agreed to take down A Course in Miracles as it would be given me. The Voice was fulfilling its part in the agreement, as I would fulfill mine. I would be using abilities I had developed very long ago, and which I was not really ready to use again. Because of the acute emergency, however, the usual slow, evolutionary process was being bypassed in what might be described as a ‘celestial speed-up.’ I could sense the urgency that lay behind this ‘explanation,’ whatever I might think about its content. The feeling was conveyed to me that time was running out.”



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6. “Trials are but lessons which you failed to learn presented once again.” In the midst of each one, Christ calls to you, saying, “My brother, choose again.”

Trials are but lessons which you failed to learn presented once again, so where you made a faulty choice before you now can make a better one, and thus escape all pain that what you chose before has brought to you. In every difficulty, all distress, and each perplexity you face, Christ calls to you and gently says, “My brother, choose again.” (T-31.IX.3:1-2)

7. All events are planned by the Holy Spirit. But He never offers pain; His only purpose is your good. In the midst of your plans for death, He leads you gently to eternal life.

What could you not accept if you but knew that everything that happens, all events past, present, and to come, are gently planned by One Whose only purpose is your good? Perhaps you have misunderstood His plan. For He would never offer pain to you, but your defenses did not let you see His loving blessing shine in every step you ever took. While you made plans for death, He led you gently to eternal life. (W-135.19:1-4)

The big picture

- The world is a “hopeless situation,” full of individual trials and mass tragedy.
- This is caused by human choice, not by God.
- It is the opposite of what God wants. (Jesus says he shed many tears over the Holocaust, for example.)
- God is always trying to reverse what we have made and bring us to salvation.
- So He responds to the painful situations of the world.

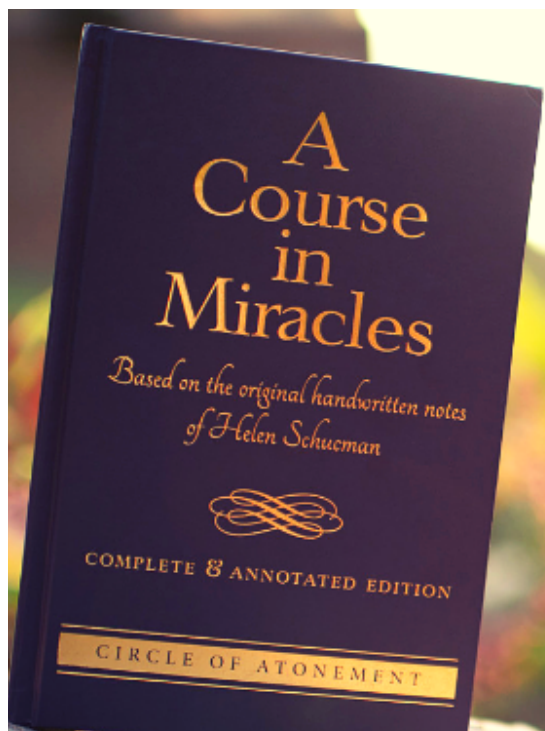
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- He calls teachers to speak for Him and redeem the world.
- He calls souls into incarnation who can help the world situation.
- And in every situation He silently calls us to make a new choice.
- Thus, the world is a meeting point of our mistakes and His correction.
- It's good that both things are there.
- It's good that we are faced with our mistakes, because then we have a chance to learn the lesson we failed to learn before.
- And it's good that God's help is there, both on the outside and on the inside, because then we are helped to make a new choice and learn that lesson.
- That is why all of it is His plan—the facing of our mistakes and the presence of His help.
- This, then, is how we need to see the events of this world—as a meeting point of our mistakes and God's correction, God's help.
- And when those two meet, the correction will always win out in the end.
- This will happen more and more until all of the pain and sorrow of the world will be reversed.
- And that is how the world will end, in pure joy, peace, and laughter:

The world will end in joy, because it is a place of sorrow. When joy has come, the purpose of the world has gone. The world will end in peace, because it is a place of war. When peace has come, what is the purpose of the world? The world will end in laughter, because it is a place of tears. Where there is laughter, who can longer weep? (M-14.5:1-6)

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