

WHY DOES GOD PERMIT EVIL?

Introduction

The **corona virus pandemic** has caused many people to ask: if there is a God, why does he permit evil things to happen? This is a challenging question but the Bible gives us some answers.

Key Points

- In the beginning God made everything good and there was no evil.
- Humans broke God's rules.
- God told them that their choice would cause pain and suffering.
- God knew that this would happen, so he planned to send Jesus to save us from sin and suffering.
- Jesus came to bring the message of God's future kingdom, a time when evil will end.
- God wants us to choose to love him and obey him but he does not force us.
- Sin and suffering help us to want to choose to obey God's rules and receive his blessings.



Discussion

Many people are afraid of sickness and death and the many terrible things that happen in our world. But the Bible tells us it was not always like that. In Genesis we learn that God said that his creation was "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

A little later, we learn that Adam and Eve chose to break God's rules, after the serpent (Satan) tempted Eve, even though they had all the beauty of the newly created world to enjoy (Genesis 3:6). God had to do what he had warned, which was to place **the curse of death** on Adam and Eve so that they would not live forever (Genesis 3:22). This is what started all the suffering and pain that we see in the world.





What do you think?

- Did God cause Adam and Eve to sin?
- Do any other religions promise you a resurrection AND a world with no evil?
- What do pain and suffering teach you?

Further Reading

- Genesis 3:14-15 - God gives some hope to Adam and Eve.
- Isaiah 11:5-9 - Speaks of a future time when evil will no longer be in the world.
- John 1:29 - Who is the lamb of God?
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-22 - If God raised Jesus from the dead, he can raise us too.
- Isaiah 2:4-5 - Jesus will come again to judge the world and stop suffering.
- Revelation 21:1-4 - God has promised a new heaven and a new earth in which "there will be no more death, or mourning or crying or pain".

But God knows everything, and he knew that Adam and Eve would sin and die, yet he wanted all humans to have every chance possible to choose to love him. So he planned to send Jesus to die for the sins of all human beings (Hebrews 5:8-9; 7:27) and give them a resurrection.

When Jesus came, he invited people to follow him and accept him as their saviour from sin and death (John 3:16-17). He taught that in God's kingdom everyone who has died will be raised from death to learn about God and to have the opportunity of eternal life in a world **without** evil and suffering (Acts 24:15, Revelation 21:4).

But God does not force us to believe; he has given us a choice (Joshua 24:15). Evil and suffering can help us to see how bad it feels when we do NOT choose God. Like the corona virus pandemic, evil can teach us that we cannot solve our own problems of sin, suffering and death. It helps us search for God and to want the better world that he has promised.

You can have God's promises too! How?

1. Pray to God for help, and read his word, the Bible.
2. Tell God that you are sorry for the things you have done wrong.
3. Accept Jesus' sacrifice died and be baptised to show that you will dedicate your life to follow him.
4. Read the Bible, discover that evil is temporary and rejoice that a wonderful future is coming!

