

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Romans 5:3 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.

Psalm 119:71 It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Mark 14:33 And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled.³⁴ And he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."

Luke 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Mark 14:36 And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Hebrews 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Romans 8:22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

'Passion for Life' Why do good people suffer?

Introduction

1. The existence of suffering is not necessarily an argument against God

➤ The traditional argument

1. An all-powerful God would be able to end suffering
2. An all-good God would want to end suffering
3. Suffering exists, therefore all-powerful all-good God does not

➤ A Christian response

2. In Jesus God suffers with us

➤ Jesus' physical sufferings

➤ Jesus' spiritual sufferings

➤ Implications for our suffering

3. In Jesus God suffers for us to bring us hope

➤ suffering is a result of sin

➤ Jesus' death and resurrection brings hope

Conclusion