

How could a good God allow the coronavirus? (Job 3:1-26)

Introduction

- What question does suffering often make us ask?
- And what does suffering make some people wonder 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?

i Suffering refines us

- 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?
- What are some ways society may be refined because of COVID-19?
- How might this change the way we look at suffering?

ii Suffering is part of living in a sin-wrecked world

- Which New Testament passage deals with this?
- Were the people who were crushed by the tower of Siloam worse sinners than the rest of the people who lived in Jerusalem?
- 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?
- Why, in the end, do suffering and death exist?

iii Jesus has experienced suffering from the inside

- 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 and 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?
- How does this help us in COVID-19 days?