

Why Is There 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

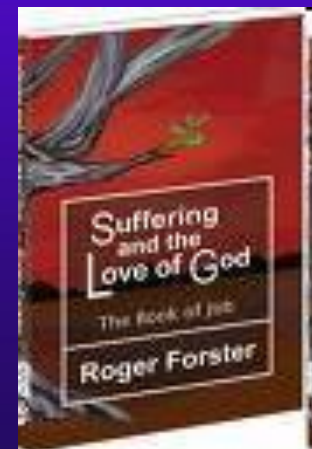
Rom. 5:3-4

Job 23:10

Heb. 5:8-9

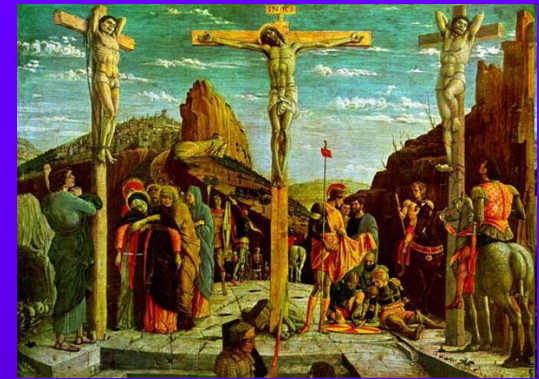
2 Cor. 1:3-4

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