



Who is God When Life Stinks?

A Love Story for YOU!

Why would Jesus do something so absurd as to accept God's plan for him to die as an innocent man? Why did he submit to torture and death to bring forgiveness to people who continue to ignore him?

I am stunned every time I listen to his agony, and then see his obedience to a plan that would completely wash ME from any sin, and make me acceptable to a perfect God. This include YOU too! God wants you to know that he is crazy in love with YOU!

It is no coincidence that you are reading this page, so please keep reading if you want to know more about this love story that God has written for you. I will try to give you one tiny glimpse into the amazing vastness of God's plan of love.

The Old Testament tells of God's love for human creatures. He formed them with his own hands, and he put them in charge of a beautiful world created with amazing grandeur and perfection!¹ But over and over, people chose to think about themselves first, disregarding God, and they did things their own way – which always resulted in a MESS. The Bible calls this sin or disobedience.²

Every time, God reached out to say, "I love you" and "I have plans for your good". But humans, like myself, said, "I don't trust that you really love me and I'd prefer my own comfort to your plans!"³

Generations came and went with less and less people willing to step out on faith and rely on God's love for them. Most thought that God's loving plan should include an easy life, with plenty of comfort. But... there were some who dared to believe differently.

My favorite story is found in the book of Ruth (for obvious reasons!). Ruth was a person who believed that God loved her, even while she was hungry, without a home, and mourning the death of her young husband.⁴ She had a bold willingness to look for God's plan, even when it didn't make sense, and it brought her to an encounter with a man who was the son of a prostitute (named Rahab). Years earlier, Rahab had also dared to believe

that God could love her in the middle of an awful place, during times of war and destruction.⁵

Together with her husband, Ruth raised a family, and had a young grandson who killed a huge giant and later became king of their country. From his family would come the greatest King of all - Jesus.⁶

But Jesus' arrival on earth was not kingly - it looked NOTHING like a "perfect plan". His birth would look like poor timing (no appropriate facilities were available)⁷, his early childhood years were spent in hiding (in a foreign country and culture)⁸ and his adulthood was full of misunderstandings and lies about him.⁹ So much for God's "loving plan".

But, the amazing truth is that God love shines greatest against the darkness of the world's sin.¹⁰ God would ask Jesus to let his beautifully created creatures bring torture to his body and to his heart. They would accuse Jesus of lies and claim he deserved to die.¹¹ They would nail his hands to wood, not recognizing them as the same hands which created each tree.¹² They would spit in his face, and never desire to know that his spit once mixed with dirt to form the very first man.¹³

WHY would Jesus do this – and WHY would God, his father, ask him to? There is no explanation that is humanly possible – just supernatural LOVE!¹⁴

When someone boldly declares a love so strong toward us, we may react in several different ways.

First, we can be skeptical to believe it, and we want to see their words backed up with actions.

And if we see their actions, we may feel unworthy of their love, or embarrassed at the extravagance of their demonstrations. Perhaps we don't respect who they are and we wish they would choose someone else to love. Or we respect them too much, and push them away, afraid they will discover how very unlovely I really am.

God has answers for each of these objections. He says "I am a holy God, and I see how filthy you are – but still I love you!"¹⁵ He proves his love by making a plan of forgiveness,¹⁶

giving us life,¹⁷ and daily care¹⁸. He doesn't want to be pushed away, but asks us to welcome him.¹⁹

You may wonder, HOW can we welcome these amazing gifts of love? God simply wants us to believe his love—accepting the new life²⁰ that was made possible when Jesus said, “Not my will, but yours be done”. Those nails and the sword, which poured out his blood and his life, made Jesus the once-for-all payment for our sin and disobedience.²¹

We accept it ONCE. We apply it DAILY. We are welcomed FOREVER into God's family.²²

Here on earth God walks with us, and gives us power²³. Someday in heaven, we will walk with him, and give him constant praise²⁴.

Dear reader, don't you think this offer is too amazing to refuse?!?! I hope you want to know more, and would love for you to contact me. If you already understand God's love, please pray that others will too!

I love you, am praying for you, and thank you for desiring to seek God's truth!

Scripture References:

¹ Genesis 2:15 *Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. NASB*

² Romans 3:23 *For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. NLT*

³ Jeremiah 29:11 *“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” NLT*

⁴ Ruth 1:16,17 *But Ruth said, “Don't force me to leave you; don't make me go home. Where you go, I go; and where you live, I'll live. Your people are my people, your God is my god; where you die, I'll die, and that's where I'll be buried, so help me GOD—not even death itself is going to come between us!” MSG*

⁵ Joshua chapter 2/ Matthew 1:5 *Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. NASB*

⁶ Matthew 1:6 *Jesse was the father of David the king. NASB*

⁷ Read Luke 2:1-20

⁸ Read Matthew 2:13-23

⁹ Isaiah 53:3 *He was despised and rejected...we turned our backs on him and looked the other way. NLT*

¹⁰ John 1:5 *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. NLT*

¹¹ Read Luke chapter 23 *You brought this man to me as one who incites the people to rebellion, and behold I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him - nothing deserving death has been done by Him.(v. 14,15)*

¹² John 1:3 *Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing!— came into being without him. MSG*

¹³ Genesis 2:7 *GOD formed Man out of dirt from the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. The Man came alive—a living soul! MSG*

¹⁴ I John 3:1 *What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! MSG*

¹⁵ Romans 5:8 *But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us! NASB*

¹⁶ I John 1:9 *But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. NLT*

¹⁷ John 10:10 *"I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." KJV*

¹⁸ I Peter 5:7 *Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. NLT*

¹⁹ Revelation 3:20 *"Listen! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him, and he with Me." HCSB*

²⁰ Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. NASB*

²¹ Hebrews 10:10 *For God's will was for us to be made holy by the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all time.NLT*

²² John 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name. NASB*

²³ Ephesians 1:19 *I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. NLT*

²⁴ Revelation 5:13 *And then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea. They sang: "Blessing and honor and glory and power belong to the one sitting on the throne and to the Lamb forever and ever."NLT*

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