

"If God is so Good...?"

Why is there so much Pain and Suffering?

Limitations of God:

John 9:2-3—His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but rather, let the works of God be manifested in him." (Healed him on the spot)

New Orleans French Quarter – God Missed!

Suffering: wanted, could, didn't, wanted

If God ____, God ____, but God ____, so God must have ____ it to happen.

Atheists have Diagnosed problem, but have the wrong solution?

Intrinsic vs. Imposed:

Children vs. Adults (Spoken plainly)

Natural Consequences, or God imposing consequences on us. – LAUREN'S LEG

God's Character on Trial:

The Powers

Defendant—God

Jury—Us

Prosecutor—Satan

We the Jury are to sift through the lies to find the truth about God's Character and decide if we want to believe Him.

Bumper Sticker – "God is in control"

"It's all a part of God's plan..."

Matthew 6:10 – Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven.

Luke 7:30 (NKJV)—But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

2Corinthians 3:17—Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

Matthew 23:37—Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

Romans 6:25—The wages of Sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.

1Timothy 2:4 – Who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

John 16:25, 29—Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly... Then Jesus' disciples said, "Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech."

Genesis 1-2—[Creation Story]

Genesis 3:1-5—Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made...

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

Hebrew 1:1-3—In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation [character] of his being.

2Corinthians 5:19—That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting peoples sins against them.

"Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father."—John 14:9

From Perfection to Perfection:

Genesis 1,2 & Revelation 21,22

Pain not part of God's Plan, but He can use what He is given to perform miracles and work for good.

How? – Prayer – Daniel 10

End of First Week:

Getting Glasses – We are all in process and God's character will continue to be more fully revealed.

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"I freely admit that real Christianity ... goes much nearer to Dualism than people think... The difference is that Christianity thinks this Dark Power was created by God, and was good when he was created, and went wrong. Christianity agrees with Dualism that this universe is at war. But it does not think this is a war between independent powers. It thinks it is a civil war, a rebellion, and that we are living in a part of the universe occupied by the rebel." – C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity.

*The Powers/Devil: Luke 4:5-6; 1John 5:19; John 14:30; Hebrews 2:14; Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 6:12; John 12:31

John 16:26-27—In that day you will ask in my name. I am not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. No, the Father himself loves you...

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

Revelation 21:4—He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.

Nahum 1:9—Whatever they plot against the LORD he will bring to an end; trouble will not come a second time.

Romans 8:28—And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Genesis 50:20—The evil you planned to do to me has by God's design been turned to good, to bring about the present result: the survival of a numerous people.

John 16:33—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 16:26—In that day you will ask in my name...

Daniel 10:12-14—Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God (prayer), your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for 21 days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."

Mark 9:29—He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."

Mark 8:23-25—Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes.

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