

Why Doesn't God Do Something ?

By **Archdeacon G. T. Denham**
of the China Inland Mission.



Melbourne:

KESWICK BOOK DEPOT,
315 Collins Street.

WUOSE COFFECE FIBBYLA

Why Doesn't God *do* Something ?

By Archdeacon G. T. Denham.

THE QUESTION.

Why does God not stop the war and put an end to all this terrible misery and suffering? If God is Love, why does He allow men to kill each other, and why is He silent when the earth is filled with oppression and wrong? If God is Almighty, why does He not compel men to lay down their arms, and why does He permit injustice and selfishness, hatred and inequality, to flourish unchecked?

ANSWER No. 1.

Why Should God Do Anything?

Man has broken God's holy laws, His moral laws, spiritual laws, physical laws, laws governing agriculture and finance and other aspects of social order, laws written in God's Book, and laws written in the heart and conscience of man. Man has disregarded and ignored laws which were meant for his own good, and which were intended to lead him into paths of eternal peace. And as if this were not enough, he has flouted and desecrated God's Holy Day, a day which was specially made for him, and intended to be a day of rest and of joy, a day when the highest part of his nature might be refreshed and developed, for man is more than a mere animal. In addition to all this, he

has despised and neglected God's Holy Word, which was designed to be a lamp for his feet and a light for his path, a guide to lead him through the mazes of this dark world. You would not expect a man who broke all the laws of sound and electricity, and who rejected all textbooks, to construct a good wireless set. Why should you expect a man who breaks the laws of God and treats the Bible with contempt to do otherwise than bring ruin upon himself and the world in which he lives?

To sum it all up, man has broken God's Laws, violated God's Day, neglected God's Word, and he now looks with dismay and fear at the ruin and desolation he has made for himself and has the effrontery to ask: "Why doesn't God do something?" Again I say, why should God do anything? What right have you to criticise God? Do you measure up to His standard, which is a life as pure and holy as that of the Lord Jesus Christ? Is your conscience clear when you think of your dealings with Him? Do you observe the greatest commandment of all, namely: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength"? Do you keep the second greatest: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself"? Till you do you have no right to question God.

ANSWER No. 2.

God Has Done Something

Man has made a horrid mess of himself and of the world God gave him, but God loves him in spite of all, and God sent His Son to be the Saviour of the world. Jesus Christ, commissioned and sent by God, dealt with

the root of the trouble, that is, sin. It is sin that has brought war into the world, that has filled the earth with violence, disease, and death. It is sin that makes man try to forget God, and even to hate Him. It was sin that Jesus Christ dealt with when He died on the Cross for us men and for our salvation. When He, Who had lived a spotless and sinless life, was nailed to the Cross, God "laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (yours included), and He bore our sins in His body on the tree. Your attitude to this great act of God cannot change it in any degree. You may violently disagree with it, say it is wrong, and unjust, and immoral that the innocent should suffer for the guilty; you may reject it and refuse to have any part or share in it, or you may go down on your knees and thank God for it, as do I and countless millions of others, but you cannot change it. Whatever you think or say has no effect on it at all. It stands, and stands for ever. God, then, has done this. As the Bible says: "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." And still you ask, "Why doesn't God do something?"

ANSWER No. 3.

God Is Doing Something

He is working His purpose out. As the prophet Daniel said: "He removeth kings and setteth up kings." He has not left the nations to grope their own way to destruction, but He has His plan, to be perfected in His own time, and He is working continuously for the day when "the wilderness and the solitary place

shall be glad and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose," when "the eyes of the blind shall be opened and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped . . . the lame man shall leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb shall sing, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." Sin, working through man, a willing instrument, has filled the world with war and bloodshed, disease and death. But God is working, and in all the dark corners of the earth, wherever distress and sorrow are to be found, there also may be found Christians, God's servants, doing what they can in God's Name and for His sake, to alleviate suffering and to raise poor fallen humanity. These men and women are part of God's army, and through them He is waging war against sin, oppression and wrong. A poor army, admittedly, but if you would come in and help instead of criticising from outside, it might be better. You ask, "Why doesn't God do something?" Why don't you do something? Are your efforts at philanthropy confined to the purchase of lottery tickets with a hope of getting something for nothing? Certainly God is working. Through the lips of His servants, the Gospel, the Good News, the Glad Tidings is proclaimed everywhere, and men are freely offered, for Jesus Christ's sake, forgiveness of sins and eternal life. And everywhere men and women are accepting this offer and are finding new life, new joy, new peace, and new power. God is doing something, as you would quickly find out if you closed with His offer. If you ask why God does not work more quickly, the answer is that "the Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness; but is long-suffering to you-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

God *Will* Do Something

Something drastic, something startling, something that will compel wicked men to lay down their arms, something that will stop all wars immediately. He is about to send His Son into the world again. Jesus Christ is surely coming, though no one knows the day or hour. He Himself said, "Behold I come quickly." Nearly two thousand years ago He was born in a stable and cradled in a manger. He grew up and was known as the Carpenter of Nazareth. He was despised and rejected of men. When still a young man, He died as a felon, being nailed on a cross between two thieves. But God raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory and exalted Him to be Prince and Saviour. And He is to come again as King of kings and Lord of lords to rule and reign on the earth. What will you do then? You who ask, "Why doesn't God do something?" do you really want God to do anything? He is about to send the Lord Jesus, armed with all power and authority, to put this poor world right. Do you truly want Him to come? Probably the truth of the matter is this. You want God to deal with sin in other people and in the world generally, but you are entirely unwilling that He should deal with it in you or interfere with your life in any way. Yet you cannot escape Jesus. Sooner or later you must come face to face with Him. That the Lord is coming again is no fairy tale; it is not mere wishful thinking on the part of those who love Him. It is a most solemn promise of God Himself. The Lord Jesus, also, stated it in the simplest of language, impossible to be misunderstood. Prophecies in the Bible seem to point to His coming

soon. The state of the world demands it, for if one thing is plainer than another it is that the world is not getting better, but worse, and that if God does not interfere nothing can prevent it from rushing headlong to destruction and becoming the Devil's own abode. But God will intervene, and the Great Day of His Wrath is coming. Some may scoff, but scoffing cannot change by so much as a hairbreadth God's inflexible purpose. The day will surely come when the words spoken long ago will be fulfilled: "He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh, the Lord will have them in derision."

You who criticise and question God, do you not realise that He is criticising you? You who ask, "Why doesn't God do something?" do you not know that the time is coming, unless you repent, when He will do nothing? He declares in His Word: "Because I have called and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand and no man regarded; but ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof; I will laugh in the day of your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as a storm, And your calamity cometh on as a whirlwind; When distress and anguish come upon you. Then shall they call upon me but I will not answer; They shall seek me diligently, but they shall not find me; For that they hated knowledge, And did not choose the fear of the Lord; They would none of my counsel; They despised all my reproof; Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, And be filled with their own devices."

Scorners and doubters, the impenitent and the hardened, the breakers and despisers of God's laws, will realize too late what they have thrown away, what

joy and happiness they have lost, and lost for ever. But now it is still the Day of Grace and the Day of Salvation. God's message to you is Repent and Believe. I urge you to yield to God, to accept His gift of free forgiveness, to receive the Lord Jesus, Who offers Himself to you as Saviour and Friend. Christ died for sinners, and now He receives sinful men. This is Good News. Believe it, and learn to say from the heart:

“Upon a life I did not live,
Upon a death I did not die,
Another's Life, Another's Death,
I stake my whole eternity.”

Then no longer will you ask, “Why doesn't God do something?” but you will be another instrument for Him to use, another servant to work under His direction, so that His Kingdom may come and His Will be done, on earth as in Heaven.

7th EDITION.

One Penny Each, 10d. doz., 6/- per 100.

KESWICK BOOK DEPOT,
315 Collins Street, Melbourne.

Spectator Publishing Co., 134a Little Collins Street, Melbourne.