



TIME OF GRACE®

Gracenotes

guides for personal Bible study

Life's Big Questions: Why Is Evil Unpunished?

Habakkuk 1:2,3: ²“How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, ‘Violence!’ but you do not save? ³Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds.”

Isaiah 48:9: “For my own name’s sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to destroy you completely.”

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

Points to Ponder

1. Have you ever looked around you at the evil in the world and wondered why God doesn’t do something about it? There are certainly examples in the Bible of God’s judgment on evil. Can you name a few?
2. Though Habakkuk was written many years ago, has the cycle of evil really changed from then to now? Do cheaters get away with cheating? Do marriages break up? Do violent people still commit violence? What thoughts does the devil like to put in our heads because of this?
3. Read **Isaiah 48:9**. What does it say about God that he delays punishment? If he didn’t delay his punishment, what would that mean for me and you?

4. Define the term “time of grace.” Could it be that sometimes God delays punishing the evil in this world because he is waiting for a few more to learn of his love and forgiveness?

5. Who do you know in your circle of influence who needs to know about this amazing, patient, and forgiving love of God? It’s that person’s time of grace too!

On this earth there will be wickedness that happens around you. And the devil is going to tempt you to think that God isn’t loving and God isn’t fair and God’s forgotten you. But he hasn’t, because he is a God of grace, a God of love, who wants more to know the peace that you have in Jesus. And he wants you to witness to others and reach out to them about God’s peace and grace.

What else does God say?

Exodus 34:6: He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness”

Psalms 86:15: But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.