

HOW COULD GOD ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN?

A Special Message in Light of the Tragedy in Uvalde, Texas

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“Sometimes something useless happens on earth. Bad things happen to good people, and good things happen to bad people...” (Ecclesiastes 8:14, NCV)

*Wake up, O Lord! Why do you sleep? Get up!
...Why do you look the other way?
Why do you ignore our suffering and oppression?
(Psalm 44:23-24, NLT)*

1. GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF EVIL AND SUFFERING.

“God saw all that he had made, and it was very good.” (Genesis 1:31a, NIV)

There are Two Kinds of Evil in this World

- MORAL evil.

“For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many...” (Romans 5:17, NLT)

“For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard.” (Romans 3:23, NLT)

- NATURAL evil.

“For we know that even the things of nature, like animals and plants, suffer in sickness and death as they await this great event.” (Romans 8:22, The Living Bible)

2. ALTHOUGH SUFFERING IS NOT GOOD, GOD CAN USE IT TO BRING ABOUT GOOD.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28, NKJV)

Five Ways God Uses Suffering

- God uses pain to DIRECT us.

“Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you but because the pain turned you to God.” (2 Corinthians 7:9a, The Living Bible)

- God uses pain to CORRECT us.

“God corrects all of his children, and if he doesn’t correct you, then you don’t really belong to him.” (Hebrews 12:8, CEV)

- **God uses pain to PERFECT us.**

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.” (James 1:2–3, NLT)

- **God uses pain to PROTECT us.**

“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)

- **God uses pain to CONNECT us.**

“Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:30, NLT)

“Share each other’s troubles and problems, and so obey our Lord’s command.” (Galatians 6:2, The Living Bible)

FINAL THOUGHT

**The day is coming when suffering will CEASE
and evil will be OVER.**

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared...I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look, the home of God is now among his people! ...He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain...” Rev 21:1a, 3-4 (NLT)

RESOURCES

If God, Why Evil? – Norman Geisler

The Problem of Pain – C.S. Lewis

If God Is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil – Randy Alcorn