

How can a good God allow suffering? (Job 3:1-26)

Introduction

- What does suffering make some people think about God?
- Does the Bible tackle the subject of why God allows suffering?
- How did Job first respond to what he suffered in **Job 1:21**?
- How did he respond in **Job 3:3** and **Job 3:11-12**?
- How did he respond in **Job 3:20-23** and **Job 27:2**?
- What are two reasons why people think about the question of why God allows suffering?
 - (i)
 - (ii)

i Suffering is not pointless

- Which New Testament passage shows that suffering does not need to be pointless?
- Does that passage teach us that we should enjoy pain?
- What does suffering do to people, if they allow it?
- How does this refine the way we look at suffering?

ii Suffering is not undeserved

- Which New Testament passage deals with this?
- Were the Galileans who were slaughtered by Pontius Pilate worse sinners than the rest of the people who lived in Galilee?
- What is Jesus actually teaching, then?
- How does he emphasise the point?
- What is the underlying assumption behind the question when some people ask, “Why does God allow suffering?”

- Why, then, is suffering not undeserved?
- How does **Romans 6:23** put it?

iii Suffering is not unfelt

- Who do Christians believe that Jesus Christ is?
- What did some of the physical suffering of the cross involve?
- What do we read of Jesus' inner suffering just before the cross...
 - in **John 13:21**?
 - in **Mark 14:33**?
 - in **Mark 14:34**?
- What did the people around the cross do to Jesus?
- What was God doing to Jesus as he died on the cross?
- How does that encourage us in our suffering?

iv Suffering is not hopeless

- What helps you to endure suffering?
- What hope does the Bible give to Christians?
- What does **Revelation 21:4** say about how the universe will be when Christ returns?
- What will be the case for those who are not Christians, though?
- How can you become a follower of Christ?

Conclusion

- What happens at the end of the Book of Job?
- How does Job respond in **Job 42:5-6**?