

5/2/21

ASKING FOR A FRIEND:

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW PAIN AND SUFFERING?

I. A Biblical Worldview means using the Bible as the primary lens through which we see the world.

- What does the Bible say about this?
- What does God say about this?

II. Quick Answer

- Q: Why does God allow pain and suffering in the world?
- A: Because this world is broken.

Genesis 3:

- Natural Disasters
- Sickness & Death
- Emotional Stress
- Broken Relationships with people and nature
- Broken Relationship with God

Everything is broken by human sin in Genesis 3.

III. We are living in an In-Between time in history.

- In-between two great events: 1) when Jesus came to earth the first time and 2) when He will return.
- In this in-between time, there is a lot of pain and suffering.

IV. Two Perspectives when addressing, "Why Does God Allow Pain and Suffering?"

1. Academic
2. Personal

"...We think we know what we need; and, we keep asking and demanding it of God. But we're often wrong. We think we know what we need; but we don't. And all the time God is right there trying to give us what we really need...waiting patiently until our temper or strength is exhausted and we can finally just let Him hold us."

V. Some Benefits of Pain

1. God uses pain and suffering to draw people to Christ.

"For God sometimes uses sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin and seek eternal life." 2 Corinthians 7:10 (TLB)

"God whispers to us in our pleasure. He speaks to us in our conscious. But He shouts to us in our pain. Pain is God's megaphone to rouse a deaf world."
C.S. Lewis

2. God can take bitter things and use them as INGREDIENTS to make something good in your life.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose."
Romans 8:28 (NIV)

3. The day is coming when suffering will cease and justice will be done.

"In that day the wolf and the lamb will live together; the leopard will lie down with the baby goat. The calf and the yearling will be safe with the lion, and a little child will lead them all."
Isaiah 11:6 (NLT)

- 4. Our pain and suffering in this life are real, but will pale in comparison to what God is planning for us in the next life.

"For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!"
2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)

"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."

Romans 8:18 (NIV)

"...No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him."

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)