

XI. GOD BRINGS GOOD LUCK.

-- DISCUSSION Q'S: --

INTRODUCTION

From an earthly perspective, things may seem to happen at random, but throughout the whole of Scripture, it is clear that God is in control of all of His creation and even the "random acts" of natural law. He is able to take the free will of both good and evil men, and the wicked intent of demons, and combine them all to accomplish His good and perfect will.

DISCUSSION

When was the last time you attributed something to luck, chance, or coincidence? Why?

EXPLANATION

What's the strangest superstition you've ever heard of?

What things do you hold onto as "good luck charms"?

APPLICATION

 Read I Samuel 4:1-11

In the story in I Samuel 4, why didn't the presence of the ark of the covenant guarantee Israel's victory?

Has there ever been a time you've been disappointed that God didn't act the way you wanted Him to?

MISSION

How can we remember to trust in God, rather than any other thing?

Is there any way we can help others learn to trust God in a non-superstitious way?



Read Matthew 16:21-28

What makes a "good person" a good person?

HOMEWORK:

A large, hand-drawn style title "stupid summer" is written across the top of the page. The word "stupid" is in green, and "summer" is in blue. There is a small, sketchy signature in the top right corner above the title.

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TODAY'S VERSES:

Daniel 2:20-22

I Samuel 4:1-11

I Samuel 13:19-20

I Samuel 4:21

I Samuel 6:2-3

Jeremiah 31:33

Romans 2:12-16

Isaiah 51:7

MY NOTES:

OURELEMENT.ORG/STUPIDSUMMER

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

ourelement.org/events



ELEMENT U: COHERENCE THEORY

Four Week Course
Starts October 2nd 6:30pm

PUMPKIN KILLING

October 27th, 2p

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES:

- Tuesdays, 6:30p
- Wednesdays 9:30a,
starting 10/2
women@ourelement.org



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-- SERMON NOTES --

Daniel 2:20-22 *Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.*

Something a lot of Christians are not aware of is that the Bibles view of God is antithetical to the notion of luck, chance, or coincidence. The American Heritage dictionary defines luck like this: "The chance happening of fortunate or adverse events."

Do things happen by chance? The idea of luck from the scriptures mostly comes from the book of Ecclesiastes. *Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 "I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned; but time and chance happen to them all. Moreover, no man knows when his hour will come: As fish are caught in a cruel net, or birds are taken in a snare, so men are trapped by evil times that fall unexpectedly upon them."* Much of what Ecclesiastes shares is from the perspective of a person who looks at life on earth without God, or life "under the sun." From such a perspective—leaving God out of the picture—there seems to be good luck and bad luck.

In 2 Chronicles 18 a warrior king named Ahab has the strongest army, but some "chance" arrow shot up into the air at random by a no-name enemy soldier happens to pierce his armor in its most vulnerable location resulting in Ahab's death and the loss of the battle. Was it a matter of luck? In 2 Chronicles 18, we find that God had His hand in the matter from the beginning. The soldier who shot the arrow was totally unaware of its trajectory, but God in His sovereignty knew all along it would mean the death of the wicked King Ahab.

Proverbs 16:33 *"The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord."* This refers to the use of casting lots (similar to the tossing of a coin or the rolling of

dice) to settle certain judicial cases. Proverbs 16:33 would indicate that something as random as the rolling of, dice or the tossing of a coin, is not outside of God's sovereign control. And, therefore, its results are not merely of chance.

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY INVOLVES TWO ASPECTS.

- God's active will. He causes something to happen, such as leading King Ahab into battle. Ahab's death was not merely the result of a randomly shot arrow, but as 2 Chronicles 18 reveals, God actively directed the events that led Ahab into battle and used that randomly shot arrow to accomplish His intended will for Ahab that day.
- God's passive will. This is what God *allows* rather than what He *causes*. The book of Genesis shows the evil God allowed Joseph's brothers to do to Joseph in order to accomplish a greater good, a good not apparent to Joseph until years later (Genesis 50:20).

Because we do not have the "curtains drawn back" to see what is taking place in heaven, we cannot always determine whether God's active or passive will is involved in the events of our lives. We do know that all things that take place are under the umbrella of God's will, whether active or passive, and, therefore, nothing is a matter of mere chance. When a person rolls the dice to play a board game, God may sometimes cause the dice to land a certain way, but more often than not in such inconsequential matters, He may allow the dice to land as His laws of nature would determine without any active involvement. But even when He is not actively involved, how the dice land is still under His sovereignty.

So it is for any event of life; no matter how small (Matthew 10:29-31) or how large (Daniel 4:35; Proverbs 21:1), God is sovereign over all (Ephesians 1:11; Psalm 115:3; Isaiah 46:9-10), and nothing is merely the matter of chance.

From an earthly perspective, things may seem to happen at random, but throughout the whole of Scripture, it is clear that God is in control of all of His creation and even the "random acts" of natural law. He is able to take the free will of both good and evil men, and the wicked intent of demons, and combine them all to accomplish His good and perfect will.

Christians, specifically, are given the promise that God works all things, whether seemingly good or bad, together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.