

“Hey Siri...”

“Hey God...”

If...

You are there, and good, and powerful

Then...

Why is there so much evil and suffering?

This is not an abstract or merely an academic
topic...it is personal for all of us

7 Biblical "themes"

1. Human sin/choice
2. A cause and effect world
3. Soul building
4. God's glory revealed
5. Satan
6. Mystery
7. The Cross

1. Suffering and Evil's origin

Sin/Human choice

GENESIS 3:8-19

James 1:13 When tempted, no one should say,
“God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted
by evil, nor does he tempt anyone;

“God gives what He has, not what He has not: He gives the happiness that there is, not the happiness that is not.”

Lewis, Problem of Pain

"If we will not learn to enjoy the only food that the universe grows-the only food that any possible universe ever can grow-then we must starve eternally."

Lewis, Problem of Pain

2. This is a cause and effect universe

Ex. 20:5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me

Deut. 24:16 Fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor children put to death for their fathers; each is to die for his own sin.

Prov. 19:3 A man's own folly ruins his life, yet his
heart rages against the LORD.

3. Soul building

4. Satan

2 Cor. 12:7-10 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Most often we do not change in significant ways until the pain of not changing exceeds the pain of changing.

“Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.”

Dr. Paul Brand

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5. God's glory revealed through suffering

John 9:1-2 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.”

Heb. 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Being "sure"...a foundational term

Being "certain"...a legal term

*"I am certain of God, therefore I judge my
circumstances based on that certain foundation."*

*High Faith
in
Low light situations*

