

## **SHOULD WE BLAME GOD?**

A few days after the tragedy of September 11, a reporter asked a woman at the World Trade Center who had apparently lost a loved one there if she had been praying a lot lately. She responded by saying, ***“Who do you pray to? God took all of these innocent people away.”*** It is very sad to see people blame God for something that He did not do. People ask, ***“If God allowed this tragedy to happen, then isn't He also to blame?”*** The answer to this question is ***“NO!”*** Suppose you as a parent allow your son or daughter to drive an automobile after they get their license and in the process of driving that automobile they are hit and killed by a drunk driver? Does that mean it is your fault because you allowed them to drive that car? Some parents in a situation like this might blame themselves, but unjustly so. Why not blame the person who is responsible for the accident which is the drunk driver. And so why not blame the persons responsible for the tragedy of September 11 which is the terrorists.

People sometimes ask the question ***“Why do bad things like this happen in the first place?”*** A simple answer to this question is because God created man with ***“freewill.”*** Thus man can choose to do good or evil. And when men choose to do evil, then bad things happen. Adam and Eve with their freewill chose to disobey God in Genesis 3. In Genesis 4, Cain of his own freewill chose to murder Abel his brother. In Luke 22, we see Judas of his own freewill betraying the Son of God. It is interesting to note in all of these examples that Satan had a role to play. It was Satan who tempted Adam and Eve to sin in Genesis 3. It is Satan who is described by Jesus as a ***“...murderer from the beginning...”*** in John 8:44, apparently having reference to Cain's killing of his brother Abel. And it is Satan who is described as ***“...entering into Judas...”*** to cause him to betray Jesus. (Luke 22:3) If we are going to blame anyone for the evil that takes place in the world, then let us blame the devil, for he is the one who is responsible.