

# The “Whys” of Pain and Suffering

If there is a Supernatural Creator, what is the plan and purpose for allowing pain and suffering in the world. This question is at the heart of Christian belief. It must be answered.

Come explore the choice of a Creator to bring life into the world and how relationship is at the root of our existence and our pain.

by David H. 2014 [www.sparklightplanet.com](http://www.sparklightplanet.com) free digital pdf version online



Talitha stared up into her father's face, her eyes pleading, showing her internal pain and turmoil. Her little body shook with pain as the cancer swept over her body, an unnatural invader, her youth, laughter and life stolen away in ruthless degeneration.

“Why, Daddy Why?” Escaped her lips for the last time as her brown eyes asked in a thousand ways one of the deepest questions of all humanity.

For the rest of her story see page 7

You may have escaped, evaded or avoided this question. Or you may have let it determine your life like a parasite stuck in your gut, causing you to hate God, give into despair, or think religion a farce.



## What exactly are we talking about when we speak of pain, suffering, and evil?

It is generally described as an unbalanced/unnatural/unwanted state of affairs. Humans have a concept of what *ought* to be, regardless of religion. We see death, pain, suffering, disease, catastrophes, and certain choices as unnatural or evil. [See page 2\\*](#)

**There are two kinds of evil: personal evil and natural evil.** Personal/moral evil is caused by intelligent beings: humans and supernatural beings (if they exist). Personal evil is a choice which brings destruction, death, or perishing into the world and into another being's life. Many actions and inactions bring death for example: lies kill relationships, addictions destroy freedom, murder is the most obvious of personal evils.

*“If death, disease and suffering are natural and meant to be; quit whining and get over it.”*

-Evolution

The second evil may have been initially caused by human choice and separation from God's sustaining power; some say it is not evil at all. Natural evil is degeneration of our environment and is revealed in disease, mutations, etc., or catastrophic environmental processes out of balance which destroy life. For example, hurricanes, volcanoes, earthquakes, fires and floods. These are all natural events, which compounded with poor human choice, can cause much devastation. It is nature out of balance – an unnatural state of the earth not present in the original creation. Is the world under degeneration, destruction and chaos a natural and original state of things? Is this the way it is supposed to be? [Examined more on pages 6-7](#)

## What do the major worldviews say about suffering and evil?

## Major Worldviews on Suffering and evil?

### ***Atheism/Materialism/Naturalism***

In this worldview all that exists is the natural/material world. Procreation and survival of the fittest is the tune of this marching band. It says that chance brought life into this world and will take life out of it. Evil and suffering are natural and just another state of existence. It is just how things happen, and life struggles on. Disease, mutation, and natural selection eliminate the weak. Catastrophes just happen.

There is no purpose or reason behind evil; in fact “evil” doesn’t exist. There is only what is beneficial to survival/reproduction and what is not. Personal and natural “evil” don’t exist. Life can be argued as the greatest good, death is to be avoided, but eventually death overtakes all things. In this view it can be justified that the massacre of millions or the survival of a species are the Darwinian lifestyle.

### ***Pantheism/Spiritualism***

In this worldview evil and suffering are a part of the endless cycle of things. Birth and death, life and degeneration. One is caught in this cycle and may seek transcendence, separation, or detachment. Belief in impersonal forces, recycled entities and caste systems have grown out of this world view. The escape of reality, (detachment) seen in Buddhism, is the primary way of dealing with evil.

### ***Monotheism/Supernatural Origins***

In this worldview evil, suffering and degeneration are unnatural and caused by the deliberate, personal choices of beings in the natural and supernatural worlds.

**\*Evil is that which is against God’s nature or His will.**

The existence of evil and suffering is allowed for a reason and purpose, but does not reflect the way things should be. An all-powerful supernatural creator is at the center of this question. And into this Being and His universe we will enter to find the inner tapestry of life, choice, joy, evil and suffering. The world is not as it was originally created and designed to be — it has degenerated.

see **EDEN LOST** on [www.sparklightplanet.com](http://www.sparklightplanet.com)

*The most confusion about suffering and evil seems to be found in the Church, the place many claim has the answers to life’s questions.*

## Confusion and the Church

In numerous churches I have heard the questions of “why” being asked, usually after a natural disaster or a deadly shooting spree. The answers...

*We may never know all of the reasons why. The “whys” can trip you up if you don’t answer them correctly; but with no solid forthcoming answer.*

Or,

*We are not meant to know everything; you must just believe God is good, and eventually everything will turn out all right.*

Few teachers who do justice to this issue. I have encountered more confusion regarding the issues of pain and suffering than clarity. After 2,000 years of Christianity are we essentially feigning ignorance and providing shallow answers to one of the most important questions answered by God, which reveals His plan for humanity?

*Only in the Christian worldview is death unnatural.*

Our minds are our greatest natural gift from God, used to know and worship Him. The Bible shows in the beginning, belief in

lies and putting trust in our minds over God’s revelation, leads to error and destruction. To say “Just believe” is a cop-out on the grandest scale, and it welcomes much deserved criticism from the atheist/agnostic ranks. \*

Many pastors and teachers are leaving a gaping hole in people’s understanding of this issue and thus in people’s lives. (\* Luke 10:27, Deuteronomy 6:5, Matthew 22:37, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 4:23, Philippians 2:5)

To answer the “Why” questions we will explore some foundational concepts, learning the ways of God, His heart for us, His Word revealed using our minds.



# Six Key Concepts

God's Nature — Relationship

Choice & Consequence (inoculation)

God's Allowed Will & God's Intentional Will

Creation — Life/Source/Sustainer

Natural /Personal Evil (degeneration)

Restoration — Identity

## God's Nature

If you ask the average church member or person on the street to describe God, what do you typically hear?

“God is good,” or “God is love.”

What is missing with these answers?

While true, they fall drastically short of describing a Supernatural Creator. They limit him to our definition of these words and do the disservice of one-dimensionalizing His character. God is the ultimate reality/source of beauty, relationship, and other concepts we hold in highest esteem. Our observations, if limited to a naturalistic/material level, limit us to one way of knowing, missing the supernatural world and explanations. (*God and the New Atheism* by John F. Haught.)

### **The Bible clearly shows that RELATIONSHIP is a central characteristic of God, the Creator.**

The Creator/ Godhead is a tripart being, having relationship as His core characteristic. The Ancient Hebrews described their one God as the invisible Yahweh, the visible Yahweh, and the Spirit of Yahweh.

The Godhead holds relationship as its highest value and joy\*, explaining why we were created and given the gift of choice. He means to expand his family, to share relationship with us, as well as God's desire for our restoration and redemption in lieu of the consequences of our choice. \* John 10:30, 14:7-8, 17:24, 1 Corinthians 8:6

Relationship includes love, justice, mercy, jealousy, etc. Galatians 5:22-23.

<http://www.thedivinecouncil.com/Tacoma.htm>

<http://michaelsheiser.com/TheNakedBible/2010/01/the-jewish-theology-of-two-powers-in-heaven-as-the-backdrop-for-the-christology-of-the-new-testament/>

**The powers in Heaven: Godhead-Jewish Trinity** Dr. Michael Heiser

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CUkhWBKCuXc>

**Jesus in the old Testament: the visible Yahweh**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCUmzDWvzB8>

## Creation

Creation is God's expression. The Godhead wishes to share relationship. This is echoed when we express ourselves through our creations, friendships and having children expanding the joy of relationship.

God is unique in that He is life itself, the origin and sustainer of reality (time, matter, energy, life).\* If He is not the origin and thereby outside of all these elements He is not God, or all-powerful, or anything. This is the primacy/foundation of Christianity. The second assumption is that Reality is. A = A, not B,Q or your preference. We discover truth which is outside our preferences. Choice brings consequence, cause and effect. God as the origin of reality (cause and effect) and source leads us to our next key concept. \* Acts 17:28, John 1, Gen 1

## Choices & Consequences

In order to have true relationship, the Godhead created humanity with choice. The choice is to live or not to live within the reality (preferred/intended) will of God. Will we fully abide in Him for Life, loving and obeying Him with all our heart, mind, and soul?

Man is unique among all God's creatures. He can live in un-reality (God's allowed will - ending in death). We do this when we lie or believe a lie (delusion or superstition). All the other creatures of God are who they were made to be; they live and abide fully in reality.

For an interesting perspective on this, read *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand or some of her Objectivist writings. I do not agree with all of her conclusions, but she has insightful observations.

### **Our choice therefore is: God or not God. Life or not life. Reality or not reality.**

**The tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil did not prohibit or provide knowledge. It represented our choice to set ourselves in God's place in determining/ declaring good and evil (knowledge). The Tree of Life represented our submitting to God's life and reality, to His rule and definition of good and evil.**

**Christ came to bring us life, not goodness.\* Being “good” without life is just another state of death.**

This is where all religions come in. They are trying to make man good enough, but they use man’s standards of good and evil. Religion can never produce life; it is from human sources and has no power to give life. \* Romans 3:10,23 John 10:1, John 14:6 *I am the way, the truth and the life...*

God being good gave us choice (relationship), or we would be like robots or instinctual animals.

To continue to be good and true to His nature, He gives us consequences.

**The choice for us is God or not God. God does not create evil, but in giving us the ability to not be in relationship, He allowed the potential for evil (not God) to exist, and He enforces this reality.**

He is accused of killing thousands in the Bible. He enforces people’s choice for death (not Him), and all the consequences it brings. ➔

Without consequences He would be like a parent telling their child, “Sure go play in the street, eat as much candy as you want. You are free from consequence.” That is sadistic and unloving. If our choices had no consequences, or He stopped those consequences, there would be no learning, growth, or cause and effect. God’s reality would not work. Relationship would not work. Without choice, conflict, or consequences there is no story.

What did God want from the beginning? He wanted family, relationship, and love. He wanted fully free and independent beings to choose of their own free will to be with Him. He wants us to enter into his work of restoration and making His new world. He not only gave us choice, but allowed us to see where our choices would lead us. We must realize that, left to ourselves, we cannot produce life, temporal or eternal (here or after death). Our false sense of reality and self identity(independence), composed of our money, social status, relationships, etc. won’t last, and can’t provide meaning or life that will outlast death, degeneration, and loss.

When we awake to His love, reality and our need for him, we become inoculated against “our self-life” (which is really death) freely choosing God’s life.

**In the Old Testament / Torah & Prophets God is often called the bringer of evil, judgment or destruction.**

Joshua 23:15, Jeremiah 18:8 <http://waysofgod.com/evil.htm>

Why? It is because he is the enforcer of cause and effect, Choice and consequence. Choices away from God bring his opposite- death, destruction, judgments. God fairly warns Israel and us of the effects He enforces upon our choices. He does this out of love, relationship and to restore us (our identities , who we really are as the sons and daughters of God). Choices build and spread like the water ripple in a pond. A pebble thrown in the San Francisco Bay becomes a tidal wave on the other side of the planet. A person choosing a path / belief away from God can carry a whole nation in their wake. So powerful are our choices in time and in lives.

In choosing God, we choose for life and freedom within his Reality. Being conformed to his image- Jesus Christ, is His will. In choosing against God we choose for death, or distorted reality (unreality). In claiming our “freedom from our Creator,” we set up our minds and views as a faulty reality. We decide good and evil, not Him.

We choose for the disillusionment that we can produce life, meaning and joy out of our selves, circumstances and ideologies. If our very existence is empowered by the Creator, then in denying Him we deny our very life source. It is madness and craziness of the highest order to believe we are self-sustaining and empowering beings. The Bible teaches that God upholds and holds together all things by his power and word. This is why without God our end, purpose and destiny is death, non-life.

It is only by his grace that the disillusioned exist. If God let our choice of self independence be fully actualized (immediate full consequences without grace), we would cease completely (the second death). Matthew 10:28, Revelation 2:11, 20:6-14, 21:8

It is only his sustaining grace which allows our world and lives to remain- for the purpose of our choosing restoration (relationship). Paul confirms that, “In Him we live and move and have our being.” (Acts 17:28) “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal [lasting and final] life.” (Romans 6:23).

*Christ came to bring us life, not goodness. Us being “good” without life is just another state of death. This is where all religions come in. They are trying to make man good enough, but they use man’s standards of good and evil. Religion can never produce life; it is from human sources and has no power to give life.*

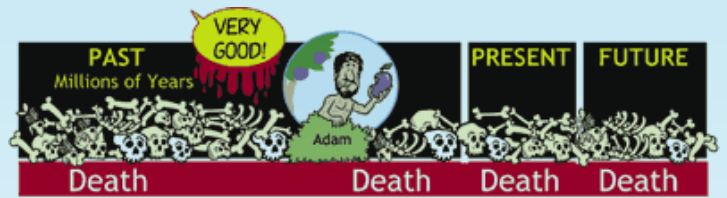


What are the consequences of choosing ourselves as the reality makers and trying to live apart from God, the true reality and life? Choice is a wonderful, yet terrible gift. In choosing our reality, we separate ourselves from the life-sustaining power of the Creator. Genesis describes the fall/separation of humanity. In death we died, meaning we entered into the realm of death where everything is perishing; from our lifespan, to our genetic makeup, to our spiritual condition. We left God's regenerating power from degeneration.\* We were given the earth and all things in it. That gift and authority we had were forfeit to the Father of Lies, the first believer in un-reality. Now, before you blame all this on the first humans, ask whether you haven't made the same choices as Adam and Eve. Have your choices (to lie, for example) ever brought death / broken relationship to those around you? Have you ever declared what is good and evil, judging another, setting your own standards of "good enough"? \* God reversed degeneration for Israel... Deuteronomy 8:4, 29:5

Jesus compares a life built on worldly "earth things" to a house built on sand, Vs. a life built on Him, the Rock. Matthew 7:25-27

In the Garden, the first humans separated themselves, the earth and all their descendants from the restorative and life-giving power of the Creator – eternal (final and lasting life). Death, suffering, disease, and environmental catastrophe are all consequences of our succumbing to the delusion that life is within us, our positions, our relationships and the stuff of earth. "I set before you Life and Death..." Deuteronomy 30:19

**Romans 8:18-24** *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first-fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved.*



Those who argue that natural evil was an original part of creation, not caused by human choice, must conclude that these conditions will be part of a restored planet at the resurrection of believers, restoration and God's coming.

Why would God allow this to happen to His creation? Was this a cosmic accident, leaving the Godhead struggling with questions of what to do next and how to clean up this mess?

God wants to inoculate each of us against evil and our self delusion of, "I decide reality."

Is it God's plan to show us what a world without Him is like – ultimately the death of everything – then call us back to abide in Him, be restored to His life, truth, way and His reality?

Human history shows this story. We are free to choose life, but we usually choose death and suffering, bringing it on others. But, when we return to Him, and enter into His life-giving relationship; we enter a restoration of our identity and life. We become life givers empowered by Christ.

Now, I said a restoration of Identity, not of body, circumstances or of being affected by death. **When we trusted in the stuff of earth/ourselves for life and identity, it brought us death, because those are not the true source of our identity/life.** God, in His grace, lets all this stuff fall apart or else we would trust in it for our happiness, hope and identity. He does command us to take care of and enjoy all the things of earth, but they were never to be sources. Life was to flow from Him, to us, and out into our environment.

<http://waysofgod.com/evil.htm>

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/why-does-creation-include-suffering>

<http://carm.org/why-there-evil-and-suffering-world>

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Darwin's views on suffering were highly personalized through the death of his 10-year-old daughter, Annie, in 1851, which 'destroyed Charles's tatters of belief in a moral, just universe' and 'chimed the final death-knell for his Christianity'. But Charles, suffering and death are integral parts of your theory of evolution.



<http://creation.com/darwins-arguments-against-god>

5 <http://creation.com/charles-darwins-slippery-slide-into-unbelief>



just part of reality and nature. They just are, and we can have no justifiable protest against them. Now, for one who has placed their trust in God's life and restoration, loss and pain still affect us, but they should not destroy our peace and hope. Our lives should not be built on them- even loved ones. \*



Death is the unnatural state of things now. When we face catastrophe, pain, death, and loss we have reason to get upset, and rail against them, claiming they should not be, and are the fallen/broken state of the world. They were not God's intended will for humanity. The loss of a loved one causes grief and loss because we were meant to live forever in God. Relationships/people were meant to last forever, and we feel this deeply inside. Their loss is not final- not the end if we are placed in God. If there is no God, then catastrophe, pain, death, loss, etc., are

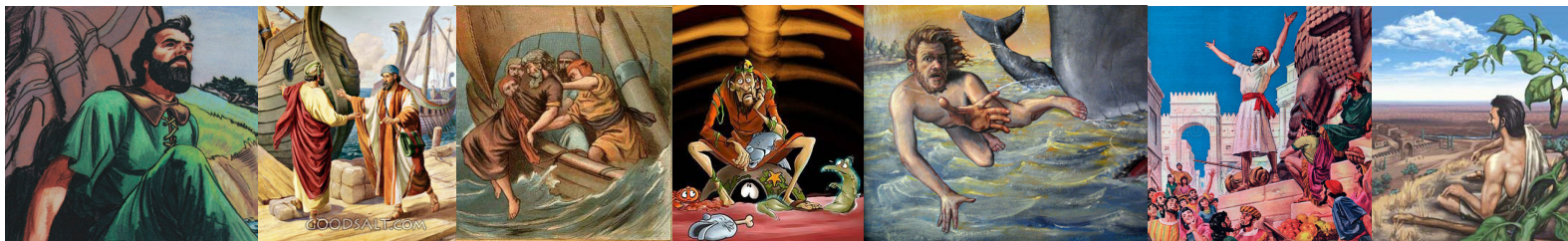
If our identity and trust is not wrapped up in the things of earth, then we need not be destroyed by the loss of a loved one/relationship, or a catastrophe. We are not meant to live for or from these earthly things. We are given these things and people to enjoy, but not to try to get life from them. They are gifts and we were meant to be the stewards of them, not owners. \* Matthew 7:24-27

Was Creation Created Wild? Why is the world the way it is?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nextApemTXE>  
<http://creation.com/charles-darwins-real-message-have-you-missed-it>

# God's Intentional Will & God's Allowed Will

(chosen/volitional)  
 His Best Purpose for Us  
 Seen in Initial Creation

(permitted/sustained)  
 Still used for His Purpose  
 known & planned for (God sees outside time)



## Jonah and Nineveh

**God's Intended Will:** Go and preach repentance to Nineveh, so I may save and restore them.

**God's Allowed Will:** Jona choses to disobay, storm, swallowed by fish, reluctantly to Nineveh, preaches, and they repent.

God still gets what he wants, but our choices determine how we participate in that plan.



## Confusing God's allowed will and His intentional will

**John 3:16** His intentional will is that none should perish, yet many perish. This is His allowed will

**Predestination/Calling:** God calls all, He wants all to respond/repent but all do not respond. He already knows this, but does not determine (cause) it. His perspective is outside human time and space.

*The LORD God has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but would rather that they turn from their evil ways, and live (Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9). God calls all people, everywhere, to repent, for He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice (Acts 17:30b-31).*

**Talitha's Story:** Jesus could have allowed consequences of separation to end her life for good, but He intercedes and brings her to life for God's glory and purpose. (Mark 5:21-43)



**Lazarus' Story:** shows God's allowed will and how He enters into our suffering, and His intended will in bringing him back to life. (John 11)



**God knows** a fire, tornado, etc will destroy some and not others. Catastrophies (accidents) are known but not determined (caused) by God – they result from a degenerated/out of balance planet cause by human choice.

In the same way blessings and fortuitous events are known by God, but not always determined (caused) by Him. Some can be, but many are the result of good human choices. (Matthew 5:45)

Humans and supernatural beings cause personal and natural evil. God allows choice and it's consequence for the hope and purpose of restoring relationship and identity withing God.

Created beings can also chose for and cause ( be a conduit for) much good and restoration.

### In theistic evolution and old earth/ deep time worldviews and beliefs (non-supernatural)

Natural evil: environmental disasters are not evil, just the working of a God propagated nature – not influenced or caused by man. Also, disease and death are not evils, but the natural state of “creation.” They are in fact “good,” “life giving” processes a part of the original intentional creation of God in TE/deep time views. See Reason to Believe website. <http://www.reasons.org/articles/problem-of-evil> more articles at end <http://www.reasons.org/articles/natural-evil-or-moral-evil>

Today, hurricanes and earthquakes may have some positive byproducts, helping in environmental processes which sustain life, but is it likely they were needed or purposed in the original creation?

By logic, than all this natural evil (God's allowed will) will be part of a restored humanity and Creation if it was part of the original “good” creation; and this is what we are to be restored to. If these broken processes were part of original creation — not human caused — they will be part of the new heavens and earth. People will die, disease will flourish, etc.

Does this make sense? Is it Biblical and rational?

Both Talitha and Lazarus get old and die eventually. This is within God's allowed will. They await a final restoration. God's intended will.

# Evil & Degeneration

## The result of counfusing God's "Wills"

Much confused and ill-thought Christian responses to personal and natural evil/death often result.

*"God saved me, this house and my family from this fire for a reason. I just want to thank him for his love and provision/goodness."*

This could imply that God didn't save your neighbor or that other child for a reason, that He didn't love and provide for them?

This thinking can be often found in Christian's responses to natural disasters or personal disasters.

*Did God intentionally save you from that fire and not others*

*Or*

*Did God allow choice, chance, and degeneration to determine your escape and not others?*

The Old Testament talks about both God's allowed will and His intentional will, but does not always clarify which is which in a situation. We may not know in a situation as well. Which is why it is dangerous to assume and pre-judge matters as Job learned. (Job 2:10, Matthew 5:45, 2 Corinthians 5:10)

Rob Bell's book *Love Wins* goes wrong in understaing God's wills and what God's judgment and justice and holiness are all about.

<http://creation.com/charles-darwins-slippery-slide-into-unbelief>

## In God's Allowed Will

Intelligent/personal/choice/ volitional evil – choices against God occur against His intended will.

This birthed natural evil.

Vs.

A Christian Materialist (Theistic Evolutionary) view.

Natural evil is part of God's intened will - part of original creation.

<http://creation.com/church-leaders-and-natural-disasters>

<http://creation.com/understanding-death>

<http://creation.com/creation-preservation-and-dominion-part-1>

<http://creation.com/theistic-evolution-future-shock>

<http://creation.com/why-is-there-death-and-suffering>

<http://creation.com/theistic-evolution-what-difference-does-it-make>

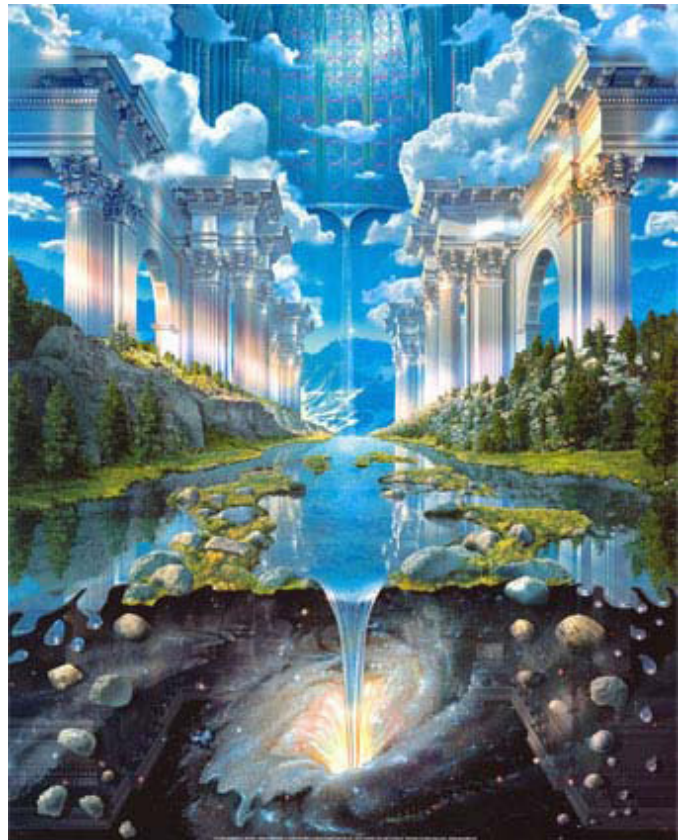
**Supernatural beings:** Sons of God, Angels, Humans ( Lucifer/satin - the Adversary)

All these beings are given a choice of relationship with the Creator. When they chose against Him, they enter into death – the opposite of all that is the Creator. This births personal and natural evil. They are allowed to exist for God's purposes, but they will eventually be destroyed. (Ezekiel 28, Isaiah 14, Revelation)

**Natural evil** is a result of separation of Creation (human domain – the planet and cosmoses) From God's sustaining life/ power. Man's sin affect the earth-his environment. In Eden, Gods restorative, supernatural power was lifted off creation and humanity. (Isaiah 24:4-6, 19-21; Is. 25:7-8; Romans 8)  
Examples: fires, earthquakes, cancer, death, disease, accidental and intentional harm / death.

God sustains and empowers (for a time) the existence of beings (good & evil, human & supernatural) including their choices and consequences. He will use all this in his plan to restore us and creation.

Satan and natural evil are allowed to exist by the plan and will of God. WHY? It has to do with God's plan to restore us as sons of God. We must overcome evil with good, empowered by Him. God uses us to destroy the devil and his work, which we let in.





# Restoration (Identity)

**God's plan is to re-enter our world and work true restoration.**

God's love for us is shown in restoring our identities; a process of opening our eyes to where life and fulfillment really are. (Ephesians 1&2)

**He will not "fix" things, or be our situation healer — that doesn't build relationship.** The children of Israel had this treatment. They needed freeing from Egypt, (their bad circumstances fixed) and God did. They needed water, and God provided water. Bread — He did that too. Meat — yes. Protection — yes. They asked for proof of Him, scientific proof of His existence, and He provided supernatural events, a pillar of fire and cloud, His voice from the mountain, etc.

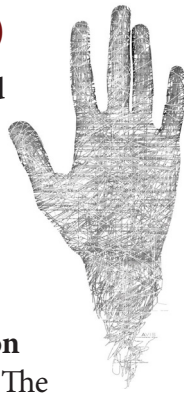
Did all this situational "fixing" cause them to abide and faithfully trust in Him, centering their identity in YAHWEY the Creator? **No.** They treated Him like a vending machine in the sky. *"Get us this, fix that, stop them..."*

Jesus faced the same thing when people only wanted miracles from him, and not Truth (His reality). (Matthew 13:58, Mark 6)

They wanted to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, so that they could decide good and evil for themselves. They wanted to be like God on their own terms. They wanted to make up their own reality, denying the source and maker of true reality. They trusted their minds over God and his revelation.

**God's restoration starts in our hearts and minds, and works its way out.** He is about restoring our identities, not our circumstances or effects of our choices, He can, but is not obligated — He does so for His reasons. When we love Him first, we love everything else better. When we find Life in Him, we become life-givers, not life-takers. We still have the choice to abide in Him and live in true reality, not lies. Other beliefs and religions can observe God's truths, and have some truthful teachings. Where most go wrong is in denying the source of these truths, and that we can not bring our selves eternal life.

God's Restoration is worked out in Humanity, through humanity. He enters into our stories and brings life. His goal is to make us "Good," like Him by being conformed to His character, not making all good things happen for us. (Romans 8:28) Things may not work out as we wish; we will suffer wrongs and human separation which means innocents will die, accidents will hurt, and kill. But is death the greatest evil?



**If there is a God, than separation from God and an unregenerate (dead soul) identity, heart and mind are the actual greatest evils.**

The man living a full and long life, deluded in self reality, separated from True Life and Reality, faces a greater evil than the child who dies by accident or evil intent. Death is not our enemy; it is a consequence of separation. Separation from God is the true enemy.

**The walking dead are the most deluded souls.**

**God has promised to restore all things belonging to Him, when His Kingdom comes to earth and those abiding in Him are restored fully in body, mind and heart, to live on a restored planet in a restored universe. If this God or His promises are not real, then suffering exists without a purpose. Nature, chance, and death become the ultimate reality, not life. If atheism and naturalistic progressive evolution is true, than the ultimate realty is to live, by any means necessary, before death sweeps you, and any memory of you, off the face of the earth. Chance brought you into existence and chance will take you out of it.**

**If this Creator of reality and us is real, then we have a grand adventure to live. Our ultimate reality is Life — final and lasting life, abiding in Him as the source, becoming sons and daughters of God.**

(James 1:2-4, 2 Cor 4:7-18; 5:1-5)



*We live life because it is a gift, a test, and the true reality. His Spirit is in us. Our minds and our hearts are His greatest gifts to us. His plan is no mystery, His purpose shall succeed, and He works through all the choices, pain and suffering He allows, because He is after a relationship with people of restored hearts and minds.*

**The Ephesians Truth — Restored Identity**

Sin = belief in a lie about where we find life, identity & satisfaction. Sin is the symptom of a sick identity.

**Life Vs Goodness:** Jesus told the rich young ruler to abandon his identity ties (life-goodness) sell all and take up God's life. (Luke 18, Mark 10, Matthew 19) Without God's life in you; you are a plant cut from the source of life

**John 15- the walking dead. Luke 9:24 Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses their life to Me will save it -Jesus.**

## What we take for the “Curse” in Genesis 3, was actually God’s gracious warning.

I explain this in more depth in “Story” on my website.

[www.sparklightplanet.com](http://www.sparklightplanet.com)

Woman will try to find meaning and life in relationships and in her husband, but it is not there. Man will try to find life and happiness in labor and work, but life is not there. God was warning us that we won’t find life or fulfillment in these things if we see them as the source of our identity. Only when we find ourselves in Him first, can we enjoy and bring life to our relationships and work. Life was meant to flow from our Creator, through us, and out into the world. Our delusional “Fall” reversed this to where we seek to get life from the stuff of creation and take it to the Creator, as if our goodness is of worth to the creator - the source of righteousness itself. It is an ironic denying of the source. This is human religiosity.

What do we so easily do? We wrap our hopes and identities around girlfriends, husbands, children, jobs, money, relationships, position, our bodies, and our minds. If those never fell apart, got old, or were lost, we would continue to be fooled into thinking that life was in those things. It’s not.

**I repeat, and God repeats over and over again: true Life is not in the stuff of earth. Creation can neither sustain you, nor bring you joy or purpose. God’s grace, not His judgment allows all this pain, suffering and death (which, by the way, we chose for ourselves). Without it we would wrap ourselves in all these blankets of “stuff,” smothering ourselves to death within a deluded reality.**

For further clarification, investigation and scripture references, see STORY at [www.sparklightplanet.com](http://www.sparklightplanet.com)

## What others have to say.

*Where Is God When It Hurts?* Philip Yancey

<http://www.philipyaney.com/where-is-god-when-it-hurts>

<http://creation.com/why-is-there-death-and-suffering>

<http://creation.com/theistic-evolution-what-difference-does-it-make>

<http://creation.com/theistic-evolution-future-shock>

Lee Strobel – noted author- The Case for Christ, etc.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WddFO6AAHDO>

Why Does God Allow Tragedy and Suffering? - Lee Strobel

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cv85tvudi7Y&feature=related>

Since Evil & Suffering Exist, A Loving God Cannot ...?

Why God Allows Human Suffering Restored Ch of G - CAUTION, a good answer but some other cultish teaching.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/RestoredCOG?v=poqotF0xkn0&feature=pyv&ad=10555397147&kw=why%20does%20god%20allow%20suffering>



<http://creation.com/understanding-death>

<http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/nab/why-does-creation-include-suffering>

human nature? <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4g289pwhpA&feature=plcp>

Reason to Believe website.

<http://www.reasons.org/articles/problem-of-evil>

<http://www.reasons.org/articles/why-i-m-thankful-for-earth-quakes>

<http://www.reasons.org/articles/grappling-with-natural-evil>

<http://www.reasons.org/articles/hurricanes-and-the-climate-part-1>

## Dr. Michael Heiser

<http://www.thedivinecouncil.com/videos.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nextApemTXE>

**Degeneration affects Creation and scientifically indicates a Creator of an initially balanced and good creation, see...**

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