

Mis-Understanding

The way
culture views
christianity.

Scriptures from New International Version unless noted

Doesn't Suffering Disprove a Loving, All-Powerful God?

"For hardship does not spring from the soil, nor does trouble sprout from the ground. Yet man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward."

Job 5:6-7

"If only my anguish could be weighed and all my misery be placed on the scales! It would surely outweigh the sand of the seas... The arrows of the Almighty are in me, my spirit drinks in their poison..."

Job 6:2-4

He was... a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.

Isaiah 53:3

KEY POINT:

Our outrage at unjust suffering actually points toward the existence of God.

"My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? Of course I could have given up my idea of justice by saying it was nothing but a private idea of my own. But if I did that, then my argument against God collapsed too - for the argument depended on saying that the world was really unjust, not simply that it did not happen to please [me]... atheism turns out to be too simple." – C.S. Lewis

Two primary ways of suffering:

Suffering from
Suffering with

"Put your finger here; see my hands."

John 20:27

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs - heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.

Romans 8:16-17

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me."

Matthew 25:40

Therefore we do not lose heart... For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

2 Corinthians 4:16-17