Why Does God Allow Suffering?

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INTRODUCTION

- The fact is that bad things happen to good people.
- I would actually argue that the biblical presentation of truth offers the most thorough explanation as to why we are in this situation we are as human beings in this world.

1 There Are Godly People That Suffer

Job 1:1; Job 1:6–12; Psalm 73:2–3

- There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God, and turning away from evil.
- This was a righteous, godly man, and he was suffering, and there were reasons for it, but it was not because Job was ungodly.

2 The Argument Assumes the Very Thing

- This argument assumes the very thing by the unbeliever, it assumes the very thing that ends up proving the existence of God.
- If you're an atheist, where do you get the concept of evil?
- Once you get to the place where you understand moral values are outside of any particular culture, there's only one thing to attribute that to, and that is God.

3 Some Issues We Are Never Going to Fully Understand

Job 38:1–4

- There's an aspect of suffering and God's providential interactions that I don't ever think I will fully understand, but I still trust the Lord.
- Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me if you have understanding.

4 Free Will and a Loving Relationship

Matthew 7:13–14

- He wanted a loving relationship with us. How can you have, brethren, a loving relationship if you don't have free will?
- So in order for love to exist, free will had to be a reality. We could choose good, we could choose evil.
- God so treasures those who will be his people that he was willing to go through the pain of the rejection of those who would choose to do so in order to have his people.

5 A Misunderstanding of God's Attributes

- Omnipotence, as it's presented in Scripture, is that God has the power to do whatever is in harmony with his will and nature.
- But our idea that God's goodness is grounded in giving me what every whim that I may desire, that's not the goodness of God.
- The goodness of God transcends my particular desires, and I trust in that goodness and him offering me eternally and everlastingly what will be in my best interest.

6 Suffering Can Still Serve His Purpose

2 Corinthians 12:7–10; 1 Peter 1:6–7

- There was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from exalting myself.
- When you're suffering, humility comes. When you're hurting, dependence on God is demanded of you.
- My grace is sufficient for you. For power is perfected in weakness. What is God doing? God is chiseling out through suffering, the character of his son Jesus Christ in us.

THE CHALLENGE

If you're not a Christian, but you understand that Jesus is the Son of God, why not arm yourself now, equip yourself to bring honor to the Lord and to serve him and to be ready for eternity?

MY NOTES