

Where is God in all the Suffering?

The Genesis account

In Genesis we read that God created the world perfectly and made humans relational beings, which meant we have free will. The first humans chose to disobey God and turn away from him meaning relationships between each other, God and the planet were broken. Suffering, pain and death entered into the world. (Genesis 1-3)

The Bible is very real about suffering.

It is amazing that God has chosen to include so much in the Bible about suffering! We can be assured he knows about suffering and cares about it. We can use the words from the Bible, particularly the Psalms to articulate our pain to God when we suffer.

God has chosen to enter into our suffering and bear the suffering *with* and *for* us.

We have a God who has chosen to 'dwell' with us (John 1:14). He is not distant, letting us get on with our suffering alone but he is with us. Jesus' suffering on the cross is central to our faith, and his suffering was also for us, so that we could have a relationship with God once again.

God promises that there will one day be an end to suffering

The book of Revelation speaks of the New Heaven and New Earth where we will one day live if we put our trust in Jesus. Every tear will be wiped away and there will be no more pain (Revelation 21). This is our greatest hope in times of suffering.

Book recommendations:

Tumbling Sky: Psalm devotionals for weary souls - *Matt Searles*

Where is God in all the suffering? - *Amy Orr-Ewing*

The Reason for God - *Timothy Keller*

Hope when it hurts: Biblical reflections to help you grasp God's purpose in your suffering - *Kirsten Wetherell & Sarah Walton*

Where is God in a coronavirus world? - *John Lennox*