

Will the World's Pain and Suffering Ever End?

Revelation 21:4: (KJV) *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*



In all of the recorded history since Adam, there has never been a time when humanity did not know pain, sorrow, trauma and death. Never. These things are so ingrained into the fabric of our lives that the very idea of not knowing pain or suffering is a pipe dream. And death? It's a given. Everybody has death touch those around them as we all eventually will be swallowed up by it. If we try and have someone imagine a world without these things, the thought is often met with the classic response, "That would be great, but it sounds too good to be true!" Why do we bring up this hope that sounds like a fairy-tale happy ending? We bring it up because the Bible

explains it through many prophecies. We bring it up because we believe it is the true conclusion of the stated plan of God.

Let's briefly look at the reason we believe what is beyond belief to most. God's plan both allowed the misery of sin to exist and provided the cure for that misery.

Adam disobeyed God's command and that sin doomed his entire unborn family to be born in sin and to ultimately die:

Genesis 2:16-17: (YLT) ¹⁶*And Jehovah God layeth a charge on the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden eating thou dost eat; ¹⁷and of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou dost not eat of it, for in the day of thine eating of it—dying thou dost die.*



This is a straight-forward equation. Adam and Eve were allowed to eat from *every tree of the garden* except for one. If they ate of that tree, they were disobeying God's command and there was a consequence. The consequence was the beginning of the death process (*dying thou dost die*) to be upon them and upon their family. It's simple: do this and live – do that and die.



As a result of Adam's disobedience, we have the misery of sin which brings death everywhere, all the time:

Psalms 14:2-3: (NASB) ²*The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. ³They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.*

There is no one who does good, not even one because that is how we are born. We are all Adam's children, so we are all born into his sin.

With such an apparently hopeless state of affairs, we have **SEVEN POINTED QUESTIONS** to ask. Their scriptural answers will give us a foundation for understanding the height, depth, length and breadth of God's plan to alleviate ALL pain and suffering forever. This is what most people dream of! If there could only be a way that life could be lived without any pain and suffering, wouldn't that be awesome? This would be too good to be true.



These seven questions are ones many people ask when they are musing about God - when they are wondering about the misery and death of this world. God is supposed to be love. Let's see what the Scriptures have to say about our questions.



DOES GOD REALLY CARE ABOUT THE MASSIVE SUFFERING OF HIS CREATION?

Even when the consequences were handed down for the first sinful acts, God showed how He cared in the midst of His righteous judgment of Satan:

Genesis 3:15: (NASB) *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.*

God cares!



This is a confusing verse. Sin has done its damage, so how does God care?



In this verse, God is telling Satan he will be destroyed for his disobedience. There are consequences for that disobedience that go beyond the death sentence for Adam and his posterity. There is destruction for the one who brought the sin to humanity. This shows caring on God's part. It looks tiny here, but let's begin with that tiny caring and watch it build.

Let's go a little further. Long before Jesus came to earth, there were those who searched for God with godly righteousness in their hearts and knew He would be merciful to them because they wanted to serve Him.

Let's look at a few examples of those early worthy ancient individuals.



Genesis 6:8: (KJV) *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*

Through Noah, humanity was able to continue.

God cares!



What about the thousands and thousands who were destroyed in the flood? How does that show caring?



Whenever we see an action by God that shows salvation of some kind or another, it always represents the bigger picture of salvation for all those who have ever lived. The deliverance of Noah and his family from the Flood is one of the first pictures of salvation for all who have ever lived. It IS a picture of God caring. It can be hard to see unless we put this into the larger context of the salvation of all.

Let's look at another example of one who sought to serve God:

Genesis 22:15-18: (KJV) ¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, ¹⁶and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: ¹⁷That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; ¹⁸And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.



Through Abraham, humanity was given the promise of future blessing through a promised seed.

God cares!

But the skeptic might say, "People are still dying - there is no blessing yet - did God forget? How long ago was that promise, anyway?"

That promise is thousands of years old. The skeptic does not understand that the plan of God is built with very small building-block steps. God never makes a promise He does not keep. That promise may take thousands of years to unfold, but when it does, it is big. The promise that through Abraham's seed, all humanity will be blessed, is a dramatic step in showing God cares.

Here is another example of an ancient individual who sought to serve God.




Psalms 143:1-2: (NASB) ¹Hear my prayer, O LORD, give ear to my supplications! Answer me in Your faithfulness, in Your righteousness! ²And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living is righteous.

David repeats, *no man living is righteous*. David understands. Even though he knows he is not righteous, David asks God for mercy and God grants it to him.

Through David, the kingly authority of the promised seed was established.

God cares!

 How do we prove that? This verse does not say Jesus was from the line of David.



There are several prophecies about the Lion of the Tribe of Judah. When we look at the lineage of Jesus in the Bible, there is no doubt he came from the tribe of Judah - the line of David - the kingly line which will bring God's plan to fruition.

We are using this scripture as an example about one who had God's favor. David was a man after God's own heart, but he still knew he could not do right before God. But God showed mercy on him. This shows that God cares even though we lack the ability to stand before Him. He loves His creation even though we are imperfect and broken.

What was ultimately needed to bring man back to God was a just trade, to pay the price for Adam, and to pave the way for evil and death to be removed from the human experience:

1 Corinthians 15:21-23: (NASB) ²¹*For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at his coming.*

There is a comprehensiveness to Adam's sin. It covers everybody! *As in Adam all die - AND that comprehensiveness is matched by the value of Jesus' sacrifice - in Christ all will be made alive.*

The justice here - a man for a man, like an eye for an eye, reminds us of God's justice throughout the Old Testament.

God cares!

Jesus' inherent value to each and every person is stated and restated in Scripture:

Hebrews 2:9: (NASB) *But we do see him who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.*

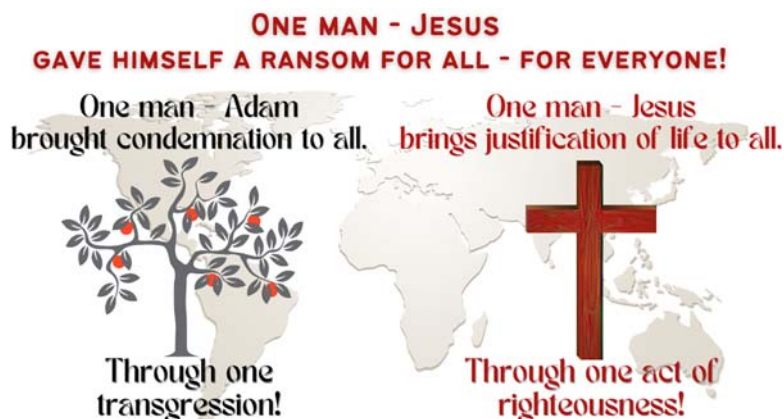


God cares!

This made us think back to Noah and the Flood. All who were destroyed are included in this *everyone*. If we look at the Flood as a stand-alone story or example, it does not tell the whole story. It tells only a little part of the story. These scriptures show there is so much more to it. God does care!

The Apostle Paul restates it in powerful detail to dissolve any confusion or doubt:

Romans 5:18-19: (NASB) ¹⁸*So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.*

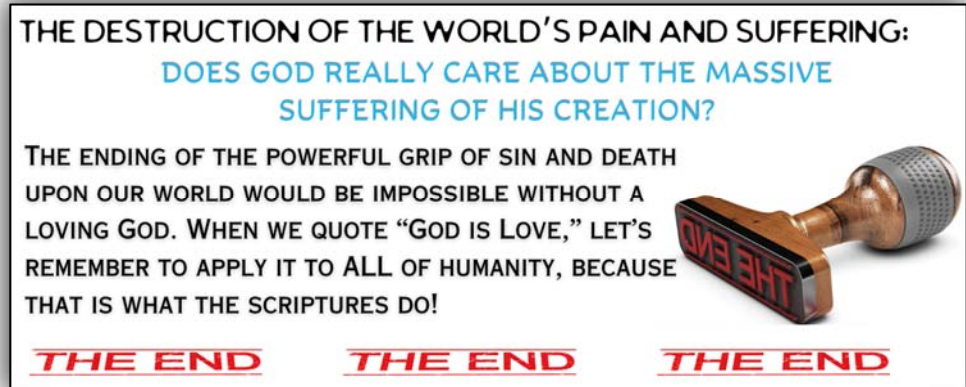


Romans 6:23: (NASB) *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



If we reread Romans 5:18-19 again with the concept that God cares, and include all the scriptures we laid out before, we see a powerful, resounding, panoramic view of how strong His caring is for every single man, woman and child who ever lived.

God cares!



GOD DOES CARE!

To realize the depth of God's care is inspiring and makes us want to look deeper into how His caring blossoms into action.

**Knowing that God cares is a good start, but there are still MANY questions!
How do we explain all the past centuries of sin?**

It would be quite unfair to announce that the Bible unequivocally declares God's love and care without addressing the obvious. If God is so loving, then why are sin and death still alive and well 2,000 years after Jesus came? The details of this answer are many, and we will briefly examine some of the key points as we continue with our questions.

People ask these questions because they look at God and they look at the world, and the two do not seem to make sense. The world seems to be so out of sorts and out of harmony with what we want God to be.



WHAT BENEFIT COULD THERE POSSIBLY BE FROM THE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF TRAUMATIC HUMAN EXPERIENCE?

Isn't this a little overboard? Haven't we had enough?

When we go through hard experiences like trials, sickness or trauma - sometimes we feel like we HAVE had enough. But it is not enough until it is completely done. Let's look at this question in pieces.

God proclaimed that sin and death would rule:

Ecclesiastes 3:10: (KJV) *I have seen the travail, which God hath given to the sons of men to be exercised in it.*

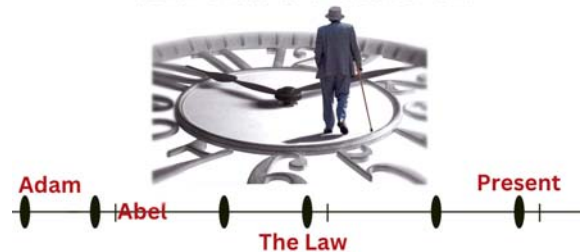


The *travail* - the experience of suffering - is a teaching experience. It might seem harsh to make the whole world suffer for thousands of years *to be exercised*, but let's develop this a little further.

Romans 5:12-14: (NASB) ¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned— ¹³for until the Law sin was in the world... ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses...

The apostle is specific in telling us that no matter where we are in the stream of time, the same conditions existed as a result of sin. The experience of sin and death took immediate hold on all right after Adam sinned and it brought us up to the time when the Law was put into place. Even before the written Law from God that He gave to Moses, there was the consequence of death. Remember, years after Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden, their son Cain murdered his brother Abel. It was this irrevocable situation that continued to get worse.

No matter where we are in the stream of time, death exists as a result of sin.



God then brought the Law through Moses. Why? What benefit could there possibly be?

Galatians 3:19,21-22: (YLT) ¹⁹Why, then, the Law? on account of the transgressions it was added, till the seed might come to which the promise hath been made, having been set in order through messengers in the hand of a mediator...



Why show everyone that they couldn't keep the Law?



It was important to show them that once they were born in sin, they were not able to rise to a level that was acceptable to God. He gave them a Law that if they could keep the Law, they could live forever. They needed to recognize it was something beyond their ability to keep perfectly.

This Law set things in order and was given through the mediator, Moses, to define the depth and power of sin. From Adam until Moses, men experienced sin, but now it was clearly defined.

Moses, as mediator between God and Israel, also pictured Jesus in his future mediatorial role of bringing righteousness to the world:

²¹the Law, then, is against the promises of God? —let it not be! for if a law was given that was able to make alive, truly by law there would have been the righteousness, ²²but the writing did shut up the whole under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ may be given to those believing.





The Law made it painfully clear that being right before God was impossible for imperfect humanity. We could not bring ourselves up to that height and that is why Jesus would eventually be needed.

But God wanted them to strive for the ideal. God said through the Law: "You are My children. If you want to honor your Father like you are supposed to do, here is how to do it." While they were under the Law, if they fell short and got up to try again, He would love them. He would forgive them and help them, bless them, encourage them, strengthen them and provide for them, because the effort was there even though they could not live up to it. When they started to PUSH THE LAW AWAY, they began to suffer other kinds of consequences.



In looking at what benefit could there possibly be in thousands of years of sin, we are laying out the process by which sin is understood and experienced to become a teaching tool that lasts through all eternity.

The power of generational experience cannot be understated:

Amos 3:1-2: (NASB) ¹Hear this word which the LORD has spoken against you, sons of Israel, against the entire family which He brought up from the land of Egypt: ²You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth; therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

The generational effect of sin also shows the inherited sins passed down from family members. This is another aspect of understanding "why thousands of years." The generational effect of sin is a growing, developing monstrosity. In our day and age, we have COVID with all of its mutations and changes, hitting us from different directions. This is what sin is. It is evil, dark and miserable, mutating through generations. We need to see its ugly face and all it produces.



Israel's sins, while being guided by God, echo the need to learn the sinfulness of sin for everybody - they are our example:

1 Corinthians 10:6-12: (NASB) ⁶Now these things happened as examples for us, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were... ⁸Nor let us act immorally, as some of them did... ⁹Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did... ¹⁰Nor grumble, as some of them did... ¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall.

Jonathan: I would rather learn from the mistakes of others than make them myself.

Personal or observed experience with sin provides a basis upon which to understand godliness. We have Israel to learn from and we can learn from each other.

Let's look at the value of this learning experience:

1 Timothy 2:3-6: (KJV) ³For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; ⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the **knowledge <1922>** of the truth. ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; ⁶Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Knowledge: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #1922 *epignosis*; from 1921; recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement



Why thousands of years? God has a plan for salvation and He *will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge* (the full discernment or disclosure) *of the truth*. How does humanity get full disclosure of truth? By understanding the consequences of sin... and the consequences of righteousness. By understanding the details of how it all works. This is why it has been allowed to go on for so long. It is a full disclosure and it takes humanity a long time. Look at how we have invented new ways to be sinful. Think of how things that are now somewhat commonplace would not have been thought of ages ago. Why does God allow this to be? So that we understand what we are capable of in a sinful circumstance.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD'S PAIN AND SUFFERING:

WHAT BENEFIT COULD THERE POSSIBLY BE FROM THE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF TRAUMATIC HUMAN EXPERIENCE?

THE EXPERIENCING OF SIN'S UTTER CHAOS AND DARKNESS IS VITAL FOR THE ETERNAL BENEFIT OF EVERY HUMAN BEING. HAVING THIS EXPERIENCE IN HAND IS PART OF THE FULL DISCLOSURE NEEDED FOR THEM TO, WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING, CHOOSE TO LIVE WITH ETERNAL RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LOYALTY TO GOD.



THE END

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We have been given full disclosure so we can see sin from every possible angle. That is why it takes such a long time. Thank God He allows it to take the time it needs so we do see sin from all angles.

IS IT THE EARTH'S DESTINY TO BE BURNED UP OR BE DESOLATE OR IS IT TO BE CONTINUALLY INHABITED?

There are many people who are concerned that we are abusing and destroying the earth if we go on as we are. These are legitimate concerns - what are we doing to the earth? Let's look at God's plan for the earth.

God's original proclamation was the earth would be the eternal home of humanity:

Genesis 1:28: (NASB) *God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*



Check out our CQ Kids videos:
WILL THE EARTH ALWAYS BE HERE?
christianquestions.com/youtube

Notice God did not give them thousands of years to do this. This was their domain. They had the tree of life, which brought life as long as they ate of it. God shows eternity in this plan.



Even after sin entered, there are many assurances that God's original proclamation still stands:

Isaiah 45:18: (NASB) *For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens, (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited), I am the LORD, and there is none else.*

He formed (created) it to be inhabited. This was God's intention – when God intends something, He does His intended action.

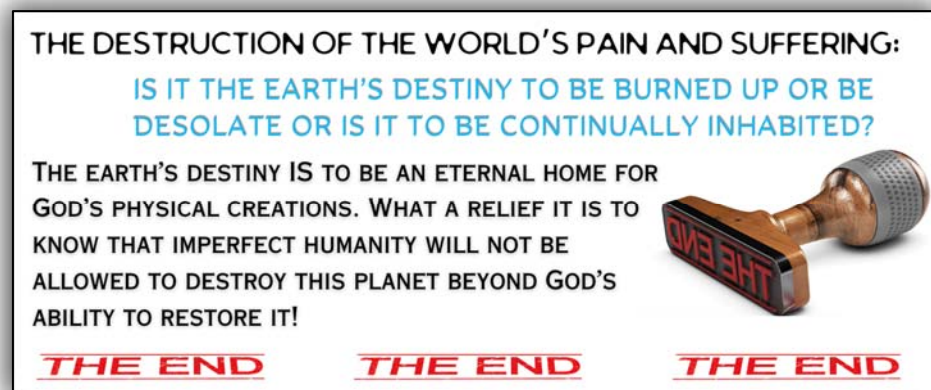
Ecclesiastes 1:4: (NASB) *A generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.*

That's a pretty long time, forever and ever. Amen.

Isaiah 35 is a future prophecy that shows the earth blossoming as the Garden of Eden did:

Isaiah 35:1-2: (NIV2011) *¹The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.*

Now that's good news. Obviously, this hasn't happened yet. It will be amazing to see the earth this way. We do not understand the capacity God's perfect earth will bring to us.



Learning lessons of righteousness from evil and the earth abiding forever!
What a great future God has planned for His human creation!

**God cares enough to allow sin as a teaching tool and preserve our planet!
What will the results be for humanity?**

This is where the questions and answers we are exploring begin to get exciting. So far, we have seen the big picture pieces being put in place and we can grasp the magnitude of God's plan. Now let's get personal and explore the questions that can plague the very heart of us all. What about fear? What about violence? How does God's plan handle these things?

Now we are getting into the real physical worries of our human lives, fear and violence.



WILL THERE EVER BE A TIME WHEN HUMANITY CAN LIVE IN A WORLD THAT IS FREE FROM FEAR?



Fear dissolves when a powerful sense of tangible security appears. Not a hope or a promise or blueprint for security, but an actual tangible security.

We are reading many prophecies which tell us God's plan with little explanation because they explain themselves. They tell us how God works:

Isaiah 25:7-9: (NASB) ⁷*And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is stretched over all nations.* ⁸*He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the LORD has spoken.*

In this verse, mankind is no longer a disappointment or disproved of God. They have a new standing. *On this mountain* (His government) *He swallows up* those things that have *covered up* or plagued the earth.

Here is mankind's attitude:

⁹*And it will be said in that day, Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.*

If we finally get this saving we were hoping for, that fear of whether or not we are going to be delivered is over. What a relief! That is the difference between now and then. Now is an age of faith. We look forward and say these prophecies will come true. WHEN THE PROPHECIES DO COME TRUE, PEOPLE WILL BE LIVING IN AN AGE OF SIGHT where they can see what God does for them. They will not need to be afraid; they will have tangible proof in front of them. It is a big deal when fear fades.



With that palpable sense of security present, all that has caused fear and anxiety will be drained away from the lives of people.

Let's think about the kinds of things that cause fear and anxiety within people.

Let's begin with the personal healing of the people:

Isaiah 35:5-10: (NASB) ⁵*Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.* ⁶*Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy...*



NO MORE FEAR OF NOT BEING WHOLE!



If someone is blind, deaf, lame or can't speak, they have inherent fear. Limitations bring fear. My wife has a severe hearing disability. Even though she has a Cochlear implant, there are things she doesn't hear well. And when we're out for a walk, I always worry that she's going to get hit by a car if she doesn't hear it coming, so I'm always on the lookout and making her aware of cars approaching.

Rick: In your own personal life, Jonathan, there is an extra level of fear on both your parts because of the lack of hearing, the lack of being whole. This Isaiah 35 prophecy says that the fear that comes from not being whole or having perfect faculties will be gone.



We then move to the healing of the earth:

...For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. ⁷The scorched land will become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; In the haunt (home) of jackals, its resting place, grass becomes reeds and rushes.

NO MORE FEAR OF THE EARTH BEING DESTROYED!



Fear is released when there is tangible evidence of absolute security. This prophecy is giving us tangible evidence in the coming perfection of our physical beings and in the structure of the earth.

We now move to the reconciling of the people:

⁸A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; These will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰and the ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.



NO MORE FEAR OF BEING SWEEPED AWAY BY THE POWER OF EVIL!

How many of us today live in fear of being swept away or taken out by the power of evil? These verses say there will be tangible security there. *No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it.* God will take care of it! This is thrilling to see how fear can be removed in God's plan in the future.

Another prophecy and we now move to the fear of humanity destroying humanity:

Micah 4:3-4: (NASB) *³And He will judge between many peoples and render decisions for mighty, distant nations. Then they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they train for war. ⁴...with no one to make them afraid, for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken.*

NO MORE FEAR OF WAR AND MUTUALLY-ASSURED DESTRUCTION!



We live in an age where we assure ourselves that because of the massive mighty military power that so many nations have, if one aggressor goes "nuclear" on another, the retaliation will wipe out both. These verses say that instead of mutually-assured destruction, there is mutually-assured growth, happiness, love and peace. The fear of that goes away under the reign of God. *Swords into plowshares... spears into pruning hooks - no more war.*

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD'S PAIN AND SUFFERING:


WILL THERE EVER BE A TIME WHEN HUMANITY CAN LIVE
IN A WORLD THAT IS FREE FROM FEAR?

THROUGH THESE PROPHECIES IT IS EASY TO SEE THAT GOD NOT ONLY DESTROYS FEAR, BUT HE DOES IT COMPREHENSIVELY AND COMPLETELY. FOR THOSE OF US WHO OFTEN EXPERIENCE THE "BUT WHAT ABOUT THIS!" KIND OF FEAR, GOD'S PLAN IS ESPECIALLY COMFORTING AS HE WILL REMOVE ALL OF OUR "WHAT ABOUT THIS" CONCERNS!

THE END

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THE END





So, the peaceable kingdom is literally at peace. The absence of fear is because of the tangible security. Trusted security makes fear go away.



WILL CRIME AND VIOLENCE EVER COME TO AN END?

When sin is not allowed, it is simply not allowed - it will be taken away in its entirety:

Psalms 37:8-11: (KJV) ⁸*Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. ⁹For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth. ¹⁰For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. ¹¹But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*

What does it mean that *evildoers shall be cut off*? The work of evil will not be allowed because of reconciliation. If the work of evil will not be allowed to continue because reconciliation is in process, *the meek can inherit the earth*. God will not give them the earth to have them become overwrought by fear and violence. He puts it in place so there will be an *abundance of peace* that comes from an absence of violence and crime. *The meek* are those who loyally follow God in His righteousness; they are not "push overs." It means they are standing firm in the righteousness of God.



Daniel 12:1-3: (NASB) ¹*Now at that time Michael (Jesus), the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. ²Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt (age-lasting - they will need to be made right before God by changing their ways). ³Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.*

The many here is the same as in the book of Romans that we read earlier which means ALL.

Judgment and justice will prevail. Crime and violence will have no place. They will be crowded out. If we do not feed the virus, the virus dies. It must have something to feed off of. If we do not feed it, it cannot grow. That is what this is describing - there is a clarity of truth and righteousness through Jesus' return, the setting up of his kingdom and through God's overwhelming righteousness. All people will be led to righteousness and for those who do not



want to follow, they will face the hard choice of living righteously or losing the privilege of life altogether.

Not only will humanity live without violence, but the rest of God's earthly creation will also be restored to the harmony of the original Garden of Eden:

Isaiah 65:24-25: (NASB) ²⁴*It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; and while they are still speaking, I will hear.* ²⁵*The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain, says the LORD.*



Why would someone NOT want to have a perfect, everlasting life?



Possibly because of greed or power or influence they used to have which has been taken away. It is hard to imagine when we see the magnitude these scriptures describe. We know God's plan is perfect, it is just, and it gives every individual exactly enough information, time and knowledge to be able to absorb it and make it their own, should they want to.

The meticulous detail with which God's plan will be carried out is breathtaking! How blessed are we, that God CARES SO MUCH!

God cares, evil has a teaching purpose, the earth remains forever, fear will be dissolved and crime will vanish! What else could there be?

The beauty of all this is that God's plan does NOT leave any stone unturned. No matter how common any aspect of the consequences of sin might be, He has it covered. For our last two questions, let's think about the Garden of Eden. Sin brought death and it broke the serenity of that perfect and peaceful place.



WILL DEATH EVER CEASE?

Death is powerful, but it is no match for the faithfully-risen Lord Jesus who will call all from their graves with the authority given him as he sits at the right hand of God's power:

John 5:25: (KJV) *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the son of God: and they that hear shall live.*

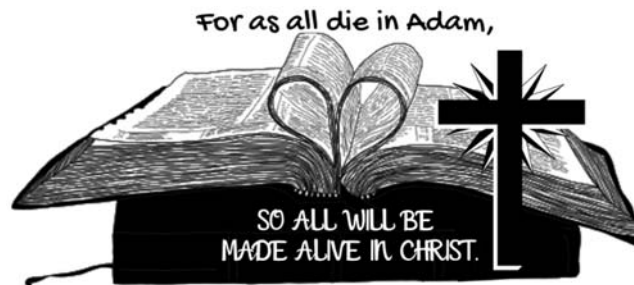




We have this beautiful promise that *the dead shall hear the voice of the son of God*. What a powerful voice that overrides the power of being dead and non-existent!

This extraordinary power was given to Jesus because of his ETERNAL LOYALTY to the Father:

1 Corinthians 15:20-26: (NASB) ²⁰*But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.* ²¹*For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead.* ²²*For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.* ²³*But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at his coming...*



We have the promise that all will be made alive in Christ. And we have the promise that the resurrection will not be haphazard, but will be in an orderly fashion so that God's plan can come to fruition exactly the way it is supposed to come to fruition. If we ask if death will ever cease, we see here that everyone is coming back from the grave.

Once the raising AND THOROUGH TESTING of all the world of mankind is completed, Jesus does what he has always done from time before counting:

²⁴*then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when he has abolished all rule and all authority and power.* ²⁵*For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.* ²⁶*The last enemy that will be abolished is death.*

Death does cease; it will be finished. That is such a powerful thought! There will be no more death for anyone! Those who chose death will remain dead, but no one else will die. That is what this scripture is telling us - death will be a thing of the past.



For more on those who choose death - the second death:



Identifying what unforgivable sins are and their consequences

Back to our theme scripture - this time with some of its context:

Revelation 21:1-4: (KJV) ¹*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.* ²*And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband (this new Jerusalem is a picture of the true church- faithful Christians).* ³*And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*



This is just exciting! It is building up to this big crescendo.

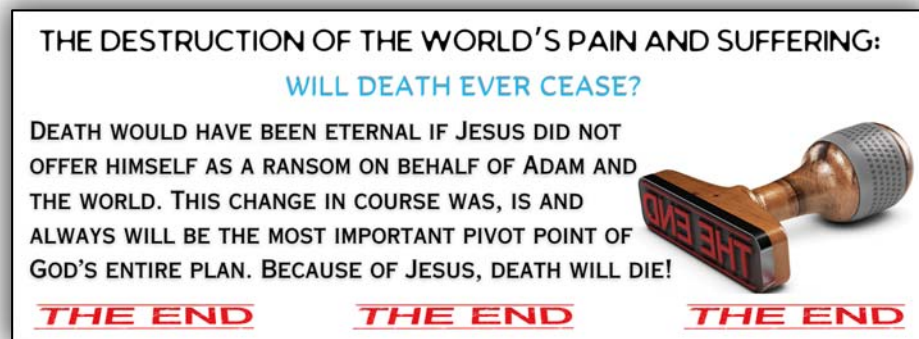
God completely sets the stage so ALL we have talked about can and will happen. He has meticulously put this plan together.

Think of all the prophecies in this episode that plainly state the plans of God summed up in this verse:

⁴And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

We have someone close to us that is in constant pain. Pain is so debilitating. It weighs on us mentally, spiritually and physically. Thank the Lord that pain, worry, anxiety, depression, trauma, sickness, disunion - all these things will disappear. *God shall wipe away all tears... there shall be no more death.*

Going back to our original question for this episode: *Will the world's pain and suffering ever end?* The myriad of scriptures we have talked about have laid out how it works, when it works and why it works. This is God's amazing plan!



What a powerful action - after going through these prophecies, we more fully appreciate and comprehend the greatness of the sacrifice of Jesus.

CAN WORLD PEACE EVER BE A REALITY?

Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the Monday before his crucifixion fulfilled this Zechariah prophecy and gave everyone a glimpse of what his eventual kingship would mean, *Peace on earth, good will towards men:*

Zechariah 9:9-10: (NASB) *⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; he is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey, even on a colt, the foal of a donkey. ¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem; and the bow of war will be cut off. And he will speak peace to the nations; and his dominion will be from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth.*

It is amazing that at Jesus' birth the angel announced "peace on earth," and here in this prophecy of Jesus riding into Jerusalem we get the same message - *peace to the nations.*



How prophecy, history and entering Jerusalem revealed Jesus' purpose

Think about this message of peace. We see it at Jesus' birth with the angels singing, *Peace on earth, goodwill toward men.* When he rides into Jerusalem one week before his crucifixion, we get this other message of peace. When he



is baptized in-between, John the Baptist says, *Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.* This resounding, repeated message is seen throughout all of Jesus' life, but also throughout all the scriptures that lead up to Jesus' life.

It makes us realize that God has a plan for *peace on earth, good will toward men.* Why do we just look at that as poetic rather than see the actual value of the words God gave that angel to say? We need to hold those words close to our hearts and remind ourselves that this is the will of God. It is coming.

How does world peace come into existence?

Through the necessary judgment of sin and the necessary reconciliation of all back to harmony with God's way:

Isaiah 2:4: (NASB) *And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.*

This is not the first time this was said in the Old Testament. God repeats things through different prophets at different times. We should tell ourselves that He has a message for us, and it is real.

Jesus the king, along with his true and faithful disciples, judge and reconcile the world.

This work is SO comprehensive that it produces an indestructible kingdom with unending peace:


Daniel 2:44: (NASB) *⁴⁴In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.*

It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms - referring to Satan's evil governments which will be destroyed because God's kingdom, with Jesus as our king, will lead the world throughout eternity. All nations will have the right leadership with no hidden agendas.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE WORLD'S PAIN AND SUFFERING:

CAN WORLD PEACE EVER BE A REALITY?

WORLD PEACE WILL SWEEP OVER THE ENTIRE EARTH IN DUE TIME AND NEVER AGAIN BE UNDONE. LET US BE PATIENT, KNOWING GOD'S PLANS TAKE TIME. LET US BE FAITHFUL, KNOWING THAT TRULY FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS WILL PLAY A SIGNIFICANT FUTURE ROLE. LET US BE LOVING, KNOWING THAT GOD LOVES ALL, EVEN THE WORST OF SINNERS. AND LET US BE VOCAL SO WE CAN BRING HOPE FOR THE FUTURE TO THIS FEARFUL AND SUFFERING WORLD!



THE END
THE END
THE END

Share the good news!



Good news of great joy which shall be to all people. When we hear those words now, what do we think of since we have looked at all these prophecies? Unto you is born this day in the city of David is a savior which is Christ the Lord. He saves ALL from the world's pain. Its suffering, hidden agendas, sin, death, destructiveness, trauma and trials all go away. Why? Because that has always been the plan of God and it has always been written in the holy word of God. Listen to God's word, believe and change your life.

*So, will the world's pain and suffering ever end?
For Jonathan, Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

All quoted scriptures are from the 1995 version of NASB unless otherwise indicated.



Join us next week for our podcast on April 24, 2023
Ep. 1278: What does it Feel Like to Have Real Faith?

Study Questions follow



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Study QUESTIONS

Ep. 1277: Will the World's Pain and Suffering Ever End?

<https://christianquestions.com/current-events/1277-pain-and-suffering/>

See:  **CQ Rewind**
SHOW NOTES

1. Does God really care about the massive suffering of His creation? How does God show He cares for all people through each of these ancient individuals?
 - Satan - Genesis 3:15
 - Noah - Genesis 6:8
 - Abraham - Genesis 22:15-18
 - David - Psalms 143:1-2
 - Jesus - 1 Corinthians 15:21-23, Hebrews 2:9, Romans 5:18-19, 6:23
2. What benefit could there possibly be from the thousands of years of traumatic human experience? What is the purpose of:
 - a. Travail - Ecclesiastes 3:10, Romans 5:12-14
 - b. The Law - Galatians 3:19-22
 - c. Recognizing generational experience - Amos 3:1-2
 - d. Using Israel's sin as our example - 1 Corinthians 10:6-12
 - e. Experience with sin and death - 1 Timothy 2:3-6
3. Is it the earth's destiny to be burned up, to be left desolate or to be continually inhabited?
 - a. What did God declare? - Genesis 1:28
 - b. What does Isaiah 35:1-2 tell us about God's plan for the earth?
4. Will there ever be a time when humanity can live in a world that is free from fear? Explain:
 - a. The benefit of tangible security, comparing the "age of faith" vs. "age of sight" - Isaiah 25:7-9
 - b. Three fears that drain away because of this security - Isaiah 35:5-10, Micah 4:3-4
5. Will crime and violence ever come to an end? Describe:
 - a. The fate of sin in God's kingdom - Psalms 37:8-11
 - b. The abolishing of crime and violence - Daniel 12:1-3
 - c. The restoration to Eden - Isaiah 65:24-25
6. Will death ever cease? Expand on the details of:
 - a. The one who calls out the dead and why is he the one to do this - John 5:25, 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
 - b. How resurrection answers this question - 1 Corinthians 15:20-26
 - c. The completion of God's plan - Revelation 21:1-4
7. Can world peace ever be a reality? Explain:
 - a. How Jesus is involved - Zechariah 9:9-10
 - b. The description of world peace - Isaiah 2:4
 - c. The future work of God's kingdom under Jesus, the king - Daniel 2:44
8. Describe what "Good news of great joy which shall be to all people" means to you.