

**Why is there
Suffering and
Evil if there
is a God?**

False Belief #1:

God Causes

Everything

To Happen

Matt 7:24-27

Build Your House on the Rock

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.

26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.

27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." ESV

“God, who is altogether holy and can do no wrong, sovereignly decrees evil things to take place for His own good purposes”

Isaiah 45:5-7 ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me,

⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things. ESV

Jerome Zanchius wrote:

“The will of God is so the cause of all things, as to be, itself without cause, for nothing can be the cause of that which is the cause of everything. Hence we find every matter resolved ultimately into the mere sovereign pleasure of God. God has no other motive for what He does than ipsa voluntas, His mere will, which will itself is so far from being unrighteous that it is justice itself.”

Satan is actively working in this world.

Ephesians 2:1-3

¹ And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ESV

Satan is actively working in this world.

1 Peter 5:8-10

- 8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
- 9** Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.
- 10** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ESV

Satan is actively working in this world.

Ephesians 6:11-13

11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. NASU

False Belief #2:

**Everything
Happens For
A Reason**

The book of Ecclesiastes spends much time discussing how many things in life are senseless and do not have meaning or reason.

Ecclesiastes 9:11

“Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all”

Causes of Suffering:

- 1. People blame God**
- 2. The devil causes much suffering**
- 3. Time & chance**
- 4. Choices we make**

Proverbs 1:24-26

24 Because I have called and you refused to listen,
have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded,

25 because you have ignored all my counsel and would
have none of my reproof, ESV

Proverbs 1:26-29

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you,

27 when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

29 Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, ESV

Proverbs 1:30-33

30 would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof,

31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.

32 For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster." ESV

Causes of Suffering:

- 1. People blame God but He doesn't cause everything to happen**
- 2. The devil causes much suffering**
- 3. Time & chance**
- 4. Choices we make**
 - a. We often make very bad life decisions that bring much suffering**

