



"Find Your Purpose and Reach Your Destiny"

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Why Doesn't **GOD STOP** the Trouble in the World? PART 1

Scripture Text: **Job 14:1 (NIV)** *Man born of a woman is of a few days and full of trouble.*

People from all walks of life deal with different problems and afflictions, and it seems that some suffer more hardships than others. But we all know by personal experience and from the experiences of those we know, that Job's statement above is true.

Troubles concern us, and rightly so, not just because hardship itself is a burden, but also because affliction can lead to spiritual temptations. Here's how. We may be tempted to feel that our trials justify committing sin. We may become so discouraged that we blame God for our troubles, lose faith in Him, or begin to doubt His goodness and mercy. As Job's wife said, "Curse God and die" (Job 2:9).

Lesson Objective: to provide Biblical insight through apologetics on the WHY questions we often present to God.

Why Do We Suffer?

Sometimes suffering is attributed to sin (Deuteronomy 28:15-45) Please read the first 10 verses only; then conclude with verse 45-46

- Biblical examples... King Saul I Chronicles 10:13-14 (because of his rebellion)
- Judas (because of his betrayal of Christ (Matthew 27:3-5)
- A person addicted to shooting up – decides to give his life to Christ; but years later he died of AIDS. Was Christ to blame, or was his death attributed to his abuse?

- Some individual chooses to rape and murder women-then he's arrested and sentenced to death by lethal injection. His actions merited his trouble

Sometimes innocent people suffer as a result of other people's sins.

Here are a few examples...

The victims of the Pulse Night Club in Florida, Sandy Hook, Los Vegas etc. Innocent bystanders suffer by the hand of others due to their sin and acts of cruelty.

- a) Drunk drivers
- b) (Achan – Joshua 7:11-26). Take note to God's response to Joshua's prayer in verse 11.

In other cases, wicked people may harm righteous people because they resent them. This kind of religious persecution is described in many verses.

1 Peter 2:19-23 - Jesus is an example of one who committed no sin at all, yet He was persecuted and killed by wicked men.

Read These Scriptures This Week...

- John 15:18-20
- 2 Corinthians 11:23-26 - Paul's life shows that Jesus' followers are often persecuted.
- 2 Timothy 3:10-12 - All who live godly in Christ shall suffer persecution.
- See also 1 Peter 4:12-16; Heb. 11:35-38; 1 Thess. 3:2-4; Acts 14:22; John 16:33; Gen. 50:20.

Humanity suffers because of Adam's and Eve's sin.

Genesis 2:16, God warned Adam of the consequences to his disobedience. In Gen. 3:12-13 Adam and Eve gave excuses to their sin; and in chapter 3:14-19, punishment and curses were the consequences to their actions.

~ LESSONS WE SHOULD LEARN ~

Christians are not exempt from suffering (everyone suffers)

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivereth him out of them all (Psalm 34:19 KJV).

A righteous person will have many troubles, but the LORD will deliver him from them all (Psalm 34:19 International Standard Version).

- Don't be so quick to conclude sin as the cause to your trouble. If the suffering is attributed to sin, then we should examine ourselves and repent so God will turn from his anger. Also consider this; the suffering could be a result of righteous living.
- We should never reject a Bible teaching for fear that it may lead to suffering. If all suffering is the result of our own sin, and if a course of action led to the suffering, then we would conclude it was a sinful act. But we must also be cognoscente that godly people often suffer for doing right.
- We should not use Christianity as an answer to solve all our problems. If this is our motive, we may fall away when the hardships come.

The pivotal learning point from this lesson should be this...

We should not blame God for the existent suffering in the world.

If we believe that all suffering results from individual sin, and if we see good people suffering, we may be tempted to blame God or to think He is not keeping His promises. But in this lesson, we have learned that all people suffer – the righteous, and the unrighteous.

The Prescription – **(2 Timothy 2:3-4 TLB)** *Take your share of suffering as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, Just as I do. 4. And as Christ's soldier, do not let yourself become tied up in worldly affairs, for then you cannot satisfy the one who has enlisted you in his army.*

The command to endure suffering is just another part of a Christian's life, like the command to study the Bible, pray, worship, etc. Faithful Christians of all ages have suffered; we are not the only ones. We should expect suffering to come, so our faith will not be shaken when it does.

God created suffering as a punishment for sin, but only after He had given Adam a life without problems and He warned him of the consequences of sin. (James 1:13-15).

Conclusion:

When we blame God, and reject Him because of suffering, we are doing exactly what Satan wants us to do. When God is indicted in this manner, Satan has defeated you! The only way to defeat Satan and really overcome hardship is to maintain your faithfulness to God in spite of it.