

CREIGHT A. BOYD

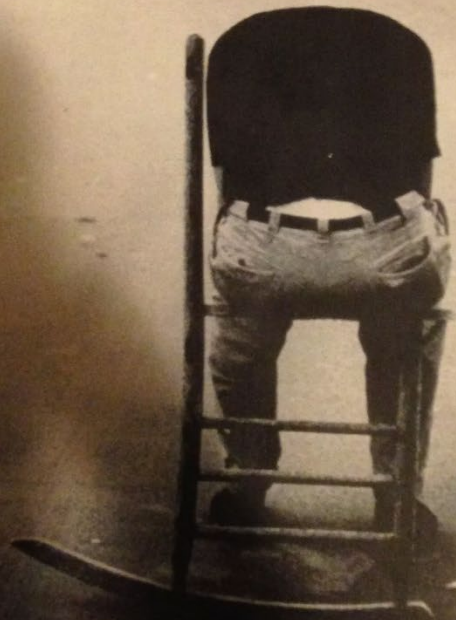
IS GOD TO BLAME?

BEYOND PAT ANSWERS TO
THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING



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Does everything
happen for a
reason?

Does God **cause**
every experience
we face in life?

July 14 – “God Won’t Give You More Than You Can Handle”

July 21 – “God Helps Those Who Help Themselves”

July 28 – “Everything Happens For A Reason”

**THE
BIBLE
DOESN'T
SAY THAT**

Providence

Sovereignty

Providence – to provide; protective care;
God's governance of the *cosmos*

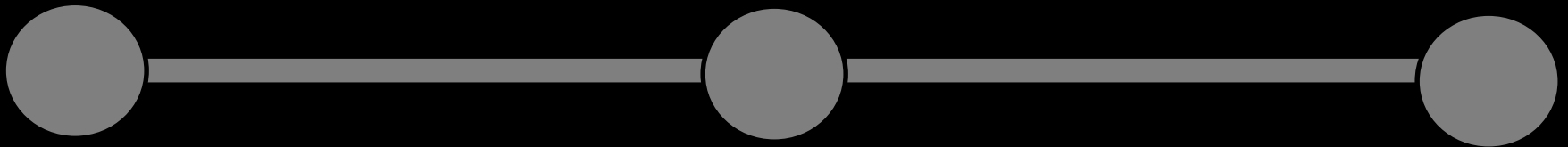
Sovereignty

Providence – to provide; protective care;
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Sovereignty – supreme rule; ultimate
authority; God as “King of the Universe”

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Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

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Augustine

John Calvin

Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Augustine: “The **cause** of all things is God...the will of the omnipotent is undefeated.”

John Calvin: “All events are governed by God’s **secret plan**.”

Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Shortfalls related to:

- God's will
- Satan's role
- God's heart
- Free choice
- Jesus Christ

Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Shortfalls related to:

- God's will

Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Shortfalls related to:

- God's will – “Oh, rebellious children, who carry out a **plan**, but not mine; who make an alliance, but against my **will**, adding sin to sin” (Isa 30:1)

Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Shortfalls related to:

- God's will
- Satan's role

Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Shortfalls related to:

- God's will
- Satan's role – “We know that we are children of God, and that **the whole world is under the control of the evil one**. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding...” (1 John 5:19)

Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Shortfalls related to:

- God's will
- Satan's role – “God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power, and he went around doing good and **healing all who were under the power of the devil**, because God was with him”
(Acts 10:38)

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Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Shortfalls related to:

- God's will
- Satan's role
- God's heart – “For **God does not willingly bring affliction** or grief to anyone” (Lamentations 3:33)

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Shortfalls related to:

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- Satan's role
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- Free choice

Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Shortfalls related to:

- God's will
- Satan's role
- God's heart
- Free choice – “I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. **Now choose** life...” (Deut 30:19)

Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

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- Jesus Christ

Calvinism + DIVINE BLUEPRINT

Shortfalls related to:

- God's will
- Satan's role
- God's heart
- Free choice
- Jesus Christ – “The reason the Son of God appeared was to **destroy the devil's work** (1 John 3:8)

Divine Blueprint



Divine
Blueprint

Divine
Watchmaker



Deism + DIVINE WATCHMAKER

Shortfalls related to:

- Exodus – liberating slaves from Egypt
- Prophets – speaking to the prophets
- Jesus – saving us through Christ
- Spirit – in us and at work in the world
- Prayer – actively responds to prayer

Divine
Blueprint

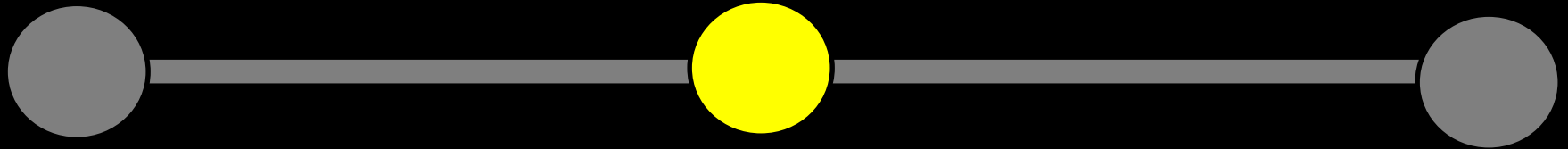
Divine
Watchmaker



Divine
Blueprint

Divine
playwright

Divine
Watchmaker

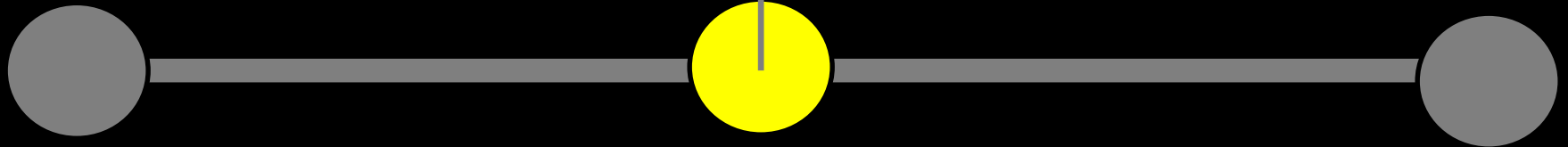


God is sovereign
God gives freedom
God works through all things

Divine
Blueprint

Divine
playwright

Divine
Watchmaker



Anabaptism + DIVINE PLAYWRIGHT

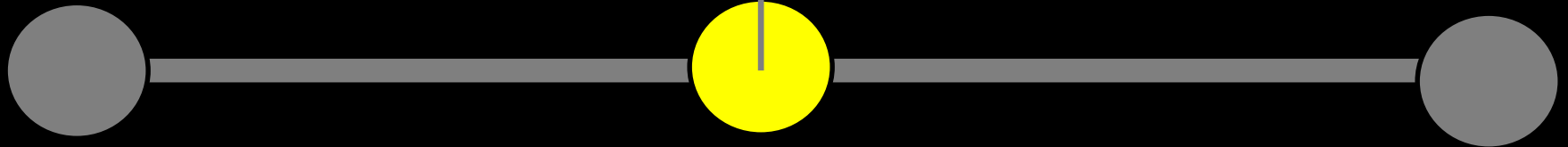
The Bible is largely the story of human beings doing what God doesn't want them to do, of tragedies that sometimes happen in life, and of God working to comfort, heal, and redeem the human race following our missteps. God does not generally cause our suffering, but rather carries us through it and brings something good from it.

God is sovereign
God gives freedom
God works through all things

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What, then, shall we say in response to this? Who shall separate us from the **love of Christ**? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?...

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who **loved us**.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the **love of God** that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

