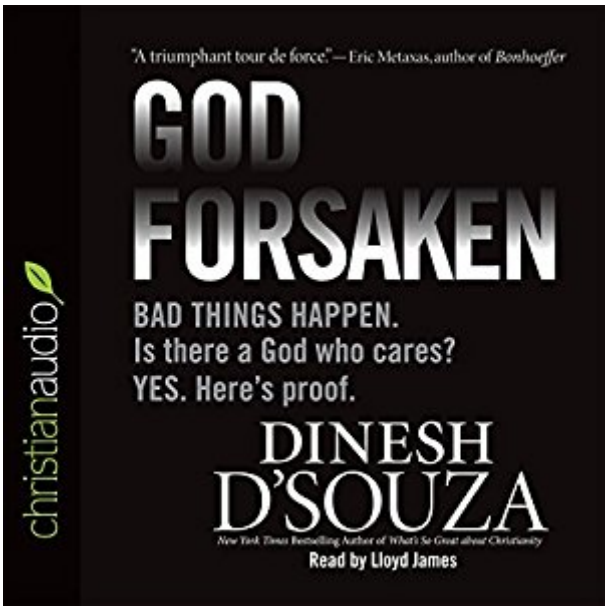
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Godforsaken: Bad Things Happen. Is There A God Who Cares? Yes. Here's Proof.



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Synopsis

For a lot of people, the biggest question about God isn't, surprisingly enough, whether he exists. Instead, it's about whether God is truly good. Dinesh D'Souza, in his debates with leading atheists, quickly realized that many of his debates would revolve around the question of evil in this world and how God could create a world that allowed such suffering and evil. In Godforsaken, Dinesh D'Souza takes these questions head-on. Does God act like a tyrant? Is God really responsible for the evil in this world? Why is there suffering in the world? For the first time ever, Dinesh D'Souza approaches this topic with historical and scientific proofs and presents to the reader why God is truly worthy of our worship and love.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dines D'Souza is a good writer, and makes many good points in this book.There is a fundamental flaw in his argument, however. I do not agree with D'Souza that everything that has ever occurred or will ever occur happens according to God's will. In other words, bad things do not happen because it is God's will that they happen.Theodicy is much easier if we take the biblical story at face value. Lucifer rebelled against God, humans followed suit, and our suffering is a direct result of his and our rebellion. As David Bentley Hart, put it, "As for comfort, when we seek it, I can imagine none greater than the happy knowledge that when I see the death of a child I do not see the face of God, but the face of His enemy."A second point I would like to make is that, as a scientist, I find it risky to make sweeping theological statements based on scientific theories. The biggest, most obvious problem is that even highly regarded scientific theories can be undone over the course of a generation or two.

Another problem is that, while the anthropic principle and the fine-tuning of the universe may point us to God's wisdom and creative power, we must go to the Bible to understand the metaphysical (as opposed to mechanistic) "why" behind the suffering caused by natural disasters.Ultimately, D'Souza's book is another spin on the old argument that suffering exists because this is the best universe God could possibly create; this argument places the blame for suffering squarely on God. The God I serve is greater than this by far--my God created a perfect universe which has been destroyed by selfishness, and He has promised to restore the universe to a perfect state once again and eliminate suffering for eternity.

The author gives a scientific explanation of why God created the world in the way He did--showing scientific reasons for pain and suffering. I don't know if the arguments would convince an atheist, and as a Christian I believe we should, as the Bible says, walk by faith, not by sight.

For a lot of people, the biggest question about God is not, surprisingly enough, whether he exists. Instead, it is about whether God is truly good. Dinesh D'Souza, in his debates with leading atheists, quickly realized that many of those debates revolved around the question of evil in this world--how God could create a world that allowed such suffering and evil. In Godforsaken, Dinesh D'Souza takes these questions head on: Does God act like a tyrant? Is God really responsible for the evil in this world? Why is there suffering in the world? For the first time ever, Dinesh D'Souza approaches this topic with historical and scientific proof and presents to the reader why God is truly worthy of our worship and love.Godforsaken was a carefully researched book that really spoke to both the intellectual and emotional side of any person, Christian or otherwise. Dinesh D'Souza broke his book into six parts. The first part is an introduction to the reality of suffering in this world and how all people groups everywhere at some point both experience and struggle with suffering and evil. The second part quickly yet thoroughly analyzes the typical Christian and atheist both approach the conundrum of how a good God can exist and yet the reality that there is evil and suffering in this world. This part also shows how each Christian and atheist argument is flawed and cannot truly satisfy people's questions about evil and suffering. The third part addresses the moral evils that exist in this world as pertains to both people's free will, God's sovereignty, and the consequences of a fallen world. The fourth part of Godforsaken looks at the crimes that occur in nature and how those relate to the power and character of God. The fifth part deeply analyzes the character of God and how the evil and suffering in the world do not contradict the characteristics of God or lead to the conclusion that a loving God does not exist. Finally, the book concludes in the sixth part by

emphasizing that we are not godforsaken, but rather, loved and ultimately saved by the God of mercy and grace.Godforsaken is written in a way that is both enjoyable and stimulating. I was able to understand what the author was saying and still think critically about whether or not I agreed with his points. I liked D'Souza's organization of the book and his liberal use of quotes, research, and his experiences to drive home and complement what he was saying. I also appreciated his critique of atheist arguments about God and suffering, and his inclusion of his own experiences debating with world renowned atheists.Overall, I thought Godforsaken was well written, organized, intellectually stimulating, and one of the best arguments and discussion on God, evil, and suffering that I have ever read. I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants an intellectual yet emotionally resounding explanation of evil and suffering.

Really great book to explain the many facets of why bad things happen in a world under God's control. The section on nature was the weakest, but all of the others were very well done. Love and evil are in constant battle.

Other people have lengthy reviews of this book: mine will be brief.Dinesh D'souza writes clearly without too much theological jargon.His ideas are accessible to an average reader. I doubt that any atheistsor agnostics would be swayed by his reasoning, but Christians mightuse this book as a springboard to deeper thought. D'Souza spendsmost of the pages trying to "let God off the hook" (apparently the same"hook" that landed God in the Dock.) C.S. Lewis did it with considerablymore economy in Perelandra where the Venusian "Eve" is not tempted to goracing off after her Adam, but rather to simply receive what God has willedto her, the gift of Himself, Enough. Dinesh examines the Fall as a rejectionof the God Who is Enough and quotes Anselm at length. A useful book and a relatively quick read in plain language. It is a style of writing that invitesthe reader to take sides every few pages...sometimes with the author, sometimesnot.

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