

WHAT GOOD IS GOD

By Philip Yancey

There is no doubt that, in the midst of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, there are plenty of people praying and hoping for peace and a return to civility. We ask God to do something, anything and we watch the news continually broadcast grim facts that cruelty toward innocent lives has not stopped. We ask, we beg God to do something, and nothing happens.

We saw the same thing in the genocide of the Jews, mass shootings in schools and shopping malls, suppression of human rights in China and North Korea, and we look to God. Where is he?

These are the things Yancey writes about in one of his best books, *WHAT GOOD IS GOD?* The author does not sit at home and write about what other people see and say but is well-traveled and has seen much of such sadness firsthand. He writes from the heart when he says the church is a place where people can offer a place to confront the reality of evil without giving in to revenge.

We ask where is God when we need him? Why doesn't He sweep down in a fiery chariot and blow evil to hell and back, make things right for a change? Yancey's entire book implies this question and gives us an irrefutable answer from the Old Testament. God did sweep down and change things in those times...and the change did not stick. He gave them whirlwinds and pillars of fire to guide them, and they still built a golden calf.

But God does not quit. In the New Testament, we hear of Jesus emphasizing small things like a touch of salt, a mustard seed, yeast in bread. In spite of all the atrocities we know of, there have always been those glimmers of light, those tiny sparks of love from the same power that brought Jesus from the grave. This is the power that God has delegated to us while giving us the freedom to choose how we use it.

Although first published a dozen years ago, the subject matter of this book never goes out of date. Yancey ends by telling us that we do not bring God into a situation. God is already there and it our job to make Him visible.

Read it and be blessed.

Mike Slayter