

Outreach





Outreach

Reaching Those Angry With God

We are in a War Zone!

- Pictured throughout scripture we see a battle playing out between God and Satan.
 - Job
 - Woman with the issue of blood – **Luke 13:16**
 - Peter – **Luke 22:31**
 - Paul – **2 Cor. 12:7-10**
- Satan is frequently referred to as the god of this world. **2 Cor. 4:4**
- Yet a frequent misconception is that God's will is the only will.
 - Satan has a will.
 - Man has a will.
- The question is who's will is going to prevail in our lives?

We are in a War Zone!

- Some have a distorted understanding of the relationship between God and man.
 - God freed man to make our own decisions.
- We may choose with whom we will align our lives – God or Satan.
 - God is over everything (He is omnipotent) but He has never forced man to obey him.
- We dare not blame God for everything that happens.
 - There are consequences for our actions.
- When we encounter one angry with God for the events in their lives, we should seek to understand the root cause for their anger.

When tragedy occurs many angrily ask – WHY?

- A loved one is brutally attacked
- A child is abused
- A natural disaster impacts people
- A family member dies
- A marriage breaks apart
- We are stricken with a disease

Many blame God for these events

- “God is in control of everything, it must be His fault”
- “He could have stopped that from happening”
- This often happens when we can’t see a better explanation for our problems.

God is in control, it must be His fault

- In a sense this may be true – **Isa. 45:7**
- God does not always intervene.
- He has granted us free will.
- We live in a world of sin and death.



Assigning responsibility
for a fault or wrong.

It leads to resentment,
anger or hatred.

Psychology talks about
the “self-serving bias,”
i.e., taking
credit for ourselves if
things go good in life,
but laying the blame on
circumstances when
things go bad.

Art Adams

What is Blame?



What is Blame?

- Blaming others becomes contagious.
- Accepting the blame and the circumstances of things outside of our control can be difficult.
- Blame can consume us, make us bitter and resentful.

Why do we Blame?

- Doing so provides quick relief from the feeling of the loss of control.
- Serves a justification to continue sinful behaviors.
- Due to a lack of knowledge, some blame God and draw false conclusions.
- It is easier to blame God than to take responsibility for their actions.
 - This is what Adam did. **Gen. 3:8-12**

Take Responsibility for Your Actions

Acceptance

- Recognizes we can't rewrite history.
- Accepts circumstances.
- Seeks forgiveness of our sins.
- Learns from experiences and moves on in life.

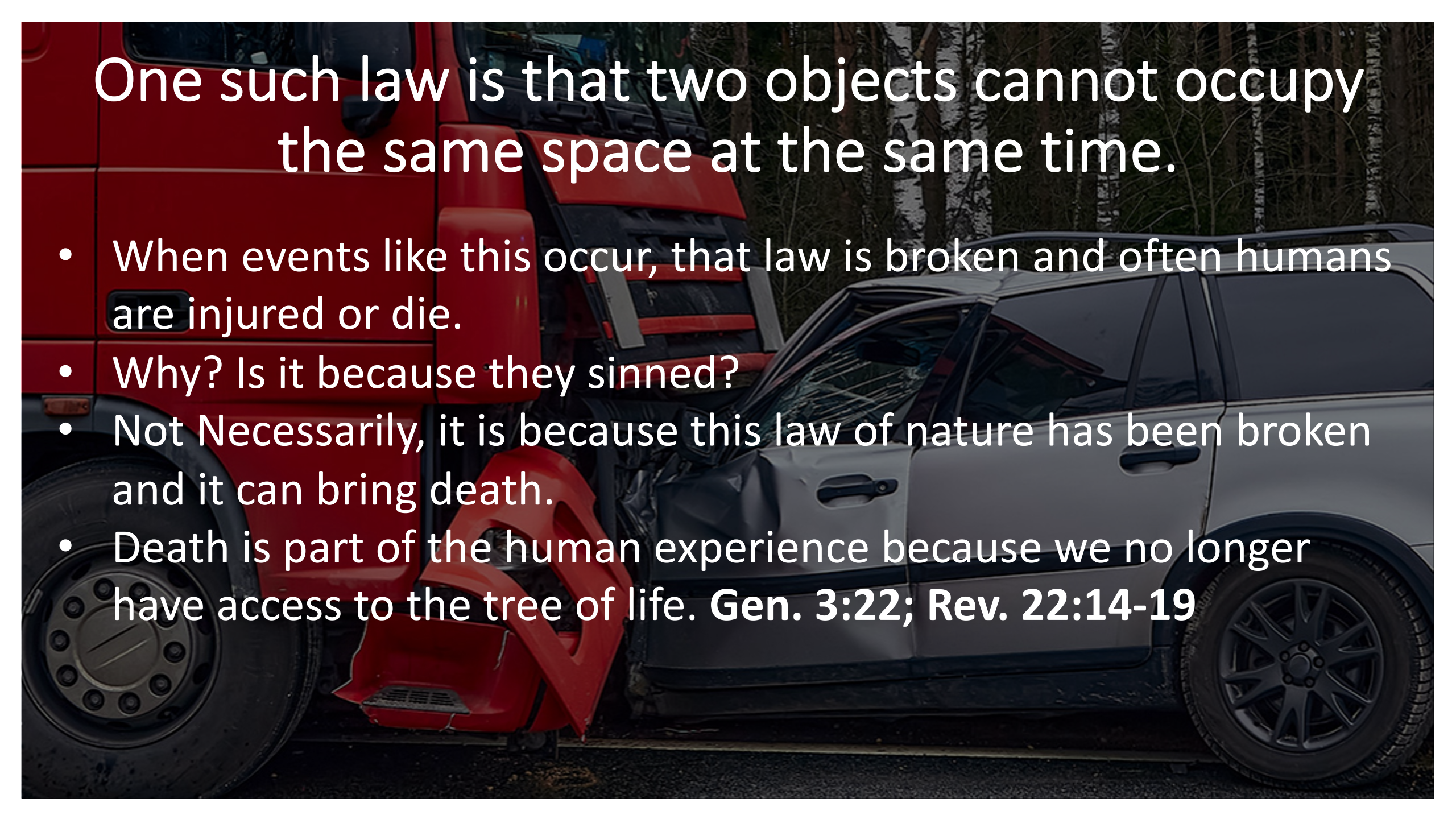
Avoid blaming God

- He created a perfect world for us to dwell in. **Gen. 1-2**
- Sin brought disorder and chaos into God's creation.
- Natural disasters are the result of sin. **Gen. 3:17-19**

Natural Law Effects All of Us



It doesn't matter whether one has been faithful or sinful, these laws impact us in the same way.

A photograph of a severe car accident. A large red semi-truck is on the left, and a silver SUV is on the right. The SUV's front end is crushed and its roof is buckled under the impact of the truck. The scene is outdoors with trees in the background.

One such law is that two objects cannot occupy the same space at the same time.

- When events like this occur, that law is broken and often humans are injured or die.
- Why? Is it because they sinned?
- Not Necessarily, it is because this law of nature has been broken and it can bring death.
- Death is part of the human experience because we no longer have access to the tree of life. **Gen. 3:22; Rev. 22:14-19**

Evil People Do Evil Things and Innocents May Suffer Because of Their Choices

- Children may be raised in a violent environment and be hurt or abused.
- Road rage - one driver may become angry with another and shoot them.
- Leaders may make evil decisions that bring harm on people.
- These things happen because an evil person acts in an evil way.

Some Things That Happen Are from God

- Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. **Gen. 19:24**
- Ten Plagues on Egypt. **Ex. 7:14 – 8:35**
- Poisonous serpents in the camp of Israel in the days of Moses. **Num. 21:6-9**
- Locust invasion in the days of the prophet Joel.
- These events occurred clearly at the hand of God.
- We do not know that today.

God Hears and Answers Prayer

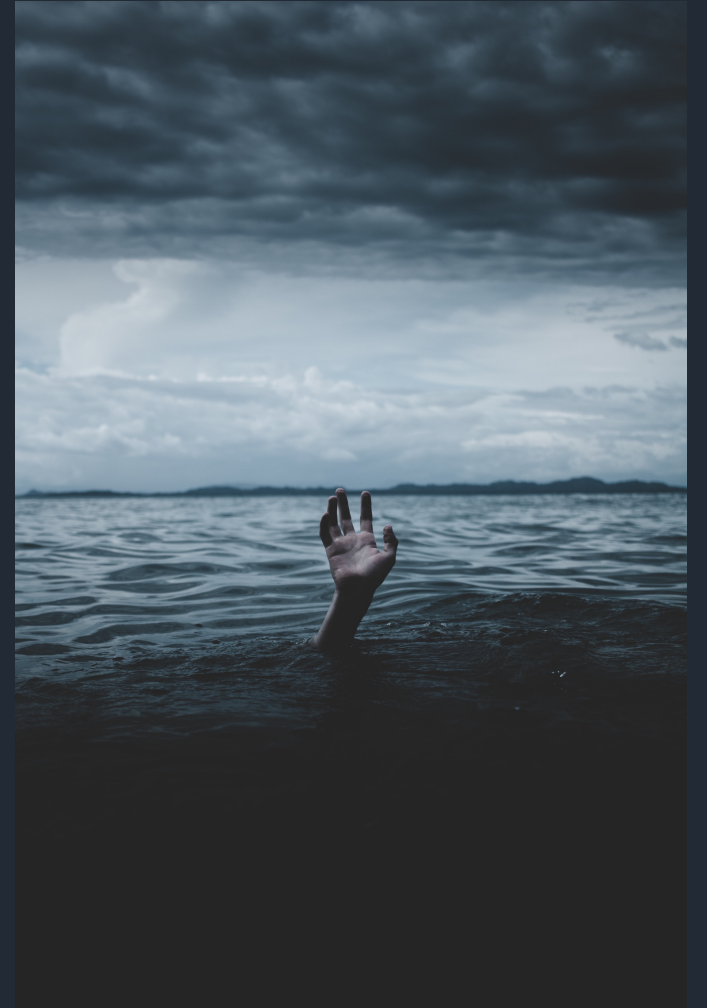
- **1 Peter 3:12** “For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
- Sometimes the prayer of two faithful people conflict.
 - In war both sides pray for victory.
 - In sickness one prays for healing, another for death to come and relieve them.
- Sometimes the answer God gives is not to relieve pain or calamity but rather grant the ability to bear the situation. **2 Cor. 12:9-11**

Steady and Careful Counsel is Needed

- Be careful to not indirectly cast blame on God.
 - “It was God’s will”
 - “Everything happens for a reason”
 - “It was meant to be”
 - “It was their time”
- Take the time to let them talk, listen actively, and let them think it through their situation.

Blaming God comes at a cost

- Keeps us from talking to God.
- We view God as being vindictive.
- It makes one bitter.
- It will destroy relationships.
- “Hurt people, hurt people”



Conclusion

- Like a skilled craftsman God turns difficult situations into something useful. **Gen. 50:20**
- God can use difficulties to strengthen His people. **2 Cor. 12:10**
- Instead of blaming God, give thanks for what we have from Him. **Eph. 5:20; 1 Thess. 5:18**
- **Job 1:22** “In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.”