

**"Why, God?"** That is a question that people have asked for thousands of years. Why is there war? Why is there evil? Why do good people suffer? Why is there so much tragedy? Why do we have to die?

Sometimes we feel sad, lonely, and unloved. We become overwhelmed with sorrow. So we ask, "Why, God?"



Dress pattern courtesy of Icey Tina

Sometimes we get angry at Him. We can't figure out why God would allow our lives to be destroyed. We blame God for everything. It's okay to ask God "Why," sometimes, but when we do it in anger, we make ourselves His judge, and risk bringing His wrath upon ourselves. In the days of Job, the most righteous man of his day, Job, in his ignorance, accused God, and God's angry response to him was: "Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?" (The Bible, Job 40:8)

God is infinite. God's wisdom is infinite. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (The Bible, Isaiah 55:8-9) God has a reason for everything He does, and everything He allows to happen. Most of the answers we seek from God, we would not understand.

Even when we know some of the answers, many of us are never satisfied, and continue asking endless questions. You must be willing to believe, even though you will never have all the answers. You don't need all the answers. You just need to put your trust in Him completely—even if you feel confused. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (The Bible, Hebrews 11:6)

Why does God allow evil and suffering in the world? In the beginning, God created everything in perfection. Everything was beautiful. There was no sickness. There was no suffering of any kind. There was no death.



Then Adam and Eve disobeyed God, thus sinning. Their one small sin of disobedience got them kicked out of the garden of Eden and plunged earth into total chaos. Sins are things that we think, say, and do, that make God angry. Like our first parents, Adam and Eve, every one of us are sinners.

People love their sins. We constantly make excuses for our sins. Many of us even blame God for our sins. Sin is the source of all evil and suffering in this world, Suffering is a natural result of the sinful state of mankind. Evil and suffering exist because of *our sins*, not because of God. Many of us think that God should destroy the sinful people in our lives, so that we can stop suffering. But if God were to destroy all the sinful people,

every one of us—including you and me—would be instantly vaporized by Him!

Maybe you feel that God would have to spare you because you are a "nice person." At one time or another, we *all* abandon God's laws, and make up our own moral laws, based on the lifestyle that we desire. It is in our sinful nature. We then deceive ourselves into believing that when we follow our own moral laws, rather than God's, that God will let us into heaven for our "sincerity." The truth is, when we abandon God's laws, and replace them with our own moral laws for our own convenience, we are rebelling against God, and are guilty of sin. We must come to God on *His* terms, not ours.

There are *thousands* of commandments that God has given us through His infallible word, the Bible. *All* of us constantly sin against God by breaking those commandments. And when tragedy comes, we sin by blaming Him. Have you ever done that?



People also allow their hearts and minds to be filled with evil thoughts. They condemn innocent people in their hearts without proof (unrighteous judgment). They crave sex as they lust for others (adultery of the heart), They lie, steal, hate people (murder of the heart), take drugs, experiment with magic (witchcraft), get drunk, cheat and take advantage of people. They disobey or disrespect their parents. They have perverted thoughts and deeds. They curse at people out loud or in their hearts. They blaspheme the name of God, and His Son, Jesus Christ. Instead of giving God thanks for the things that He does for them, they

ignore Him most of the time and constantly complain.

Instead of praying to the God of the Bible or His Son, Jesus Christ, they commit the sin of idolatry against God by giving credit to/praising/praying to false gods, ancestors, Mother Earth, "saints," angels, Mary, and all kinds of images and statues, "idols of gold, silver, brass, stone, and wood, which can neither see nor hear nor walk." (The Bible, Revelation 9:20) And in spite of all these evil sins that we do, we have the nerve to accuse God for our suffering, while He puts up with billions of sinners every single day!

The combined suffering of all mankind pales in comparison to the suffering that God Himself and His Son, Jesus Christ, went through. It happened like this: Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe, left the glories of heaven, to be born as a human baby, and lived a sinless, perfect life.



Special effects brushes courtesy of Redheadstock and KeReN-R

Then, out of His great love for us, He voluntarily allowed Himself to be brutally tortured, beaten, and put to death on a cross for the sins of every person on earth (past, present, and future). He took the punishment for our sins, so that you and I could have the opportunity to be forgiven of our sins, have a pure relationship with God, escape eternal suffering in the fires of hell, and experience eternal happiness in heaven! Three days after He died for our sins, He rose from the dead (came alive again), and is now ruling in heaven!



God once destroyed the world with water. It will soon be destroyed again by fire. (See the Bible, 2 Peter 3:5-7) Are you ready to stand before God?



Special effects brushes courtesy of Obsidian Dawn

To have your sins forgiven *instantly*, and to receive God's free gift of eternal life in heaven, here is all that you must do:

- Believe that Jesus died on the cross to pay the punishment for your sins.
- Believe that He rose from the dead (came alive again).
- Be willing to turn from *all* your sins.
- Sincerely pray this prayer:

*"Dear God, I now turn from all my sinful desires and make Jesus Christ my Lord forever. Please forgive my sins because of what Jesus did for me on the cross. Thank You for giving me Your free gift of eternal life in heaven right now. I pray in Jesus' name."*

Now talk to God and read the Bible every day—and obey it.

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