

# BIBLICAL REASONS FOR SIN, EVIL, AND SUFFERING

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1. Although many prominent cosmologists have been “forced” by the physical evidence to concede the necessity of a Creator for the universe, few have embraced the Creator-God of the Bible (e.g., Albert Einstein, Fred Hoyle, Paul Davies, and George Greenstein). Their stumbling block is an issue of concern not only for scientists, but people of all backgrounds and walks of life, including theologians. It is the question of “How can we explain sin, evil, and suffering?”
2. Non-explanations of suffering: The explanation proffered by famed scientists and many others is that God is impersonal and therefore, uncaring. Clerics, for the most part, do no better by offering up nonsense like “God has not revealed the answer to us yet. We just need to be patient and have a blind trust in the All-knowing One.” Albert Einstein posed the question of sin, evil, and suffering to many rabbis and priests during most of his life without ever receiving a satisfactory answer.
3. The Bible does provide reasons for human sin, evil, and suffering. If Einstein and others had examined the Word of God instead of going to “professional clergy,” they would have found answers to why there is so much evil and suffering in the world.
4. There is sin, evil, and suffering in the world because people are not robots. Man was free and sinless when God created him (Gen. 2-3). If God had forceably prevented man from sinning, man’s will would not be free. Without free choice, real love is impossible. Sin is a result of man’s freewill.
5. There is sin, evil, and suffering in the world to test man’s volition. People can choose for the sin and evil of Satan’s kosmos or choose to accept the grace of God and make decisions for Jesus Christ and the plan of God. The fact that there are temptations of evil and sin provides each person the opportunity to choose for God or for kosmos diabolicus. By choosing for the plan of God the believer continues to grow into maturity by the exercise of his non-meritorious volition.
6. There is sin, evil, and suffering in the world because all people enter life in a state of sin and spiritual incapacitation. Through Adam’s trespass, sin has been imputed to each human (Rom. 5:12-21). Man is not only a sinner by nature, from conception (Psa. 51:5), he can do nothing to measure up to God’s standard (Isa. 64:6).

7. Suffering alerts us to potentially destructive problems—physical, emotional, and spiritual (2 Cor. 7:8-13).
8. Suffering restrains us, keeping us from committing evil (Heb. 12:5-13).
9. Suffering humbles us, reminding us of our weaknesses (2 Cor. 12:7-10).
10. Suffering teaches us about ourselves, our values, our choices (Matt. 13:20-23).
11. Suffering teaches us about God—the magnitude of His love for us in His willingness to suffer and die in our place (Heb. 12:2).
12. In suffering it is important to realize that God in the person of Jesus Christ is personally involved in our suffering (Matt. 25:31-46).
13. In suffering it is important to realize that God in the person of Jesus Christ has suffered and has been tempted more than anyone (Isa 50:4-7; 52:13-12).
14. In suffering it is important to realize that God promises to work all things together for good for those who love Him and are called to His purpose (Rom. 8:28).
15. Suffering brings about spiritual protection. Long life-spans promote the wicked, not the righteous (Gen. 6:3-8). Absence of suffering promotes the wicked, not the righteous (Gen. 3:16-19).
16. In suffering it is important to remember that Christ is the only perfect one, and even He had to through suffering for maturity (Heb. 5:8). He would be the only one who could have said, “No fair!”
17. In suffering it is important to remember that human solutions fail to solve our problems. Sooner or later they always exacerbate the problem. Only when Jesus Christ sets up His kingdom will there be worldwide peace and justice (Rev. 20:1-10). Only God has the power to conquer Satan, sin, and death.
18. Remember: God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to bear (1 Cor. 10:13).
19. Remember: God’s help and comfort are always available to those who depend upon Him (Matt. 28:20; Heb. 13:5).
20. Suffering provides the believer the opportunity to enter into the supernatural joy of God and glorify Him in spite of suffering (James 1:2-4).
21. Suffering within God’s will purifies the soul and communicates to the world the surpassing value of the spiritual over the physical, the eternal over the temporal (Heb. 12:16; 1 Peter 2:19-25; 4:1-2).

22. Suffering enables believers to witness to unbelievers as to the power and grace of God (1 Peter 3:13-18; Acts 7:55-8:3).

23. Suffering often provides the perfect opportunity for apologetics,

**1 Peter 3:13** And who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, <sup>15</sup> but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; <sup>16</sup> and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

In Him,

*Pastor Don*