

Message: Is God Fake News Week 5: Why Does God Allow Suffering?

Scripture: Habakkuk 1:13

"Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?"

Habakkuk 1:13

1. UNDERSTAND WHERE EVIL COMES FROM.

Three possible explanations of evil:

- God does not exist.
- God exists but does not care.
- God is not the author of evil, but in his permissive will allows it for reasons known only to Him.

2. UNDERSTAND WHY GOD ALLOWS EVIL.

- All men are evil.
"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23
- For God to rid this world of sin, He would have to rid the world of people.
"The Lord...is not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" 2 Peter 3:9
- God has a long term plan for dealing with evil.
"God will wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, nor pain. Revelation 21:4 (TLB)

3. UNDERSTAND WHY INNOCENT PEOPLE SUFFER.

"For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have not struggles, their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from the burdens common to man: they are not plagued by human ills... This is what the wicked are like, always carefree, they increase in wealth. Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain have I washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been plagued..." Psalm 73:3-5, 12-14

Sources of suffering:

- Because of our own sin
- Because of acts of Satan
- For the glory of God to be put on display

4. UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH GOD LOVES YOU.

God loves you enough:

- To develop your character.
"We rejoice in our sufferings, because we know suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." Romans 5:3-4
- To humble us.

"To keep me from becoming conceited..." 2 Corinthians 12:7

- To prepare heaven for you.

"Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later." Romans 8:18 (TLB)

- To work all things together for good.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

When You suffer:

- Keep on loving God.
- Keep on pursuing God's purpose.