

**What About  
Suffering?  
GOD AND EVIL**

***I. The Problem:***

*If God allows evil and suffering to continue because He can't stop it, then He might be good but He can't be all-powerful.*

*If God allows evil and suffering to continue and He can stop it but will not stop it, then He might be all-powerful but He can't be good.*

***Either way, the good, all powerful God of the Bible can't exist.***

***II. The Text: 1 Peter 1:3-12***

*3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

***II. The Text: 1 Peter 1:3-12***

*6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, 9 obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*

***II. The Text: 1 Peter 1:3-12***

*10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.*

***III. One Response to Pain and Suffering: Abandon Belief in God***

*However, If God does not exist, then what standard is left to judge ANY*

*action by?*

*If God's law is not law at all, then anything bad that happens cannot be deemed bad.*

*Anything goes and there is no reason for people to expect good things.*

*Abandoning belief in God makes the problem worse, not better.*

#### **IV. 2<sup>nd</sup> Response to Pain and Suffering: Refiner's Fire**

*Daniel 3 – The Fiery Furnace*

*Isaiah 43:1-2 – “I will be with you, the flame will not consume you...”*

*The promise is “when” you go through trials, and you won't be consumed*

#### **V. 3<sup>rd</sup> Response to Pain and Suffering: Look to the cross**

*The cross shows:*

- 1. God suffering great torture for us.*
- 2. A man being totally rejected by people.*
- 3. God losing his only son.*
- 4. A son totally rejected by his father.*

*(a perfect, eternal relationship severed)*

*This was the greatest suffering ever experienced.*

#### **VI. 4<sup>th</sup> Response to Pain and Suffering: A living hope**

*The living hope is the resurrection of the believer.*

*This hope is built on the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

*1 Corinthians 15:52-*

***Death is swallowed up in victory!***

***Death does not have a sting!***

***Great book for further study on this and other topics: “The Reason For God” by Tim Keller***