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I don't know how you feel, but sometimes I find God quite a puzzle. I do not understand why He allows some things to happen. Why does He leave countries to fight each other without intervening when thousands of people are killed or injured? Why do folk who live a good life have terrible illnesses such as cancer when the 'baddies' appear to remain fit and healthy? Why do our children sometimes die, when it appears to us to be out of season, when elderly folk are living longer and longer and feel that they have had enough of life?

These questions set me thinking about that song from the musical 'Pickwick' – 'If I ruled the world.' I wonder what I would alter if I ruled the world? Silly little things occur to me such as I would see that it rained in the night and was fine every day. I think that would be a very sensible idea! One line of the song says, 'Every day would be the first day of spring.' The first day of spring is round about 20th March and we can begin to see crocuses and daffodils starting to come up in the garden. It **should** signal the end of winter when we can start to look forward to nicer, warmer weather. I suppose that it is a good thing that God is in charge of the weather otherwise those who love snow might want it all the year round! God sees that a balance is kept and is not answerable to any of us as to why that balance does not always seem quite right to us. After Job had been talking to the Lord, the Lord answered him by saying, ' "*Have you entered the storehouses of snow or have you seen the storehouses of hail? What is the way to the place where the light is distributed or where the east wind is scattered upon the earth? Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain to bring rain on a land and make the ground put forth grass.?"* ' (**Job 38: 22-27**) Even with all our technology, we have to accept the fact that the weather is something over which we have no control.



It is rather ironic that one line of the song says, 'Every man would be as free as a bird.' In other words, everyone could behave exactly as he/she felt like behaving and would not necessarily have any consideration for anyone else. Isn't this something that God allows under His ruling? He has given everyone a free will to act as he/she pleases. Wars are not God's design for our lives; it is the free will that He has given to us that gives the opportunity for men to want more power, land and money, regardless of the cost to others. Things like this must grieve God's heart to see the freedom that He gives used in such ways. The freedom that He gives is intended for us to use for the good of others not just for personal gain. **1 John 4:7** reads, 'Let us love one another, for love is of God.'

Sometimes it does not make sense to us when we see one of our loved ones in pain, especially when we know of those who are not living a life that is pleasing to God, seemingly in good health. We do not have the answers to 'Why God?' questions such as this, but we are assured by God's Word in the Bible that

this imbalance will not always be so. **Psalm 1:4-6** 'The wicked are like chaff which the wind drives away and will not stand in the judgment. The Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.' We often look at situations as they are now, but God sees the endings. I know that He has a reason for everything that He allows to happen – not only in cases where people are ill, but also when our children are taken from us. God's timing is perfect. He is not obliged to give us answers. What I do know, from personal experience, is that He strengthens us at such times and He can be trusted to always be there to help us to cope with any situation that we experience.

Happiness



One line of the song that sounds particularly good is, 'There'd be happiness that no man could end.' I do not know what sort of happiness or ending that the writer of the song envisaged, but it sounds good! All of the things that are mentioned in the song however, are to do with how we feel **now** on earth; how he would make everyone feel good **now** if he ruled the world. None of us can rule the world – although some

might think they do! I most certainly would not want the job! Happiness that no man could end is not something that any living person can give to us; it is something that is only available because God rules the world. The song writer looks at things from the perspective of a life on earth, but God looks at things far beyond that to when our lives on earth come to an end. Our time spent on this earth is just a very small fraction of the length of time that makes up eternity.

The ONLY route to happiness that has no ending



Acts 4: 10 – 12

If the sum total of our lives on earth is limited to the things mentioned in the song, then there will **NOT** be an unending happiness. Happiness that goes on for eternity is conditional on us having accepted Jesus into our lives. That is the **ONLY** route to a happiness that does not end. We can read this in **Acts 4: 10 – 12**. 'Be it known to you all, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead.....There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name by which we must be saved.' Happiness without end is obtainable because of the death of Jesus on the cross in order that we may have forgiveness.

God does not sing, 'If I ruled the world.'

He sings, 'I do rule the world.'!