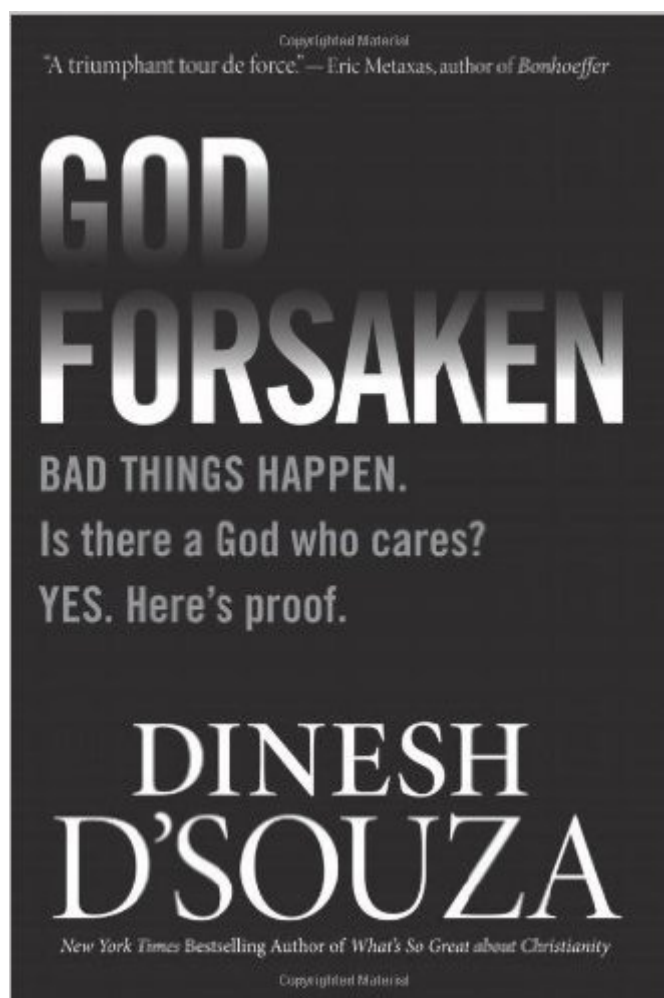


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# Godforsaken: Bad Things Happen. Is There A God Who Cares? Yes. Here's Proof.



## Synopsis

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. Republished in softcover as *What's So Great about God*.

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## Customer Reviews

Dinesh D'Souza claims that the motivation behind much of atheism is not from a genuine disbelief in a god, rather it is an anger and bewilderment stemming from an inability to reconcile the simultaneous existence of an allegedly all-powerful and all-loving God along with the presence of evil and suffering in the world. Atheists argue that such a god must be impotent, cruel or likely non-existent. Drawing from cultural anthropology, science, theology, and philosophy, D'Souza attempts to refute these claims by providing an explanation for the possibility of the coexistence of both suffering and the omnipotent God. D'Souza begins by discussing how suffering is viewed in different cultures, traditions and religions. He points out that people in third world countries struggle with suffering much more so than people in western nations, yet religious faith abounds for the former and is in decline for the latter. He believes this may be due to how prosperity gives one the

sense that they are self-sufficient; yet poor people feel compelled to depend on a higher power. D'Souza introduces this idea to later suggest that suffering's purpose may be to draw people into a closer relationship with God. Perhaps, but why is suffering possible and permissible with an omnipotent, all loving God; and if God wants a relationship, are there not other ways to do it without suffering? D'Souza delivers answers to these questions. Much of D'Souza's arguments rest on two important ideas: the scientific concept of the anthropic principle; and the limits of omnipotence. The anthropic principle is the notion that the universe, given its vastness, immensity, age, and complexity is perfect, finely tuned and all exactly necessary for the existence of moral beings called humans.

The constant debate between Christians and Atheists seems to always to orbit around the problem of a benevolent God with the reality of a broken, evil world. While this struggle has been going on for centuries, D'Souza brings some fresh perspective to the table, invoking modern day science as proof for theism. At first blush, this may seem counterintuitive, but D'Souza's arguments are balanced and compelling. These insights would have inspired a 5 star review from me, that is, until I got to the last chapter of the book which talked about the afterlife. Here, D'Souza completely drops his logic utilized in the first 90% of his book and goes with a typical Evangelical pat answer. There is a tremendous amount of good in this book that should be praised. With that being said, there is some ugly in this book that needs to be addressed. The Good The biggest issue in defending the Christian faith is the problem of theodicy. Why did an all loving, all powerful creator make a world with so much pain and evil? This is typically the biggest arguing point from atheists and their concerns are legitimate. Yet D'Souza fearlessly tackles these concerns using empirical evidence from modern sciences like Astronomy, Biology and Geology. Many of his arguments are nothing incredibly new - he employs many of the typical free will defense logics and things like the anthropic view of the Universe in his case. However, while many of his arguments are often used to defend the existence of God, he uses them in a way to reconcile the problems between an all loving God and a suffering world. In modern Christianity, where tragedy and suffering is gratuitously met with the pat answer of, "it was God's will", D'Souza's wonderful perspective is badly needed.

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.

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