

Most Frequently Asked Questions "If God is a loving God, why does He allow so much suffering in the world?"

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. ⁹He was assigned a grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. ¹¹After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors. – **Isaiah 53:3-12**

"Just because you can't see or imagine a good reason why God might allow something doesn't mean there can't be one."

Timothy Keller

Romans 1:18-32 (Screen Only)

Bottom line: The problem with suffering and injustice, whether done by someone or out of my control, is a problem for everyone.

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. ⁹As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. – **Isaiah 55:8-9**

How do we deal with injustice and suffering?

"The Christian God came to earth to deliberately put himself on the hook of human suffering. In Jesus Christ, God experienced the greatest depths of pain. Therefore, though Christianity does not provide the reason for each experience of pain, it provides deep resources for actually facing suffering with hope and courage rather than bitterness and despair."

Peter Kreeft

QUESTION: How can we face suffering with hope and not bitterness?

ANSWER: By understanding what Christ went through for us.

- ⇒ Jesus suffered for us.
- ⇒ Jesus became all alone for us as He hung on the cross.

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*. – **John 1:18 KJV**

- ⇒ The greatest agony anyone will face is the agony of a broken relationship.
- ⇒ Jesus not only bore the penalty of our sin, He felt the ultimate pain of separation.
- ⇒ Jesus understands you better than anyone else.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. – **Hebrew 4:15**

QUESTION: What is our hope?

ANSWER: The Resurrection.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." – **Revelation 21:1-4**

he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. ⁹In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation." – **Isaiah 25:8-9**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. – **I Peter 1:3-7**

Maranatha Jesus Come.

Pastor Barden Gerace, Jr.

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