

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

Victoria Christadelphian Public Lecture

October 26, 2025

Agenda

- Creation and the introduction to Suffering
- Consequences of Sin
- Reason for Suffering
- Examples of Righteous People Suffering
- Suffering to Develop Character
- God's Presence in Suffering
- Our Call to Action and Future Hope



Why Wasn't Creation Perfect?

Everything was VERY GOOD

- God and Us would have no pleasure in that
- No Free Will
- No Ability for God's Grace and Mercy
- No Real Thankfulness to God
- No Development of Character



Creation and Fall of Man

Introduction of Suffering - Genesis 1-3

- 1:31 - *“And God saw everything that he has made, and behold, it was VERY GOOD.”*
- God gave free will to Adam and Eve but had one rule
- 2:16-17 - *“And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you should not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof, thou shalt surely die.”*
- Disobedience of God and the introduction of sin, leads to consequence - 3:4-7, 16-19

Introduction of Suffering

**Therefore, just as sin entered the world
through one man, and death through sin,
and in this way death came to all people...**

Romans 5:12

Consequences of Sin

Deuteronomy 28

- V21 - Pestilence
- V22 - Sickness
- V22 - Warfare and Exile
- V23 - Drought
- V27 - Disease
- V29 - Oppression
- V30 - Plunder
- V32 - Abduction of Sons and Daughters
- V44 - Poverty
- V52 - Cities besieged
- V59 - Plagues
- V66 - Fear and Uncertainty in Life
- V67 - Slavery

Purpose of Suffering

Hebrews 12

“For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives...but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness...For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”

Examples of Righteous People Suffering

- **Job** - Righteous Man who Suffered Deeply - *Job 13:15*
- **Joseph** - Betrayed and Imprisoned - *Genesis 50:20*
- **David** - Persecuted and Betrayed - *Psalms 18:2*
- **Jeremiah** - The Suffering Servant - *Jeremiah 20:7*
- **Paul** - Suffering for the Gospel - *Philippians 4:12*
- **Hannah** - Emotional and Social Suffering - *1 Samuel 1:10*
- **Naomi** - Loss and Bitterness - *Ruth 4:14-15*
- **Elijah** - Depression and Fear - *1 Kings 19:4*
- **Mary** - A Mother's Suffering - *Luke 2:35*
- **Jesus** - The Suffering Saviour - *Isaiah 53:5*

Developing our Character

- **John 15:1-2**

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

- **Romans 5:3-4**

Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

God's Presence in Suffering

- **Psalm 34:17-19** - “When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. 18 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit. 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”
- **Psalm 23:4** - “Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”
- **2 Corinthians 1:3-5** - “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

Call to Action

Repent and Be Baptized

Luke 13:2-5 - “And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

Hope to Come

End of Suffering

Revelation 21:4

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”