

THE LIFE OF JESUS

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

People in the Old Testament and New Testament believed that suffering was proof of God's judgment.

Luke 13:1-5 – Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

Why Does God Allow Suffering?

1) To see if our faith is real.

¹ Peter 1:6-7 - There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

2) To teach us not to depend on ourselves.

2 Corinthians 1:8-10 - We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it. ⁹ In fact, we expected to die. But as a result, we stopped relying on ourselves and learned to rely only on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ And he did rescue us from mortal danger, and he will rescue us again. We have placed our confidence in him, and he will continue to rescue us.

3) To prepare us for greater usefulness.

James 1:2-4 - When troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

4) To be better equipped to comfort others.

2 Corinthians 1:4 – God comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

The Main Reason For Suffering

Luke 13:5 – Jesus said, “Unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

John 3:36 – Jesus said, “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them.”

Suffering in this world reminds us that life is fragile, uncertain, and very short. But suffering in this world is minimal compared to eternal suffering in hell that awaits if we do not repent.

Repentance involves two elements:

1) Sinners must change their mind about their sinfulness.

2) We affirm that Jesus Christ is the only Savior and source of forgiveness of sin. Repentance is not merely turning from sin, but also turning to God through Christ.