

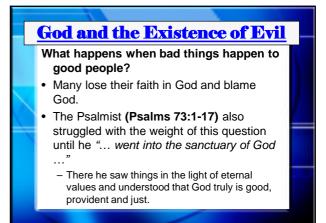
God and the Existence of Evil

- Existence of evil and an all powerful God must be reconciled.
- Moral evil.
 - Natural calamities.
- Some believe only good things happened to good people and evil to evil people.

God and the Existence of Evil

Questions:

- Why do the righteous suffer?
- Can God trust man to serve Him simply for the love of God?
- Can man trust God, when his suffering is inexpressible in its intensity, and unexplainable as to its cause?



The Source

The Devil Genesis 3:2ff; James 1:13-14; cf. Genesis 3:16ff

- Moral evil
- Natural calamities
- · Description of Satan
 - John 8:44 Murderer and liar
 - $-\,1$ John 3:8 Sinneth from the beginning
 - Luke 13:10-17, "Satan hath bound"

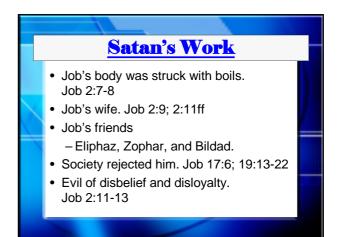
Consider Job

Who Was Job?

- A man described as "perfect and upright; and one that feared God, and turned away from evil" (1:1)
- Offered sacrifices for his children. "... rose up early in the morning and offered burntofferings according to the number of them all" (1:5).
- His goodness was habitual, "thus did Job continually" (1:5).

Satan' Work

- Satan allowed to act within certain limitations. Job 1:12; Job 42:10-11
- Instrumentality of men. Job 1:13-17
- Force of nature. Job 1:18-19
- Limited to Job's person. Job 2:6



Ascribing Evil To God

- Deuteronomy 30:15

 How would God <u>set evil</u> before the people?
 <u>Cause</u> and <u>Effect</u> Inevitable consequences
- Amos 3:6, "shall evil befall a city, and Jehovah hath not done it?" cf. Amos 4:6ff
- Snow and hail (Job 38:22-24). These are the treasuries of His arsenal which He has "reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war."



Why Do Men Suffer?

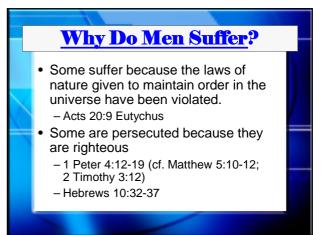
- Men are rash who presume to know
 <u>all</u> the causes behind every specific affliction.
 Proverbs 14:12
- Yet, the Scriptures reveal **SOME** reasons why some may suffer.

Why Do Men Suffer? • Some suffer as direct consequence of their sins – Galatians 6:7-9 • Some suffer because of sins of others

- Mark 6:18-27 John the Baptist
- Acts 7-8 Stephen

Why Do Men Suffer?

- Some suffer because of the free moral agency of men
 - Joshua 24:15
 - 2 Corinthians 11:23-30 Paul suffered.
 - Luke 10:30-33 Man fell into the hands of robbers.



Why Do Men Suffer?

 Suffering makes it possible for us to grow in relationship with God.
 Hebrews 12:6-11; 1 Peter 1:6-9; cf. Romans 8:18

Benefits of Suffering

- The suffering God <u>permits</u> can be used for the <u>benefit of those who</u> <u>experience it</u> – or those whose <u>lives</u> <u>are touched by it</u>.
 - Romans 5:3-4
 - James 1:2-4
 - 2 Corinthians 1:3-6, 8-9

Concluding Thoughts

- When Asaph (Psalms 73:17-28) went into the sanctuary of the Lord and reconsidered the question of human suffering, he saw the situation more clearly.
- Consider Job. (Job 42:1-6)
- When the latter end was considered everything then is brought into proper perspective. cf. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
- Suffering now fades into nothing when laid against the backdrop of eternal glory. Romans 8:18; cf. 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1