

GOD WILL END ALL SUFFERING

“God shall wipe away all tears
from their eyes” Rev 7:17

God will end all suffering

There is a great deal of
suffering in the world –
much of it out of sight

God will end all suffering



There is much suffering hidden away in our hospitals

God will end all suffering



In spite of the many advancements in medical science, especially in pain control, much suffering remains.

God will end all suffering



Hospital care may alleviate some suffering but many conditions are incurable

God will end all suffering



Much suffering is hidden away in hospices, including children

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Children are born with physical handicaps

God will end all suffering



Children are born with deformities

God will end all suffering



Children may be both physically and mentally handicapped

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Many elderly people live alone, unwanted and not visited by their children



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Not only children suffer handicaps, many adults are also affected.

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Children suffer from accidents like this child suffering from severe burns



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Many have to live in slums under appalling conditions

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Many children suffer deprivation.

Two thirds of the world's population have insufficient food.

Many children receive no education.



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In many parts of the world people toil under difficult conditions and earn little

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Gold mining does not make the miners rich

God will end all suffering



Political prisoners and prisoners of conscience suffer loss of liberty

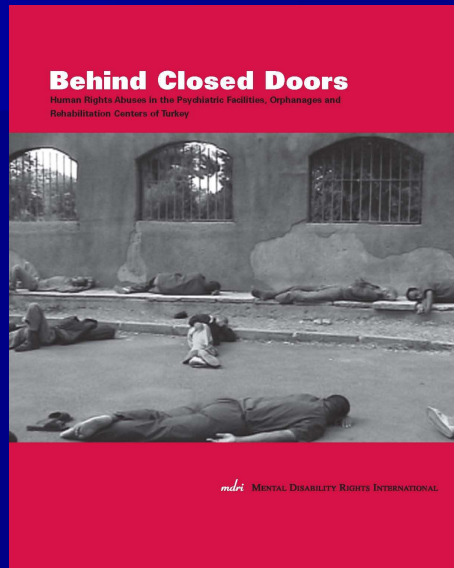
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Miscarriages of justice are a source of suffering to prisoners and their relatives

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Sometimes
human rights
are abused by
governments



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Many people have suffered under totalitarian regimes

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Many people have suffered in civil and international wars

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How many families lost relatives during world wars?

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In spite of all the medical, technological and agricultural developments of the past couple of centuries, there is a great deal of human suffering

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We have a Paradox:

If God is a “God of love”, as the Bible says He is, why does He allow suffering?

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THIS SUFFERING IS MAN-MADE

How much other suffering is
man-made?

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When God created the world there was no
suffering:

God saw all that he had made, and it was
very good. And there was evening, and
there was morning—the sixth day.

Genesis 1:31(NIV)

God will end all suffering

⁸ Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Genesis 2:8-9 (NIV)

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¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Genesis 2:15-17 (NIV)

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To the woman He said,

“I will greatly increase your pains in
childbearing;
with pain you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband, and he will
rule over you.”

Genesis 3:16 (NIV)

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¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your
wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded
you, ‘You must not eat of it,’

Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat of it
all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.”

Genesis 3:17-18 (NIV)

God will end all suffering

“By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return.”

Genesis 3:19 (NIV)

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Conclusion:

Ultimately, all suffering is
man-made.

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But suffering is not uniformly experienced – some people seem to have more than their “fair share” of suffering while others never seem to be affected.

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⁷ “Why do the wicked live on,
growing old and increasing in power?
⁸ They see their children established around
them,
their offspring before their eyes.
⁹ Their homes are safe and free from fear;
the rod of God is not upon them.”

Job 21:7-9 (NIV)

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- ¹⁰ “Their bulls never fail to breed;
their cows calve and do not miscarry.
¹¹ They send forth their children as a flock;
their little ones dance about.
¹² They sing to the music of tambourine and
harp;
they make merry to the sound of the flute.”

Job 21:10-12 (NIV)

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- ¹³ “They spend their years in prosperity
and go down to the grave in peace.
¹⁴ Yet they say to God, ‘Leave us alone!
We have no desire to know your ways.
¹⁵ Who is the Almighty, that we should serve
him?
What would we gain by praying to him?’”

Job 21:13-15 (NIV)

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DIVINE OPTIONS:

Option 1: God reverses His edict in Eden and removes suffering from everyone, whether good or bad.

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Problem: The world would be filled with immortal sinners!

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DIVINE OPTIONS:

Option 2: God only inflicts suffering on the wicked while the righteous are totally free from any suffering.

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Imagine several families having a picnic on the beach

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DIVINE OPTIONS:

Option 2: God only inflicts suffering on the wicked while the righteous are totally free from any suffering.

Problem: Men and women would only serve God from purely self-interest!

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Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill”.

John 6:26 (NIV)

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DIVINE OPTIONS:

Option 3: Everyone suffers to a greater or lesser extent and therefore the suffering appears to be indiscriminate, affecting good and bad alike.

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- This is the option which God seems to have chosen.
- Some suffering is bound to be self-inflicted
- Men and women have to decide whether to serve God without any guarantee that they will or will not suffer.

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- Some suffering is purposeful for those who serve God.
- Job's suffering did not make any sense to him for he believed that he had served God faithfully
- Ultimately, Job's suffering was beneficial

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“What I feared has come upon me;
what I dreaded has happened to
me.”

Job 3:25 (NIV)

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“But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tested me, I shall
come forth as gold.”

Job 23:10 (NIV)

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⁷ ... And you have forgotten that word of
encouragement that addresses you as sons:

“My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
⁶ because the Lord disciplines those he loves,
and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.”*

Hebrews 12:5-6 (NIV)

*cited from Proverbs 3:11,12

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⁷ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?
⁸ If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. ⁹ Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

Hebrews 12:7-9 (NIV)

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¹⁰ Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Hebrews 12:10-11 (NIV)

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SUMMARY - SO FAR

- God is not to blame for the suffering in the world and
- God can turn suffering to advantage in those who are His children

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The Ministry of the Lord Jesus

- Healing the blind, dumb, deaf
- Providing food for the hungry
- Curing diseases and mental illness
- Raising the dead

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⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered...

Hebrews 5:7-8 (NIV)

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The Sufferings of the Lord Jesus

- Temptations in the wilderness
- A gruelling ministry of teaching and healing
- Arrest and abuse by the religious authorities
- Execution by crucifixion

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Here the
SIN OF THE PEOPLE and the
SUFFERING OF THE LORD
JESUS and the
LOVE OF GOD all met together.

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⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering.

Hebrews 2:9-10 (NIV)

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Because he [Jesus] himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Hebrews 2:18 (NIV)

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¹⁵ For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NIV)

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Mercy is withholding the
punishments we do deserve

Grace is granting us the
blessings we do not deserve

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³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will
live with them. They will be his people, and God
himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ He will
wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no
more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old
order of things has passed away.”

Revelation 21:3-4 (NIV)

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