DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

BOOKLET 4

WHY SO MUCH PAIN AND SUFFERING?

UNDERSTANDING SUFFERING
AND FINDING HOPE
IN A BROKEN WORLD

- WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?
- WHERE IS GOD IN MY PAIN?
- WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH?
- HOW CAN I FIND HOPE?

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WELCOME TO THE
DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

Real Questions. Biblical Answers. Lasting Hope.

Life raises questions that are not always easy to answer.

Why am I here?, Does God really exist? , Can I trust the Bible?, Why does God allow suffering?, Can my life really change? Is there hope when I feel trapped, broken, or uncertain about the future?

The **Discovering Hope Series** was created to help people explore questions like these through the truth of God's Word.

You need not be a Bible scholar or have all the answers.

And you do not need to have everything in your life figured out before you begin.

Each booklet focuses on a different question, struggle, or biblical truth and is designed to help you discover what the Bible actually says.

As you read, take your time.

Consider the Scriptures for yourself.

Ask questions, Pray.

And most importantly, allow God to speak to your heart through His Word.

The Bible is more than a book of religious teachings. It reveals a God who loves us, seeks us, and desires to transform our lives.

Whatever brought you to this booklet, we hope it becomes one more step in your journey toward discovering the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

There is hope. There are answers.

And God may be closer than you think.

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WHY SO MUCH PAIN AND SUFFERING?

Introduction

Few questions are asked more often than this one:
If God is loving and all-powerful, why is there so much pain and suffering in the world?
Why do children suffer?
Why do accidents happen?
Why do diseases take loved ones?
Why do wars destroy nations?
Why do innocent people experience tragedy?
Many people have struggled with these questions. Some have even walked away from their faith because they could not reconcile suffering with the existence of God.
These are not easy questions.
No single booklet can answer every concern.
Yet the Bible provides important truths that help us understand why suffering exists and where hope can be found.

1. GOD CREATED A GOOD WORLD

The Bible begins with a perfect creation.
Genesis 1:31
"And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good."
God did not create a world filled with death, disease, violence, addiction, hatred, and suffering.
His creation was good.
The suffering we see today was not God's original design.

Something changed.

2. WHAT WENT WRONG?

The Bible teaches that sin entered the world through human disobedience.

Romans 5:12

"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men..."

When humanity rebelled against God, the consequences affected all creation.

Death entered.

Suffering entered.

Brokenness entered.

The world we live in today is not the world God originally created.

It is a fallen world.

3. THE REALITY OF HUMAN CHOICE

One of God's greatest gifts to humanity is free will.

We have the ability to choose.

We can choose good.

We can choose evil.

We can choose obedience.

We can choose rebellion.

Many of the world's greatest tragedies result from human choices.

Wars are not caused by God.

Murder is not caused by God.

Abuse is not caused by God.

Corruption is not caused by God.

Human beings often use their freedom to harm themselves and others.

If God removed all possibility of evil, He would also remove the freedom to choose.
Love that is forced is not truly love.

4. THE LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING
God established laws in creation.
There are physical laws.
There are moral laws.
There are spiritual laws.
One of those laws is the principle of sowing and reaping.
Galatians 6:7

"Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap."
Actions have consequences.
Choices have consequences.
Sometimes suffering is the direct result of sinful decisions.
Many people want a world without consequences.
But consequences are part of how God governs His creation.
Just as gravity affects everyone equally, moral and spiritual laws also affect everyone.

5. THERE ARE THINGS GOD CANNOT DO
That statement surprises many people.
Yet the Bible teaches that God's character places limits on what He will do.
Numbers 23:19

"God is not a man, that he should lie..."
God cannot lie.
Psalm 92:15

"He is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him."
God cannot sin.
Malachi 3:6
"For I am the Lord, I change not..."
God does not change.
These truths make the universe trustworthy.
If God could lie, truth would be meaningless.
If God could act unrighteously, justice would disappear.
If God constantly changed, nothing would be dependable.
The very things people sometimes question are actually reasons we can trust Him.

6. WHY DOESN'T GOD STOP EVERYTHING?

Many people ask:
"Why doesn't God stop every tragedy?"
"Why doesn't God prevent every crime?"
"Why doesn't God remove every consequence?"
If God immediately prevented every wrong action, human freedom would disappear.
The world would become a place where genuine choices no longer existed.
God often warns.
God often convicts.
God often provides opportunities to change.
Yet people still choose their own paths.
The tragedy is not that God never speaks.
The tragedy is that people often refuse to listen.

7. WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

This question has troubled people for thousands of years.

Even Job asked it.

The Bible teaches that suffering is not always the result of personal wrongdoing.

Sometimes righteous people suffer.

Sometimes faithful people face tragedy.

Sometimes answers are not immediately available.

The book of Job reminds us that we do not always see the full picture.

God sees what we cannot see.

Isaiah 55:8-9

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

We may not always understand God's ways.

But we can trust His character.

8. GOD SUFFERS WITH US

Christianity teaches something unique.

God did not remain distant from human suffering.

He entered it.

Jesus experienced:

• Rejection
• Betrayal
• False accusations
• Physical suffering
• Grief
• Death

Isaiah 53:3

"He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sor-

rows, and acquainted with grief..."
God understands suffering because He experienced it.
When we suffer, we do not suffer alone.

9. HOPE BEYOND THIS LIFE
This world is not the end of the story.
The Bible teaches that a day is coming when suffering will end.
Revelation 21:4

"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..."
The Christian hope is not merely that life will improve.
The Christian hope is that God will ultimately make all things right.
Justice will come.
Healing will come.
Evil will end.

10. GOD'S ANSWER TO SUFFERING: JESUS CHRIST
The ultimate answer to suffering is not a philosophy.
It is a Savior.
Jesus Christ came to rescue humanity from the consequences of sin.
John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..."

God's response to a broken world was not abandonment.
It was redemption.
Through Jesus Christ we can receive:
• Forgiveness
• Peace
• Hope
• Strength
• Eternal life

Conclusion
Many people spend their lives looking for reasons God is wrong.
Few spend time considering the reasons He is right.
The Bible teaches that suffering exists because we live in a fallen world damaged by sin.
Yet God has not abandoned humanity.
He offers help for today.
Strength for tomorrow.
And hope for eternity.
One day suffering will end forever.
Until then, God walks with us through it.
The question is not merely:
"Why is there suffering?"
The greater question is:
"Will I trust the God who offers hope in the middle of it?"