## Reasonable Doubt: Real People...Real Questions! How Can a Good God Allow Suffering? Selected Scripture

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## The Question:

How Can a *Good God* Allow <u>E v i I</u> and <u>S u f f e r i n g</u> in the World?

## Who's to Blame?

- Evil and suffering are the result of a <u>F a I I e n</u> World Two Kinds of Evil:
  - Natural = Creation (Gen 3:17-18; Rom 8:19-22)
  - $\rightarrow$  Moral = Humanity (Rom 3:10-18; 2 Tim 3:1-8)
- God Is Not the Source of Evil
  - ➤ He is the *source* of all <u>q o o d</u> (Ps 107:8; 119:68; Jas 1:17)
  - God can <u>u s e</u> evil and suffering for <u>H i s g l o r y</u>
     (1 Cor 7:10; 2 Cor 12:7-10; Rom 5:3-5, 8:28; Ex 14:4,17-18)

## What is the Purpose?

- To Bring the *Power* of God's <u>Presence</u> to us
  - The answer not <u>s o m e t h i n q</u>, but <u>s o m e o n e</u> (Job 38:1-42:6)
  - The answer is <u>G o d</u> Himself in <u>J e s u s</u> <u>C h r i s t</u>! (Matt 1:23; John 1:1-3,14; 2 Cor 5:18-19)
  - > Pain and suffering:

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Leads us to <u>r e p e n t a n c e</u>
(2 Cor 7:8-11; 2 Chron 32:24-26)
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Has the *potential* for <u>g o o d</u> (Gen 50:20; Ps 119:67; Heb 5:7-8)

Resulted in <u>G o d</u> Himself <u>b e a r i n g</u> our pain (lsa 53; John 1:29; Acts 3;18, 17:3, 26:23; Heb 2:9, 13:12; 1 Pet 2:24)

Is only <u>t e m p o r a r y</u>
(2 Cor 4:17-18; 2 Pet 3:12-13; Rev 21:1-5,27)