

## The Doctrine of Suffering

1 Peter 4

1 Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin,

2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.

3 For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.

4 In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of you.

5 They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.

6 For this reason the gospel was preached also to those who are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

7 But the end of all things is at hand; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.

8 And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

9 Be hospitable to one another without grumbling.

10 As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

14 If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

16 Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter.

17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.

(NKJV)

1. *Judgmental Suffering* – divine judgment for sin
2. *Empathic Suffering* – empathy for another's misery
3. *Vicarious Suffering* – the bearing of another's penalty
4. *Testimonial Suffering* – authentic repentance and faith in the Lord
5. *Preventative Suffering* – a warning to prevent greater evil
6. *Educational Suffering* – discipline for training in Christ-likeness

-G R Lewis in the Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible

## ROOTS OF SUFFERING

*Two responses that share the same cause*

- I. Suffering as a result of sin in the world
  - a. General Curse
  - b. Personal Sin
- II. Suffering to redeem the world from sin

### Suffering as a result of sin in the world

Romans 5

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned--

(NKJV)

### Suffering to redeem from sin

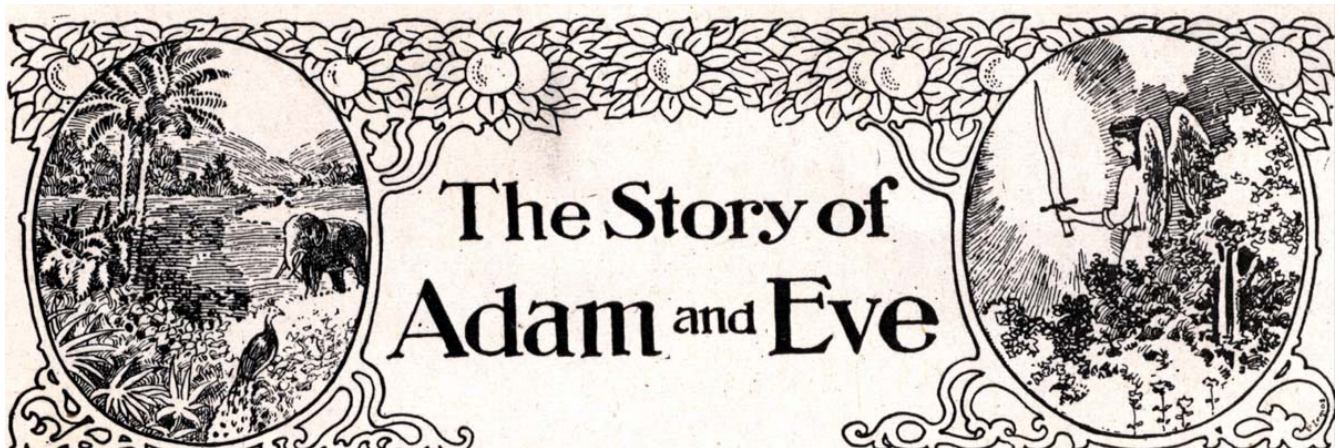
1 John 3

16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

(NKJV)



## HOW DID SUFFERING ENTER THE WORLD?



Suffering seems especially wrong to us, because we were Created to walk with God in the cool of the day in a world free of death, sickness, and suffering. We have a deep, eternal, longing of the soul to love without parting with our loved ones.

## Romans 8

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;  
21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

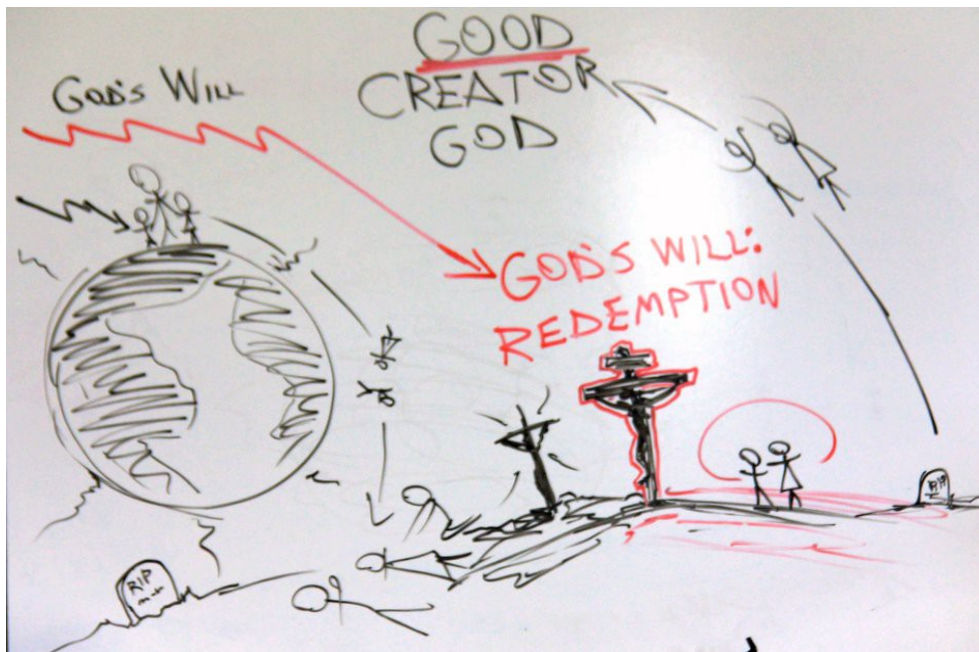
23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?

25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

### Surrounding Christian Beliefs that provide context for Suffering:

- God, the Creator of earth and man who can do whatever He wants
- Fall of Man
- Christ's birth and life with men on earth
- Christ's Sacrificial death, burial, and resurrection
- Salvation
- Meaningful life | fulfilling the Great Commission
- Hope: the bodily resurrection of the Believer



## Luke 13

1 There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans, because they suffered such things?

3 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.

4 "Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?

5 "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." (NKJV)