

Why So Much Pain & Suffering?

- Roadblocks to coming to faith
 1. Lack of intellectual knowledge of God
 2. Other Christians – their perceived hypocrisy
 3. Sin: accepting Christ requires turning from sin
 4. If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why is there so much pain, suffering, and evil?
 5. Perceived conflict between Science and the Bible, e.g. Creation vs. Evolution
 6. No answers from the church to the hard questions

Dr. Heinz Lycklama

heinz@osta.com

HeinzLycklama.com/2024-messages



Why So Much Pain & Suffering?



- ◆ Pain & Suffering – The Issues
- ◆ The Atheist View of History & God
- ◆ The Biblical View of History & God
- ◆ The Role of Man's Free Will
- ◆ The Nature of Death and Suffering
- ◆ God's Purposes In Our Suffering
- ◆ What Is God Doing About It?
- ◆ Our Source of Hope

2 Cor. 12:7-10

Gen. 3:17

Pain & Suffering – The Issues

- ◆ Death & suffering everywhere
 - Natural disasters, disease, manmade
- ◆ What is the source of evil?
- ◆ Biblical examples of suffering
- ◆ How the world deals with it:
 - Darwin – death of daughter
 - Ted Turner – death of sister
- ◆ Atheist's case dismissed – a moral law implies a moral law giver
- ◆ Mother Teresa's actions better than Hitler's?



Gen. 3:17
Gen. 50:20
Jud. 16:28
Est. 4:14
Job 23:10
Jer. 15:18
Mark 10:45
Is. 53:5

Atheist's View of History & God

- ◆ Evolution requires death
- ◆ “The secrets of evolution are time and death”, *Carl Sagan*
- ◆ Death, disease, suffering is a permanent part of history
- ◆ Death is ‘our ally’ in the creation of life by evolution
- ◆ Atheists have the wrong view

Gen. 1:31
Rom. 3:23
Rev. 21:4



Biblical View of History & God

- ◆ God saw that it was good
- ◆ Adam's rebellion brought sin and death (as a result)
- ◆ Death is an enemy, not an ally
- ◆ Sin entered through one man
- ◆ God is holy and just
 - Penalty for sin necessary
- ◆ Temporary taste of life without God
- ◆ The world will be restored
- ◆ Correct view of history and God



Gen. 1:31

Gen. 2:17

1 Cor. 15:26

Rom. 3:23

Rom. 5:12

Rom. 1:18-32

Acts 3:21

Is. 11:6-9

Role of Man's Free Will

- ◆ God created man with free will
- ◆ Why created with free will?
- ◆ Implications of free will
 - Evil is a necessary part
 - Free will resulted in fall
- ◆ Much suffering traced to man's evil choices
- ◆ Allowed by God as judgment & punishment
- ◆ Christ greatest sufferer



Heb. 12:7-8
Mark 15:25



Nature of Death & Suffering

- ◆ Greatest test of faith
- ◆ God could have stamped out evil
- ◆ The role of Satan, the devil
- ◆ Judgment preceded by warning
- ◆ God must punish sin
- ◆ Suffering results from:
 - Direct human sin
 - Deliberate acts of others
 - Government social policies
 - Natural disasters or accidents
- ◆ Example: Healing of blind man

Rom. 8:32

Rom. 8:28

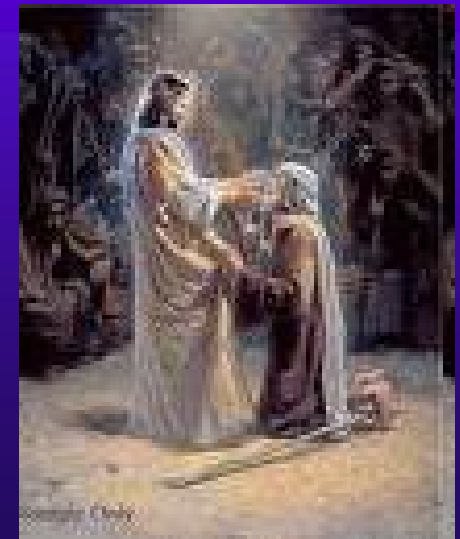
Job 1:6-12

Matt. 13:28

Gen. 6:3

2 Pet. 3:9

John 9:1-7



God's Purposes In Our Suffering

- ◆ Paul's experience of suffering
- ◆ We should expect trials in life
- ◆ Why we face trials
 - To build character
 - To glorify God
 - Discipline for known sin
 - Test/build our faith
 - Equipped to comfort others
 - Help some to come to Christ
- ◆ Sometimes beyond our understanding

2 Cor. 12:7-11

Heb. 11:32-40

John 16:33

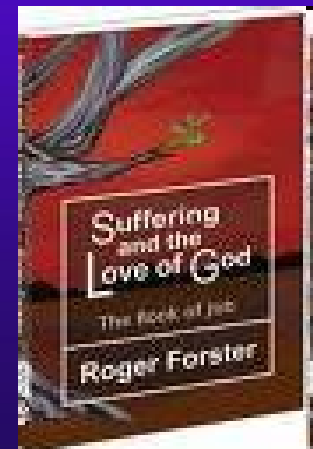
Rom. 5:3-4

Job 23:10

Heb. 5:8-9

2 Cor. 1:3-4

Is. 55:8-9



What Is God Doing About Death and Suffering?

- ◆ Jesus endured suffering on the cross on man's behalf
 - He paid the penalty for our sin
- ◆ Jesus rose from the grave
 - Eternal life for all who believe
 - Ultimate power over death
- ◆ Jesus sympathizes with our sorrows
 - He himself suffered
 - He understands our suffering
- ◆ Our suffering is limited



Lev. 17:11

Heb. 9:22

John 1:12

Eph. 2:8-9

Heb. 2:18

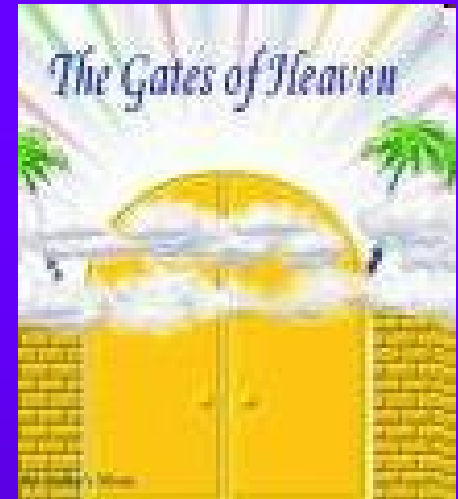
Heb. 4:15-16

Rom. 8:18

Heb. 12:2

Our Source of Hope

- ◆ The hope of resurrection
 - This life is not the end
- ◆ God has prepared an eternal home for believers
 - Eternal life for all who believe
 - We will spend eternity with Him
- ◆ Our suffering will be over
- ◆ The cross is the foundation for our hope and faith in enduring and overcoming trials
- ◆ Victory over sin and death



Rev. 21:4

Ps. 116:15

Job 1:1

Rom. 8:37

Heb. 12:1-2

Col. 2:14

1 Cor. 15:21-22