

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

"In this world you will have trouble..."

John 16:33

➤ **GOD'S PLAN: He created a PERFECT world.**

"Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good!"

Genesis 1:31

➤ **OUR PROBLEM: We have ABUSED our free will.**

When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

Romans 5:12

• **MORAL evil.**

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23

• **NATURAL evil.**

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Romans 8:22

➤ **GOD'S PURPOSE: He wants to bring GOOD out of suffering.**

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

JOSEPH - A BIBLICAL EXAMPLE OF SUFFERING

• **Conflict in a blended family – Genesis 37**

- Favoritism and Jealousy – Genesis 37:3-4
- Betrayal – Genesis 37:12-18

• **Conflict in employment – Genesis 39**

- Tremendous temptation – Genesis 39:1-13
- False accusations – Genesis 39:14-18
- Unjust punishment – Genesis 39:19-23

• **Conflict in relationships – Genesis 40-45**

- Choice to forgive or be bitter – Genesis 45:3-7

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."

Genesis 50:20 (NLT)

OUR RESPONSE TO SUFFERING

1. GOD WANTS US TURN TO HIM.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

John 16:33 (NLT)

2. TURN YOUR PAIN INTO PURPOSE.

He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT)

3. LIVE WITH AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE.

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

Romans 8:18

No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.

1 Corinthians 2:9

TAKE AWAY – Are you READY?

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13