

“O Lord, do good to those who are good, whose hearts are in tune with you. But banish those who turn to crooked ways, O Lord. Take them away with those who do evil. May Israel have peace!” Psalms 125:4-5 NLT

lectio // Psalm 125

Absolutely, 100% that bad things happen to good people. However, there is also a sense that God can and does help, promote and even bless those who are doing good, doing his work. Instead of STRIVING against God there is a way to be in STRIDE with God. Finding out what he is doing and not only just going along with it, but being intentional to engage with him. This is exactly what Jesus did everyday! And, we see how much he accomplished in just three short years of ministry. I don't think it's right to want to banish difficult, or wicked people from our churches and organizations, but WOW, it would be really nice for God to move them along to somewhere and someone else! Especially when convincing, con-jollyng or coercing doesn't work anymore. Sovereign moves are such a huge boost and benefit to the whole. It's important not to talk those folks into staying because we feel bad or things went sideways - just let them go. We have no real power to banish anyways, they'll just move down the road to another church or another organization and "bless" them 😬 And what about the blessing on Israel? Is it still in effect? I believe it is. Asking God to bless Israel and give them peace is not approving or sanctioning everything the country does, but understanding that we are still blessing his people and we still so grateful for their story.

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Dad,

Eagerly cooperating and being in step with your Spirit is the best way to live this life on earth. It is getting a front-row seat to what you are doing and see the miracles of new life and changed lives.

Thank you for working with my brokenness and being merciful for me to see you at work through my life.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root