

**Why Is There
So Much
Pain &
Suffering?**



2 Corinthians 12:7-10

- ➔ Pain & Suffering – The Issues
- ➔ The Atheist View of History & God
- ➔ The Biblical View of History & God
- ➔ The Role of Man's Free Will

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

- ➔ The Nature of Death and Suffering
- ➔ God's Purposes In Our Suffering
- ➔ What Is God Doing About It?
- ➔ Our Source of Hope



Pain & Suffering – The Issues

Genesis 3:17; Genesis 50:20; Psalms 40:12

- ➔ Death & suffering everywhere
 - Natural disasters, disease, manmade
- ➔ What is the source of evil?
- ➔ Biblical examples of suffering

Genesis 3:17; Genesis 50:20; Psalms 40:12

- ➔ 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?



Atheist's View of History & God

Romans 3:23, Revelation 21:4

➔ Evolution requires death

➔ “The secrets of evolution are time and death”, *Carl Sagan*

➔ Death, disease, suffering is a permanent part of history

Romans 3:23, Revelation 21:4

➔ Death is 'our ally' in the creation of life by evolution

➔ Atheists have the wrong view



Biblical View of History & God

Gen. 1:31; Gen. 2:17; 1 Cor. 15:26; Rom. 5:12;
Acts 3:21

- ➔ 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

Gen. 1:31; Gen. 2:17; 1 Cor. 15:26; Rom. 5:12;
Acts 3:21

- ➔ 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



Role of Man's Free Will

Hebrews 12:7-8; Mark 15:25

- ➔ 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

Hebrews 12:7-8; Mark 15:25

- ➔ Much suffering traced to man's evil choices
- ➔ Allowed by God as judgment & punishment
- ➔ Christ greatest sufferer



Nature of Death & Suffering

Job 1:6-12; Genesis 6:3; 2 Peter 3:9

- ➔ Greatest test of faith
- ➔ God could have stamped out evil
- ➔ The role of Satan, the devil
- ➔ Judgment preceded by warning
- ➔ God must punish sin

Job 1:6-12; Genesis 6:3; 2 Peter 3:9

- ➔ Suffering results from:
 - Direct human sin
 - Deliberate acts of others
 - Government social policies
 - Natural disasters or accidents
- ➔ Example: Healing of blind man



God's Purposes In Our Suffering

John 16:33; Romans 5: 3-4; Job 23:10

- ➔ 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

John 16:33; Romans 5: 3-4; Job 23:10

- Test/build our faith
- Equipped to comfort others
- Help some to come to Christ

➔ Sometimes beyond our understanding



What Is God Doing About Death and Suffering?

Hebrews 9:22; Romans 8:18

- ➔ 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

Hebrews 9:22; Romans 8:18

- ➔ Jesus sympathizes with our sorrows
 - He Himself suffered
 - He understands our suffering
- ➔ Our suffering is limited



Our Source of Hope

Revelation 21:4; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

- ➔ 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

Revelation 21:4; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

- ➔ 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