

Why Does God Allow Suffering and Tragedy?

#2 in Series: Tough Questions About God
Meadowbrook Community Church
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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

Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. 1 Corinthians 13:12

Here are some biblical points of understanding to clear the way whenever we've been prompted to ask the question, "Why?"

1. GOD IS NOT THE CREATOR OF EVIL AND SUFFERING

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. Genesis 1:31

Two kinds of evil into the world:

First kind of evil: Moral evil

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

The second kind of evil: 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

2. THOUGH SUFFERING IS NOT GOOD, GOD CAN USE IT TO ACCOMPLISH GOOD

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

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. Genesis 50:20

3. THE DAY IS COMING WHEN SUFFERING WILL CEASE AND GOD WILL JUDGE EVIL

The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

4. OUR SUFFERING WILL PALE IN COMPARISON TO WHAT GOD HAS IN STORE FOR HIS FOLLOWERS

For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 2 Corinthians 4:17

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

5. WE DECIDE WHETHER TO TURN BITTER OR TURN TO GOD FOR PEACE AND COURAGE

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