

#112 IF GOD IS LOVE, WHY DOES HE ALLOW CRUEL SUFFERING?

Q: "I want to believe that God is a loving God, but how could a loving God create a world with so much cruel suffering and hate? Why does God make deformed babies, let innocent children be horribly abused and give people fatal diseases? Why did God make my mom suffer when we were praying for her - doesn't he love us?"

MATTHEW 10:29-31 "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore; ye are of more value than many sparrows."

A: When we are not able to understand or find answers, we must not make up our own answers to satisfy the need to feel in control. You are very valuable to God. Though there are times that God has sent destruction upon the wicked, and He does use circumstances to discipline His children, His desire is for you to be healthy and prosper in your whole body and mind.

3 JOHN 2 "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

A: God has not willed cruel suffering and hopelessness in the world. His desire is that lives be transformed by His love and power.

ROMANS 15:13 "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Q: "I believe, but it's hard to reconcile a loving God with the world I see. if God is so good, why did He create such an evil, dark world in the first place?"

GENESIS 1:1-31 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...and God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good..."

A: God designed a perfect, beautiful world for man to live, but the first man and woman sinned, by choosing to listen to Satan (Lucifer) and the same lies that got him banished from heaven, instead of believing God. They and their offspring, us, received the wages of sin (death), and the world became a desolate place.

ISAIAH 14:12-17 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...I will be like the most high...Is this the man that made the world as a wilderness...?"

God did not make an evil world, man did, because he chose to follow Satan instead of following God. The world we know now is not the same as God created, but is a weakened fallen wilderness, subject to disease and death, and occupied by Satan and his fallen angels. Revelation tells us what happened so long ago.

REV 12:7-9 "there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Because a third of all the angels of Heaven, and Adam, chose to follow Satan instead of living in the glory of the holiness of God, man lives in a fallen world where Satan and his demons rule the power of the air.

EPHESIANS 2:2 "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

We live in a world where the thief came so disease and evil happen to everyone, that is no longer the perfect world God created for us. **Man chose this through disobedience, not God! And Jesus came to give us life!**

JOHN 10:10 "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Q: But I do believe in God and bad things happen, why don't I have an abundant life?

HOSEA 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children."

A: Since the Garden of Eden, Satan has brought destruction to the earth, and confusion and darkness to God's people. Jesus came to shine the light of the knowledge of God, but because His people forgot Him, their children have suffered.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Because of His love for us, God in all His Glory came to earth in Jesus Christ.

JOHN 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

1 TIM 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

God loved you enough to become flesh in His only begotten Son, to rescue you from darkness to show you the way to abundant life now, and eternal life with Him forever!

1 PETER 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation...that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Luke 17:21 "Neither shall they say, 'Lo here!' or 'lo there!' For behold, the Kingdom of God is within you."

A: When you received Jesus as your Savior He came into your heart through His Spirit, and the Kingdom of God in Christ is in you, so you can overcome the violence and darkness Satan has brought into the world.

Matthew 11:12 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."

A: God's word says that those in God's Kingdom will suffer violence because we live in a fallen world, but we must not just lay back and take it, we must fight back. We complain and cry out to God to rebuke the devil and disease but His word tells you and me to rebuke the enemy! He gives us everything we need to fight and take back what the enemy steals.

MATTHEW 16:19 "And I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

A: God doesn't want you or your loved ones to suffer. His plan is clear in His word that He sent His word to heal your disease and that He desires that you prosper and be in good health. That is why Jesus came to die on the cross. Of course, we must acknowledge that there are times when God's ways are beyond our understanding for His ways are higher than our ways; we know He uses all things for our good because we love Him, and we submit our will completely to His will, but even so, His word tells us that the responsibility to take authority over evil and disease in the name of Jesus is ours.

Bad things are going to happen because we live in a fallen world with the consequences of generations who have forgotten God, but we are commanded to use the keys that God gives us to speak the light of the word of God over our situation, to believe God's word will come to pass, and trust Him.

Prayer: Gracious Father, forgive me for blaming You for what Satan has done. Thank you for Your word, alive and at work in me, giving me all I need to have an abundant life in Christ. I pray for deeper understanding of Your word and an increase of faith to fight the enemy to gain back what he has tried to steal and destroy. I completely submit my life to Your will, and I take up the keys of the kingdom that You give me in Christ and take authority over my life, **in Jesus name**, Amen.

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Bringing God's Word For Life's Questions

This tract series has grown from a weekly Bible study targeting personal life issues faced by God's people, through the pages of the Bible and in our lives today; while looking to the power of God's word, that comes alive through His indwelling Holy Spirit to bring truth, lasting change, and wholeness to our lives. We pray these tracts will help you to become more effective in your individual life, and in opening doors to express and share your faith, that many will come to know our God of grace, mercy, love and redemption through your personal ministry to them.