Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?

Job 1:1, 8, 13-18

Introduction:
A. Why do bad things happen to good people? A question pondered for ages.
B. Conversely, why do good things happen to bad people? (Cf. Jer. 12:1)
C. Likely, no man can fully answer either question. Can understand much about it.
D. Several things to consider while groping with the problem:

Discussion:
I. We Live in a World Cursed by Sin.
A. In the beginning everything was good - including man (Gen. 1:31; Ecc. 7:29).
B. Sin brought a curse upon man and the world. (Gen. 3:16-24)
   1. Pain, suffering, and sorrow a part of dying process of man.
   2. God removed man from the “tree of life” — immunity to death.
      a. Without this immunity the body deteriorates — disease and pain.
      b. Without this protection “nature” can be agent of death and destruction — accidents, etc.
C. No one is immune to this curse (Eccl. 9:2,3; 1 Cor. 15:22; Heb. 9:27).

II. We Must Give the Devil His Dues.
A. Saying “it is the Lord’s will” does not fully explain a tragedy.
   1. Everything — even sin — is the “Lord’s will” in that He permits it to happen.
   2. Not everything is Lord’s will in that he desires or causes it to happen.
B. We must recognize Satan’s role in both moral and physical evil in world.
   1. Satan is source of sin and its consequences. (Gen. 3:5, 22; cf. John 8:44; 1 John 3:8).
   2. Satan was the source of Job’s troubles.
   3. Satan was source of Paul’s thorn. (2 Cor. 12:7).
   4. Satan hindered Paul from going to Thessalonica (2 Thess. 2:18).
   5. Satan was source of woman’s infirmity (Luke 13:16).

III. We Are Limited in Our Vision.
A. Only God can see from beginning to end. (Ecc. 3:11).
B. Today’s trouble may be tomorrow’s blessing — but cannot see it today.
   1. Joseph’s troubles (Gen. 45:8).
   2. Paul’s troubles (Phil. 1:12-14).
C. “Worst thing that can happen” sometimes “best thing that could happen.”

IV. God Has the Final Word.
A. Ill: A child listens to father read story and laughs at villain’s behavior. Had already heard last page.
B. Would not be best for man to live in sinful world, immune from the effects of sin (cf. Jas. 1:2-4, 12).
C. God will remove the redeemed from such a world in due time.
   1. Will be no more pain, sorrow and death. (Rev. 21:4)
   2. No more bad things for good people, no good things for bad people.

Conclusion:
1. God will not allow us to be tempted (or tried) beyond limits. (1 Cor. 10:13).
2. One day we can live in a place with be no bad things or bad people.