

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.