



WHY DOES GOD ALLOW EVIL & SUFFERING?

DR. BRENT STRAWSBURG

LESSON #1: DON'T TRY TO _____ THE _____ QUESTION

*⁴Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”
Luke 13:4-5 NIV*

LESSON #2: DON'T IGNORE THE _____ PROBLEM OF _____

*³²When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”³³ When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.
John 11:32-33 NIV*

DEFENSE #1: THE _____ WILL DEFENSE

*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.
Matthew 23:37 NIV*

DEFENSE #2: THE _____ WAY DEFENSE

*Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.
John 1:12 NIV*



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WHAT ABOUT NATURAL DISASTERS & OTHER TRAGEDIES?

Far too often a watching world believes God is morally responsible for things like earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, personal tragedies, and diseases (natural evil). Whether it was the 2005 earthquake in India and Pakistan that killed 80,000 or the tsunami that hit Sri Lanka, Thailand, and India killing approximately 240,000 many observers struggle with God’s inaction in our fallen world. As one newsman, commenting on Hurricane Katrina, put it, *“If this world is the product of intelligent design, then the designer has some explaining to do.”*

CERTAIN DISASTERS AND TRAGEDIES ARE BUILT INTO THE VERY _____ OF LIFE

- 1) NATURAL PROCESSES PRODUCE _____ EVIL
- 2) NATURAL EVIL IS _____ WITH MORAL EVIL
- 3) NATURAL EVIL IS GENERATED BY CERTAIN _____ AND _____ REALITIES

“The image Jesus left with the world, the cross, the most common image in the Christian religion, is proof that God cares about our suffering and pain. He died of it. Today the image is coated with gold and worn around the necks of beautiful girls, a symbol of how far we can stray from the reality of history. But it stands, unique among all the religions of the world. Many of them have gods. But only one has a God who cared enough to become a man and to die.”

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