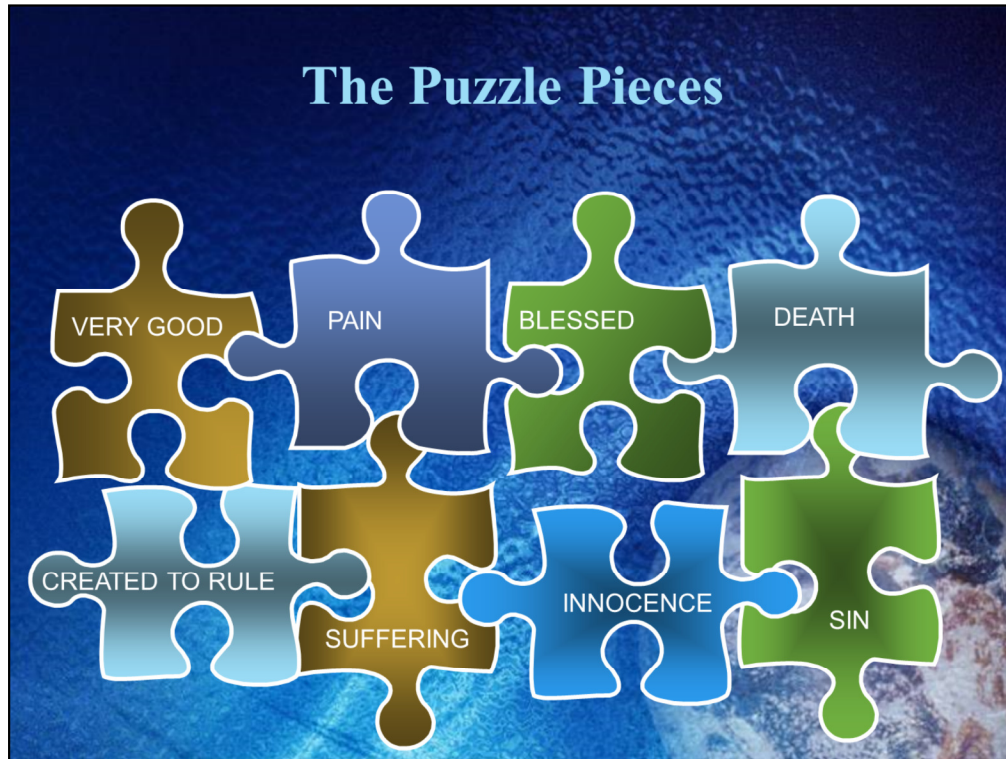


I'm not a philosopher. I'm not a theologian. I don't live with chronic pain. I'm a nurse. Nurses work in environments where pain and suffering are ubiquitous. Nurses are confronted with death – expected and unexpected. People look to nurses for care and support when they are in pain, are suffering, or dying. Nurses frequently hear and just as frequently ask the “Why?” questions about pain, suffering, and death.

This presentation is a look at the puzzle of pain through my eyes. I'll be exploring questions that have haunted me as a nurse and as a Christian. The questions that puzzle me may not be the questions that puzzle you. You may put the puzzle pieces together differently than I do. That's OK.



Here are some of the puzzle pieces from the first three chapters of Genesis:

A very good creation

Man experiences pain.

God blessed Adam.

All die.

Man created to rule.

Life characterized by suffering.

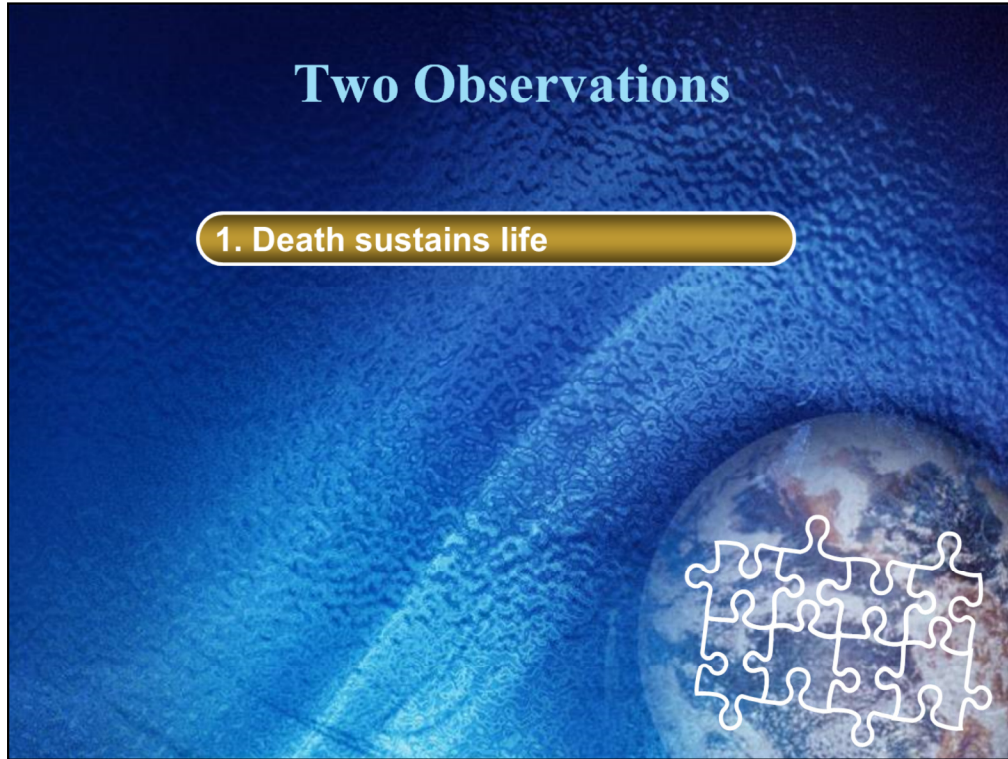
Adam and Eve created morally innocent.

Man is characterized by sin.

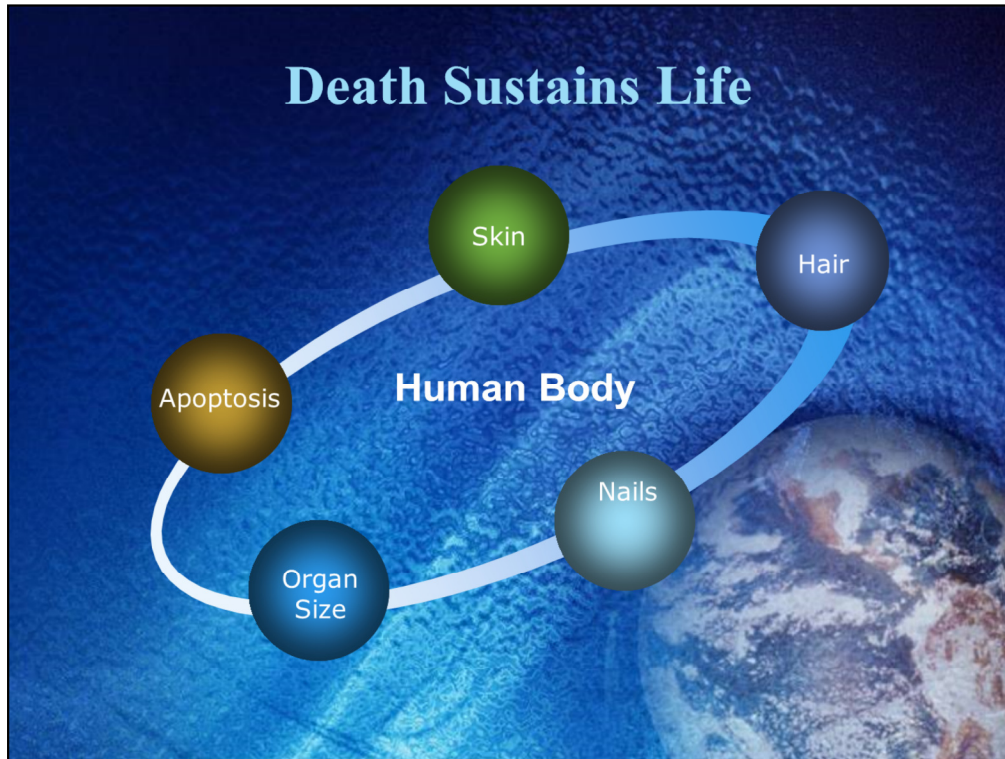
There have been many attempts by Christians to put the puzzle together.

We are going to look at some of them.

But before we work on the puzzle, I'd like to make two observations about pain, suffering and death.



As a nurse, I can assure you that this is true!  
Take a look in the mirror!



A look in the mirror shows that we are surrounded, bounded, crowned, and protected with dead cells!

**Skin:** The top layer of skin is dead! We shed thousands of skin cells every day, so skin must be replaced about every 35 days. By the time you reach 20 you will replace your skin cells 200 times.

**Hair:** The hair you combed this morning is quite dead. Only the hair root is alive. According to Proverbs, hair is a crown. You are crowned with death! (Proverbs 16:31)

**Nails:** The dead armor shielding sensitive fingertips.

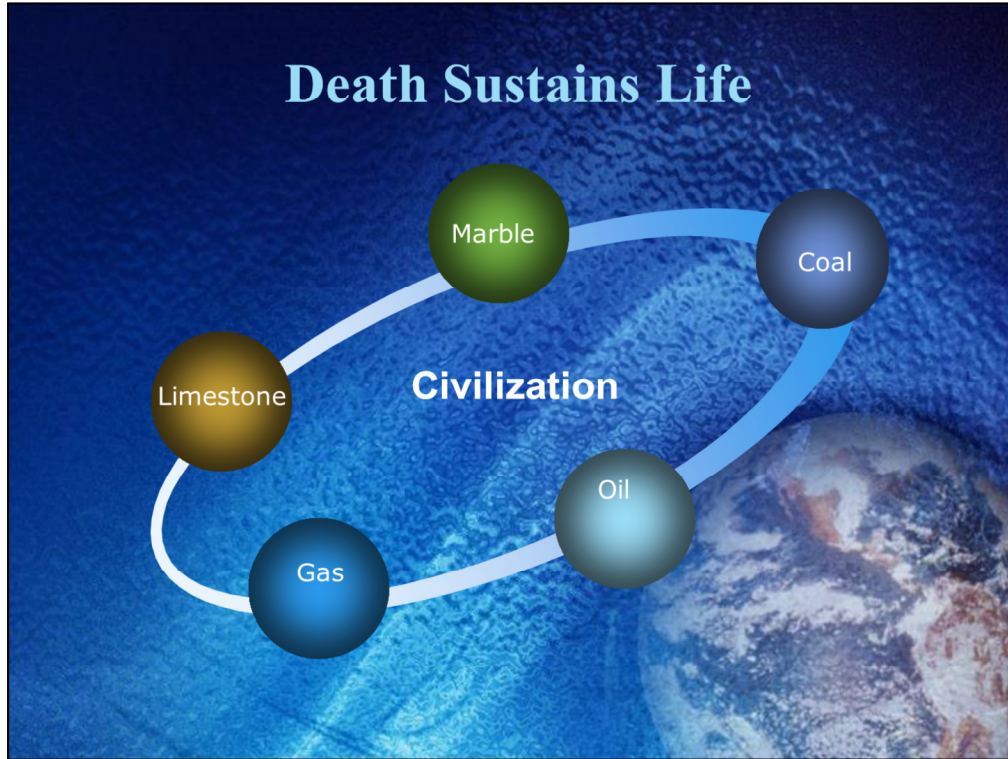
A look inside that dead exterior shows the great extent to which death sustains life.

The health of the living parts of your body depends on its ability to replace millions of cells each second. You have 25 trillion red blood cells that furiously race around your body. They wear out and disintegrate after 120 days. You replace them at a rate of 3 million new cells every second.

Not all cells die because they wear out. In order to keep your organs the right size, when new cells form old cells must die. Ten billion new cells are formed each day through cell division. That means ten billion old cells must die each day. How do they die? They commit suicide!

Every cell in your body contains instructions to make its own death cocktail. In fact, many of your genes are involved in programmed cell death, or cell suicide, or apoptosis.

Cell suicide plays a crucial role in sustaining life by eliminating old cells, unnecessary cells, and unhealthy cells.

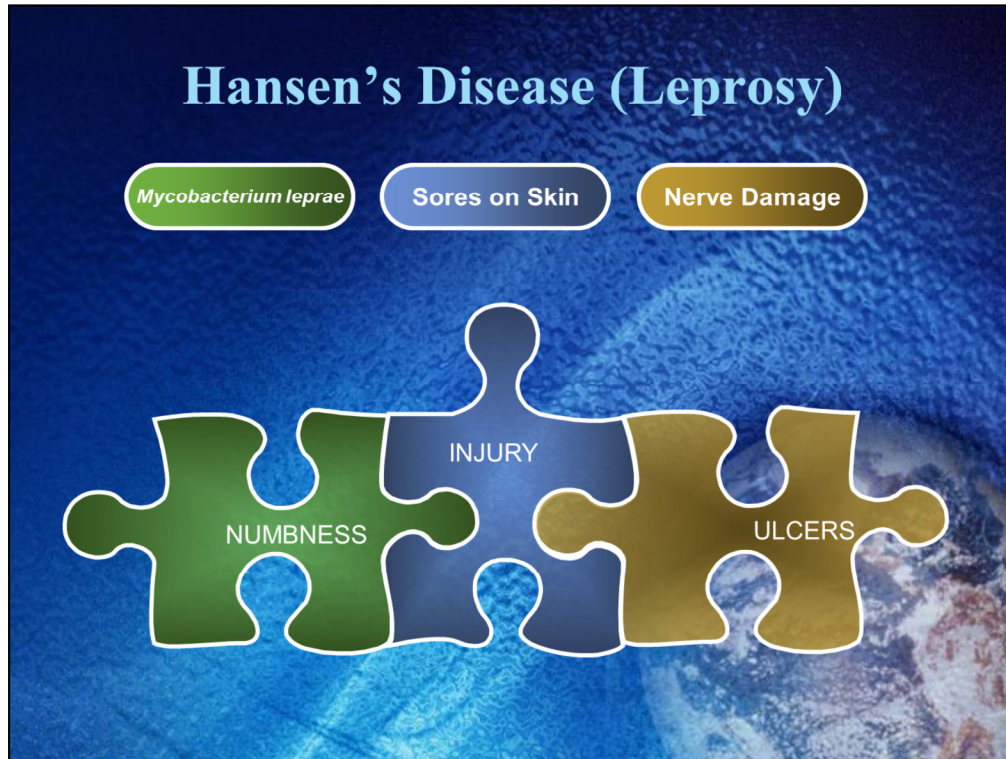


Death sustains the life of civilizations.

If it weren't for plant and animal death, we wouldn't have limestone, marble, coal, oil, gas, or peat.



Again, as a nurse, I can assure you that this is true!  
What would happen if you had no sensation of physical pain?  
Pain signals injury.  
Pain guards injuries, giving them a chance to heal.  
When there is no feeling of pain, injuries go unnoticed.  
The injured area is injured again, doesn't heal, and ulcers form.  
This is what happens in Hansen's' disease.



Medline Plus:

Leprosy is caused by the organism *Mycobacterium leprae*.

Not very contagious.

Long incubation period.

100 cases per year are diagnosed in the U.S.

Effective medications exist.

Isolation of victims in "leper colonies" is unnecessary.

The bacteria causes:

Sores on the skin.

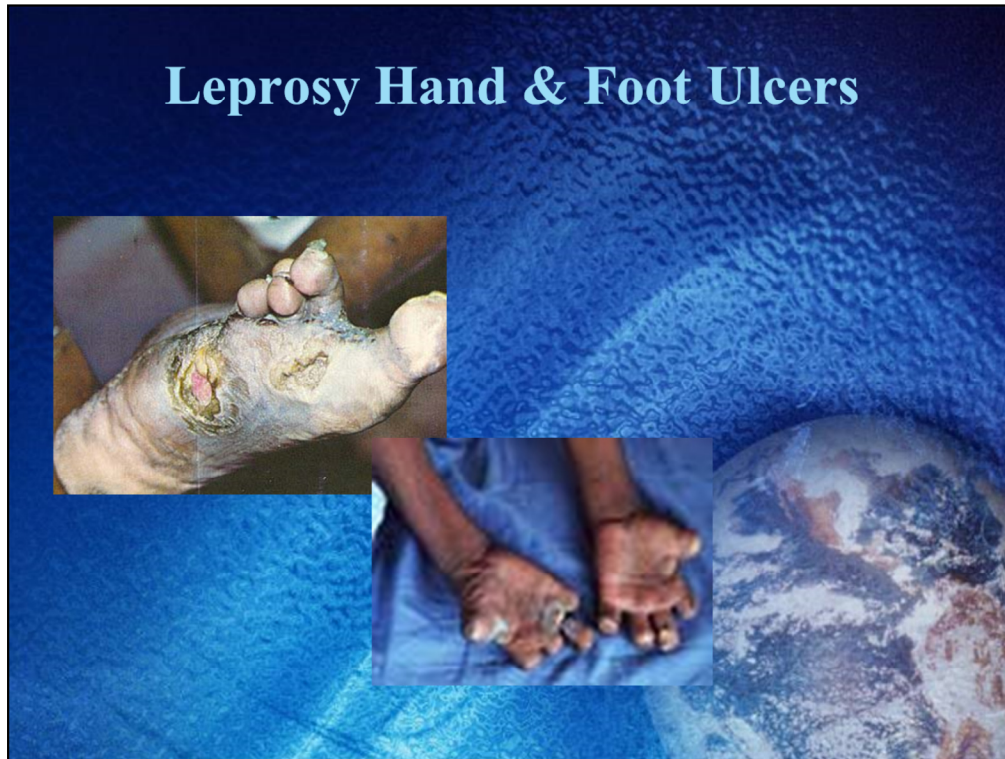
Nerve damage in the extremities.

Muscle weakness.

Sensory loss in the skin.

People with long-term leprosy may lose the use of their hands or feet due to repeated injury resulting from lack of sensation.

If you are squeamish, you might not want to look at the next slide.



These lepers had no sensation of pain to signal injury, to guard injuries, giving them a chance to heal.

\*\*\*\*\*

Recommended reading: *The Gift of Pain* by Paul Brand and Philip Yancey (Book description on Amazon.com: “A WORLD WITHOUT PAIN? Can such a place exist? It not only can—it does. But it’s no utopia. It’s a colony for leprosy patients: a world where people literally feel no pain, and reap horrifying consequences.”)

Photo credits: L.K. Bhutani, Color Atlas of Dermatology, 1986 and <http://www.who.int/tdr/diseases/leprosy/default.htm>





National Diabetic Information Clearinghouse:

Diabetic Neuropathies is a family of nerve disorders caused by diabetes.

Affects 50 percent of diabetics.

The highest rates among:

People who have been diabetic for at least 25 years.

Over 40 years of age.

Uncontrolled high blood sugar.

Overweight, high cholesterol.

High blood pressure.

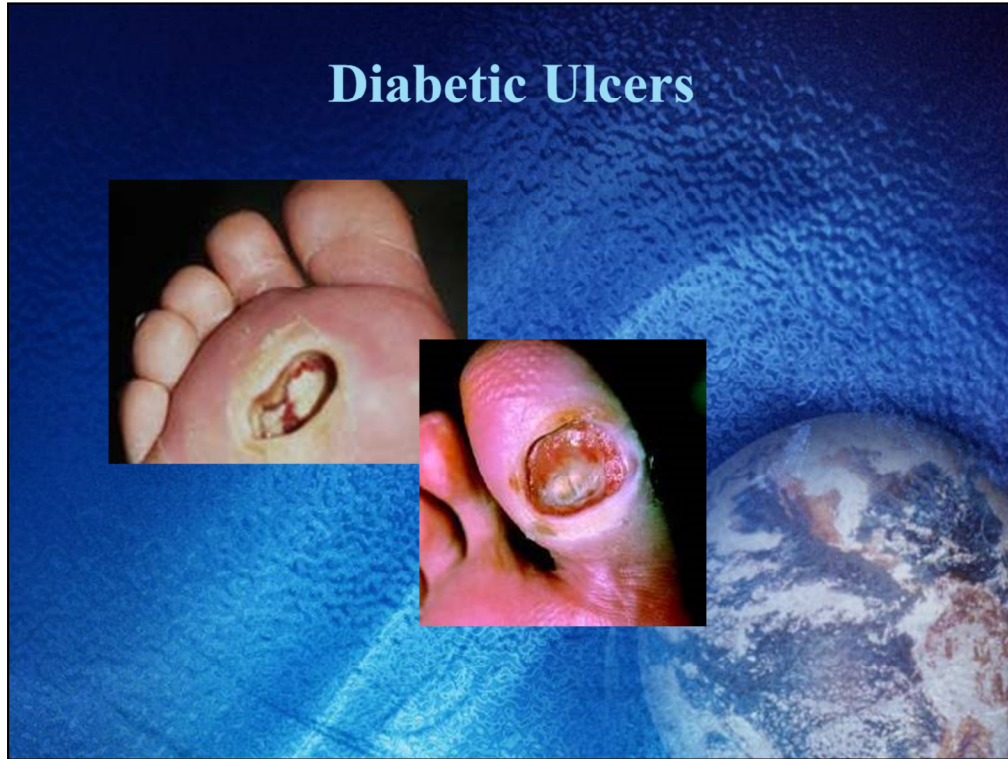
High blood sugar and lifestyle contribute to:

Nerve damage throughout the body, most commonly in the arms and legs.

Numbness and sometimes pain and weakness in the hands, arms, feet, and legs.

Diabetics may lose the use of their feet due to repeated injury resulting from lack of sensation.

If you are squeamish, you might not want to look at the next slide.

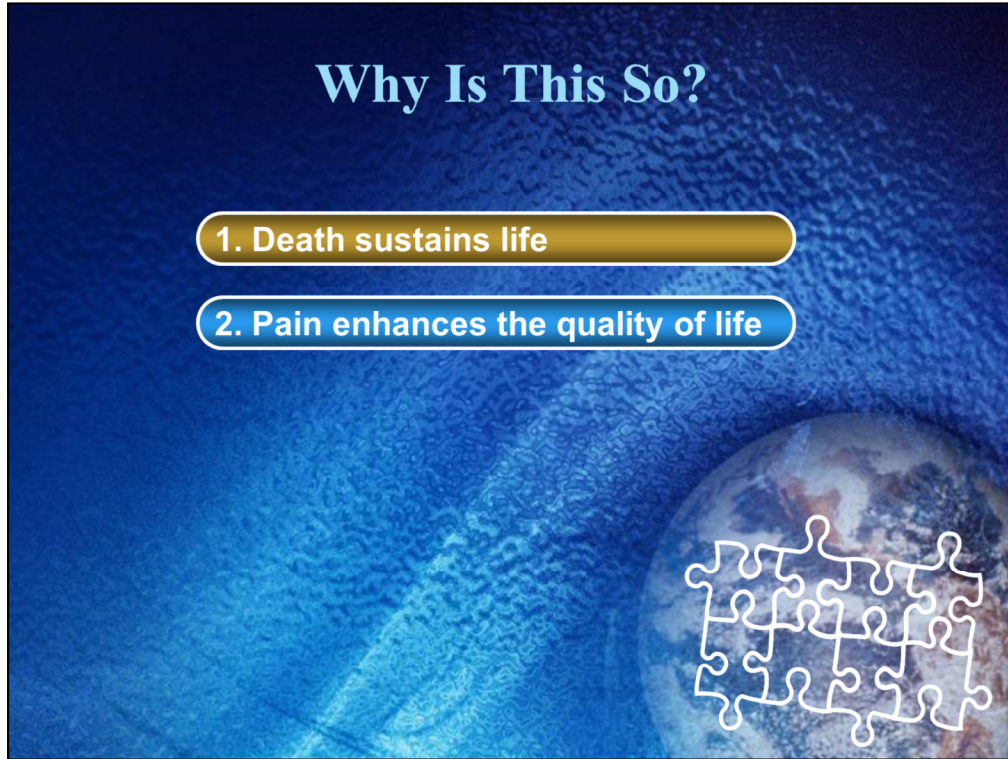


These diabetics had no sensation of pain to signal injury, to guard injuries, giving them a chance to heal.

\*\*\*\*\*

For information on foot care see the American Diabetes Association:  
<http://www.diabetes.org/living-with-diabetes/complications/foot-complications/foot-care.html>

Photo credits: <http://www.medihealthdme.com/education/images/diabetes-foot.jpg> and  
[http://www.faqs.org/health/images/uchr\\_01\\_img0064.jpg](http://www.faqs.org/health/images/uchr_01_img0064.jpg)

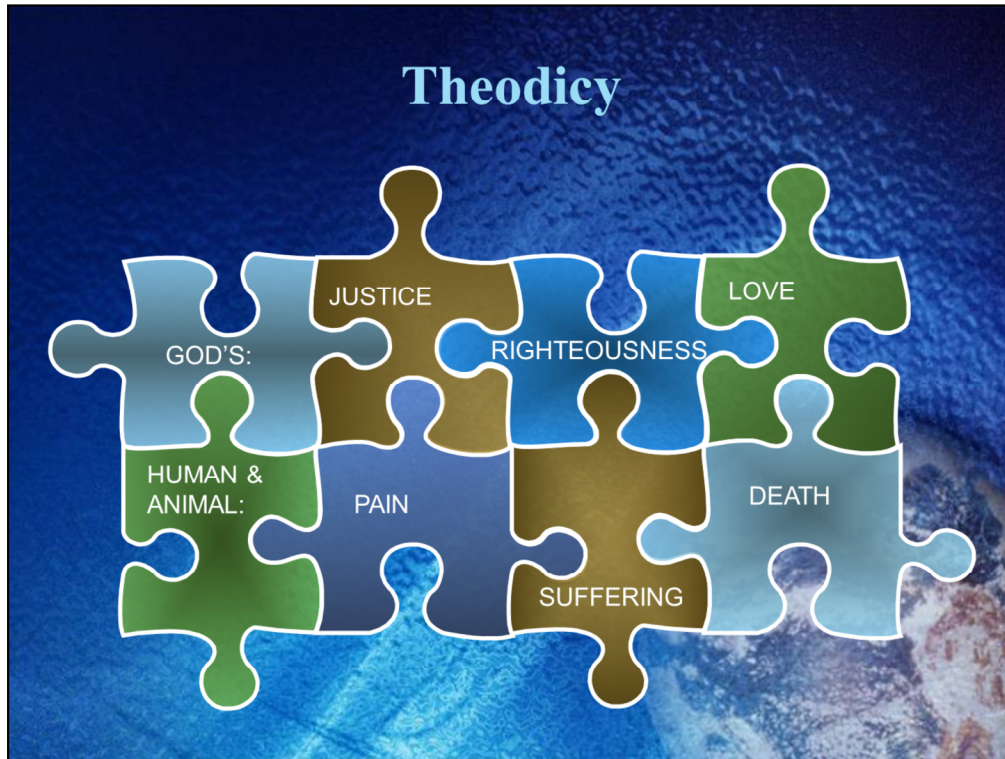


Why?

Why does death sustain life?

Why does pain enhance the quality of life?

Keep these questions in mind as we examine the puzzle of pain.



Theodicy – piecing together God's justice, righteousness, and love with human and animal pain, suffering, and death.

Here are some common questions about pain, suffering, and death and God:

God's justice:

If God is fair, why did he let this happen?

God's righteousness:

If God is good, why did he let this happen?

God's love:

If God cared, why did he let this happen?

Perhaps God was unable to prevent it or stop it!

Or maybe God was unwilling to prevent it or stop it!

Then there are the questions nurses hear:

How will I be able to live with this?

How can I cope?

How can I maintain my dignity?



Theodicy: Two basic strategies, denial and free will.

Denial strategy: Evil is the privation / absence / lack of the good.

This made sense to Augustine.

It is not satisfying to me.

It seems to me that evil is more than the absence of good.

Consider the amount of suffering and death in the 20<sup>th</sup> century:

Joseph Stalin	42,672,000
Mao Zedong	37,828,000
Adolf Hitler	20,947,000
Chaing Kai-shek	10,214,000
Vladimir Lenin	4,017,000
Hideki Tojo	3,990,000
Pol Pot	<u>2,397,000</u>
Total	170,000,000 deaths*

This looks like the presence of something, not just the absence of the something!

An analogy: Is disease the presence or absence of something?

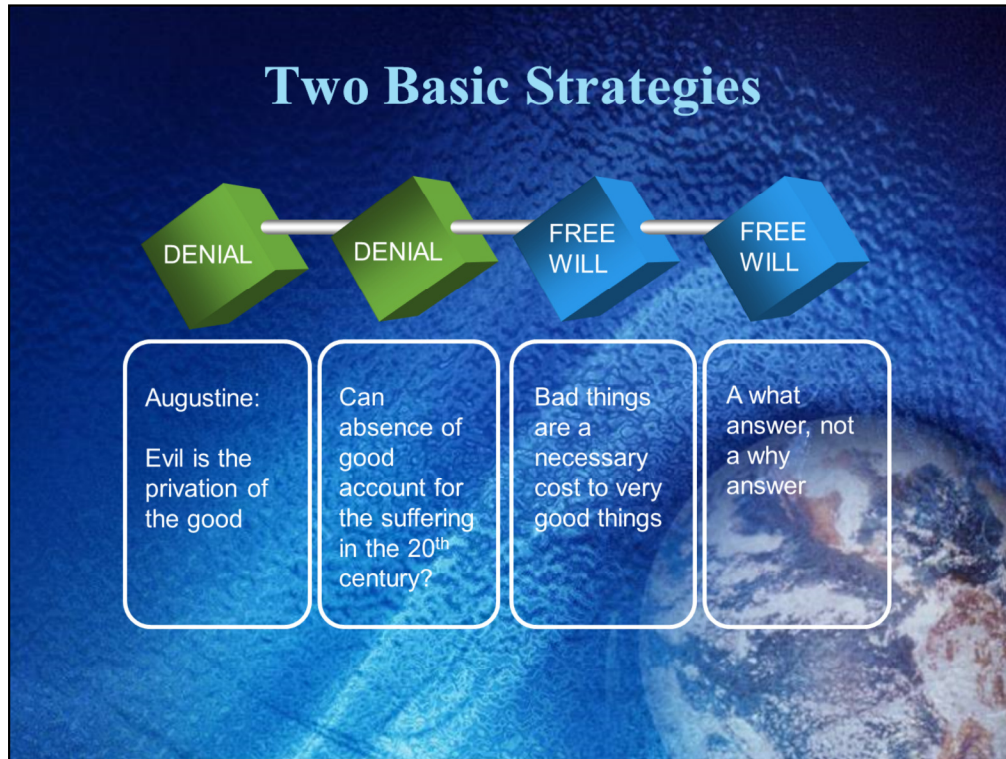
Diabetes: The decrease or **absence** of insulin.

Leprosy: The **presence** of a bacteria, *Mycobacterium leprae*.

Denial does not acknowledge or explain why death sustains life and pain enhances the quality of life.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*Rummel, R. J., *Death by Government*



Free Will Strategy:

Bad things are a necessary cost to very good things.

A very good thing:

We are not puppets.

God created us as free moral agents.

A necessary cost:

With freedom to choose comes the natural and logical consequences of making bad decisions, pain, suffering and death.

Free will strategy defines free will, showing that it is not logically incompatible with love:

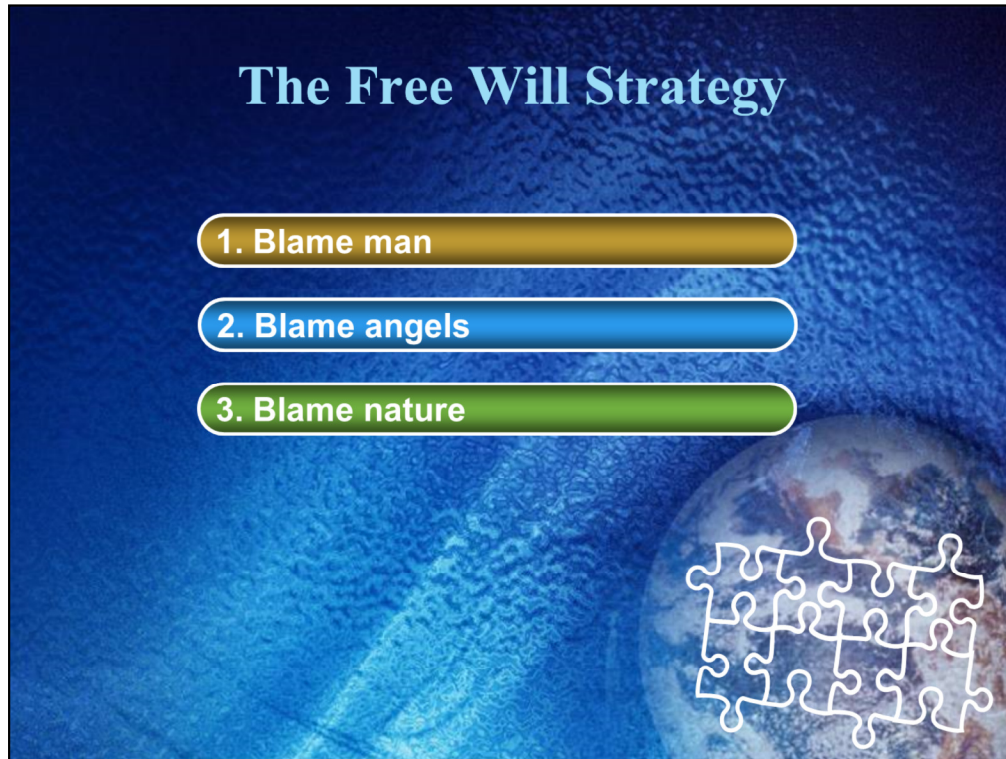
A loving parent gives a growing child freedom to make bad decisions.

A loving God gives man freedom to make bad decisions.

Free will does not explain why death sustains life and pain enhances the quality of life.

Let's take a closer look at the free will strategy.

It takes three forms.



1. Some Christians blame man for pain, suffering, and death.
2. Some Christians blame angels for pain, suffering, and death.
3. Some Christians blame nature for pain, suffering, and death.



Christians who believe that man caused suffering and death disregard established measurements of the age of the universe, of the fossil record and of the appearance of modern humans. They are known as young earth creationists (YEC). They believe that the universe and everything in it is six to ten thousand years old.

Pain:

When Adam and Eve sinned God told the woman that her pain in childbearing would be greatly increased.

Listen as I read this verse: The LORD said to the woman because you have done this,  
"I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children."  
(Genesis 3:16 NIV)

Here are some observations from the passage:

Woman's labor pains were greatly increased.

You cannot greatly increase pain unless it was already there.

Pain must have been present before Adam and Eve sinned.

Pain was part of God's very good creation from the very beginning.

Suffering and death:

YEC web sites insist that a very good creation would not include animal suffering and death, that animal suffering and death negates Christ's atoning sacrifice.

Not all YEC agree with this. Some would argue that it would be presumptuous on our part to know what God would consider very good.

God calls the land of Canaan, a land with predatory animals, "a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:8 NIV)





YEC cite two Bible passages to support their view.

As I read the Romans passage, I want you to notice how death is linked with sin.

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned – for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. (Romans 5:12-14 NIV)

Some YEC acknowledge that this passage is not a good support for their view:

- It tells us who death came to: to all men, to all who sinned
- This passage is not about animals, animals do not sin.

YEC also use Corinthians to support their view.

As I read this passage, note how death and resurrection are linked.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:20-23 NIV)

Are animals resurrected?

This view does not acknowledge or explain why death sustains life and pain enhances the quality of life.



Christians who believe angels caused suffering and death accept established measurements for the age of the universe and of the fossil record, but not established measurements for the appearance of modern humans. They believe man is only about six thousand years old.

My first exposure to any interpretation of the Genesis creation account came from a Schofield Reference Bible.

When I was growing up, we had the King James Bible with Schofield's notes.

The notes at the bottom of Genesis 1 explained the gap theory.

Genesis 1:1 described God's original and ancient creation.

But Satan destroyed it and the fossil record reflects the destruction he and his angels wrecked on earth.

Then starting in Genesis 1:2, God recreated the earth.

This recreation was quite recent.

The gap theory seemed forced to me; it has to be read into the text.

And I can't find support for it anywhere else in the Bible.

This view does not acknowledge or explain why death sustains life and pain enhances the quality of life.

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In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [Gap] Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. (Genesis 1:1-2 NIV)



Christians who believe that suffering and death are part of nature accept established measurements of the age of the universe, of the fossil record and of the appearance of modern humans. They are known as old earth creationists (OEC).

They believe animal death is not related to Adam's sin, but man dies physically and spiritually because Adam sinned.

Job is the ultimate book on pain and suffering.

Job's trouble was not the natural or logical consequences of Job's behavior; it was not the result of Job's sin.

In fact, God called Job blameless.

Job's wealth, children, reputation, health, and happiness were a gift from God.

God had a right to take it all away.

And God had the right to use whatever means he chose to take it away.

Satan was God's means, but God did not blame Satan for Job's trouble.

And God did not owe Job an explanation when he took it all away.

\*\*\*\*\*

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." (Job 1:8 NIV)

The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God. (Psalm 104:21 NIV) Do you hunt the prey for the lioness and satisfy the hunger of the lions when they crouch in their dens or lie in wait in a thicket? Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food? (Job 38:39-41 NIV) Does the eagle soar at your command and build his nest on high? He dwells on a cliff and stays there at night; a rocky crag is his stronghold. From there he seeks out his food; his eyes detect it from afar. His young ones feast on blood, and where the slain are, there is he. (Job 39:27-30 NIV)



Job complained that God was unjust.

God said Job was using pain, suffering, and death to discredit God's justice and to justify himself.

God said that Job's accusations were based on ignorance.

God asked Job a series of questions about creation.

The earth: its foundations, dry land, the water cycle.

The universe: light, darkness, seasonal movement of constellations, the laws binding stellar systems together.

The animal kingdom: its wild (untamable) creatures, animal predation, and two creatures who wreck havoc on man (behemoth and leviathan).

In Job and the Psalms we learn that predatory animals cry out to God for meat and God provides it.

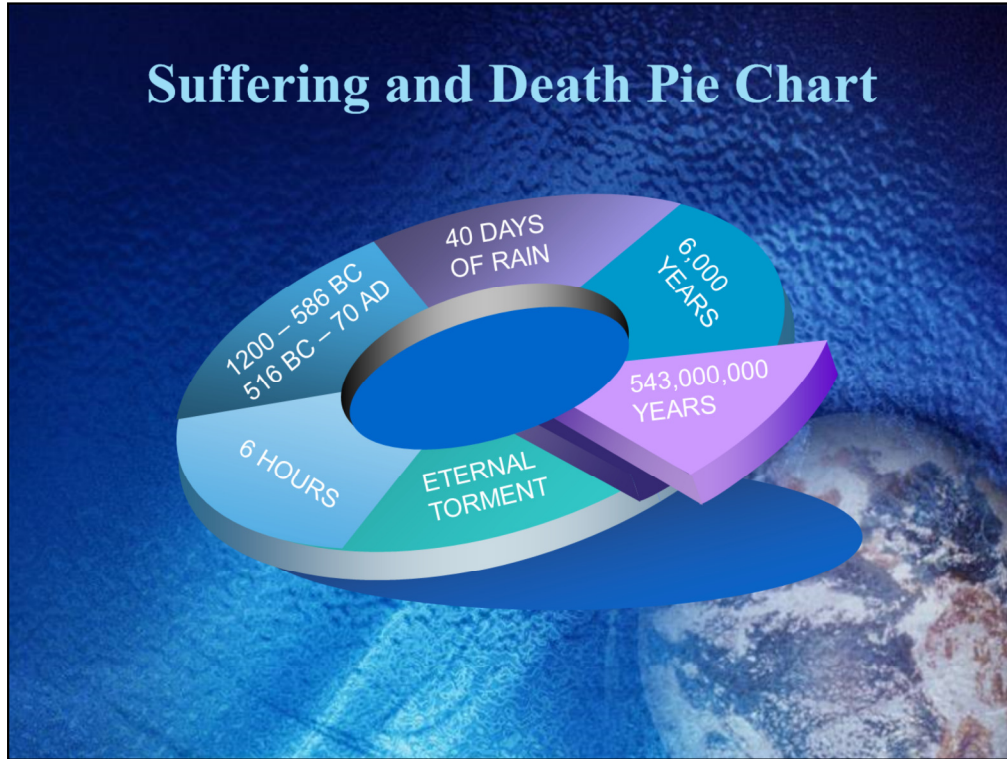
And that God rejoices over his creation, a creation that includes animal predation.

We are not to use pain, suffering, and death – including animal pain, suffering, and death – to discredit God's justice or to justify ourselves.

This view acknowledges that death sustains life and pain enhances the quality of life, but does not explain why.

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May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works. (Ps 104:31 NIV)



Before I present a why answer, I'd like us to look at a *Suffering and Death* pie chart.

If either angels or nature are to blame, then there has been animal pain, suffering, and death since the Cambrian Explosion 543 million years ago. In addition, man has suffered and died since Adam sinned.

If man is to blame, then there has been animal and human pain, suffering, and death since Adam's sin, which YEC literature says was about 6,000 years ago.

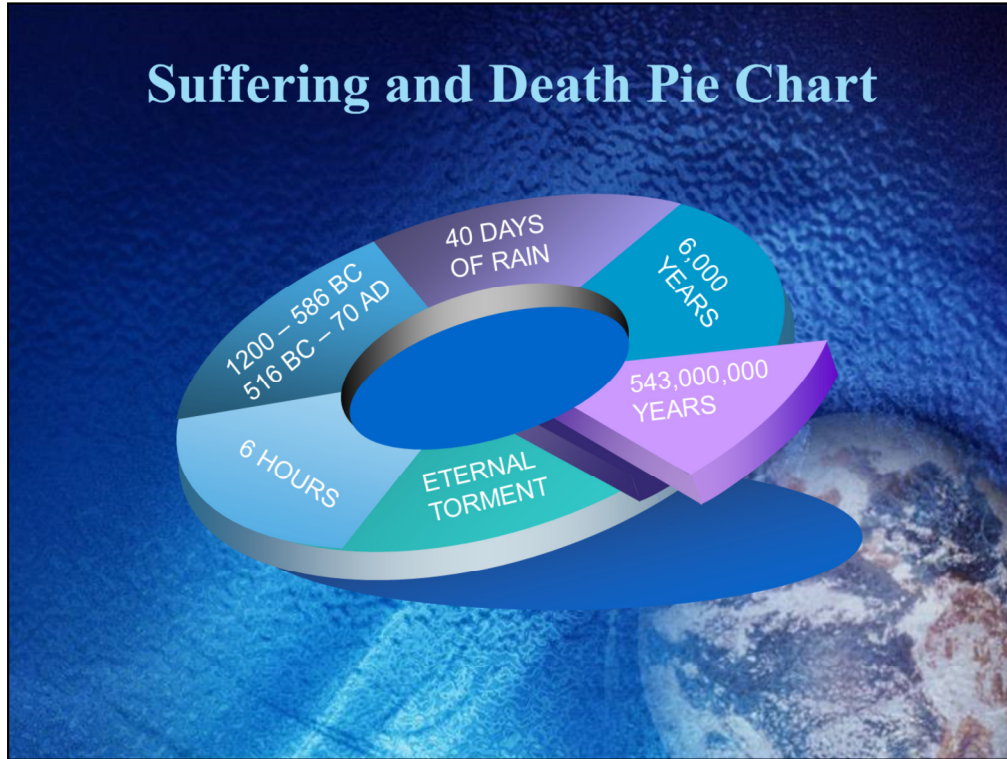
However, God is the one who destroyed animals and man during Noah's flood! He said he would wipe mankind from the face of the earth.

If the YEC are correct and the fossil record was laid down during a global flood, then the fossil record of Noah's flood and the fossil record since the Cambrian Explosion are the same. The animal suffering and death that occurred during Noah's flood is equal to the animal suffering and death that occurred over millions of years.

But there's more. God demanded that the nation of Israel worship him with animal sacrifices. From the dedication of the tabernacle in the wilderness until Solomon's temple was destroyed 600 years later the priests inflicted pain, suffering, and death on animals. Zerubbable rebuilt the temple and Herod enlarged it. For another 580 years priests inflicted pain, suffering, and death on animals in the name of God.

\*\*\*\*\*

So the LORD said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth – men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air – for I am grieved that I have made them." (Genesis 6:7-8 NIV)



God was very particular about what could be sacrificed. For instance, God said,  
"If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to offer a male without defect.  
He must present it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting so that it will be  
acceptable to the LORD." (Leviticus 1:3-4 NIV)

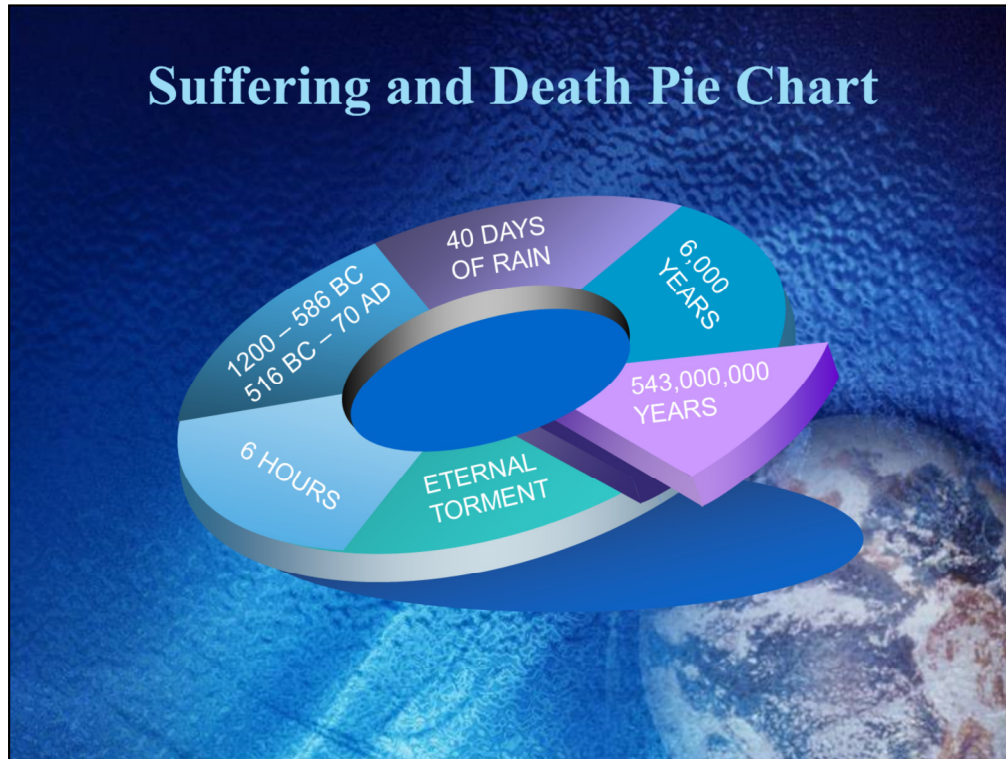
Then Jesus came to do God's will. And God's will was that Jesus suffer six hours on a  
Roman cross and die.

But there's more to come. There is eternal torment in store for those who reject their  
creator.

\*\*\*\*\*

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not  
desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were  
not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am — it is written about me in the scroll — I have come  
to do your will, O God.'" (Hebrews 10:5-7 NIV)

Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his  
presence, and there was no place for them. And I saw the dead, great and small,  
standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which  
is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded  
in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up  
the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had  
done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the  
second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown  
into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15 NIV)



Which slice of the pie is bigger? Weightier? Most problematic?

Just about everyone sees some part of the pie as problematic!

John Stott, noted evangelical leader: eternal torment.

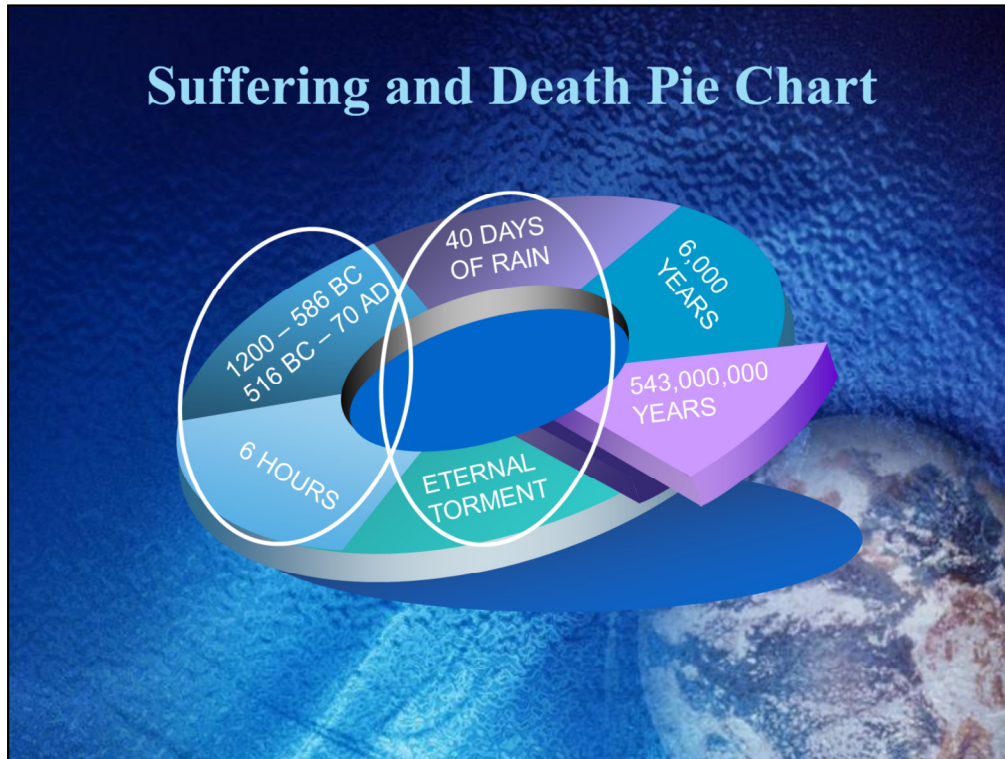
Gnostics, as Christianity spread around the Roman empire: the crucifixion.

Atheists: animal sacrifice, Noah's flood.

Young earth creationists: millions of years of animal death (yet accept the same amount of animal death during the flood).

Old earth creationists: animals die because Adam sinned.

In fact, one or more slices of the pie may be problematic for you.

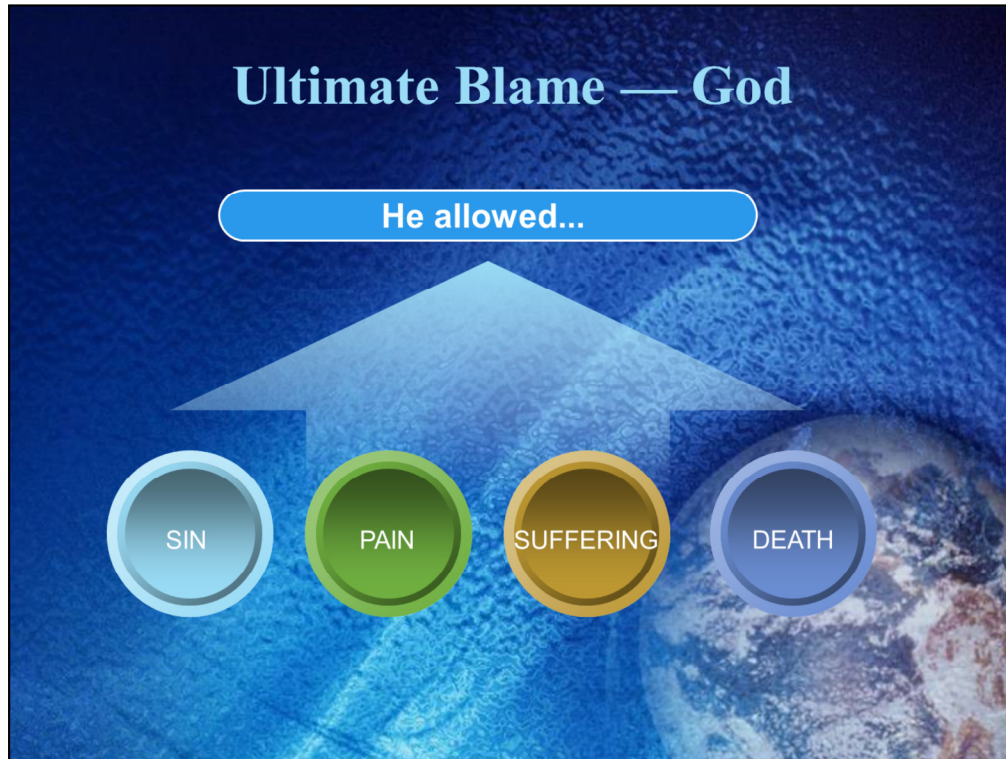


It is clear from the pie chart that the ultimate blame for pain, suffering and death lies with God. Not man, not angels, not nature, but God.

God ordained animal sacrifices as a picture of what was to come – Jesus sacrificial death on the cross.

God's flood judgment on Noah's generation is a picture of judgment to come – the Great White Throne judgment and subsequent eternal torment for those who reject their creator.





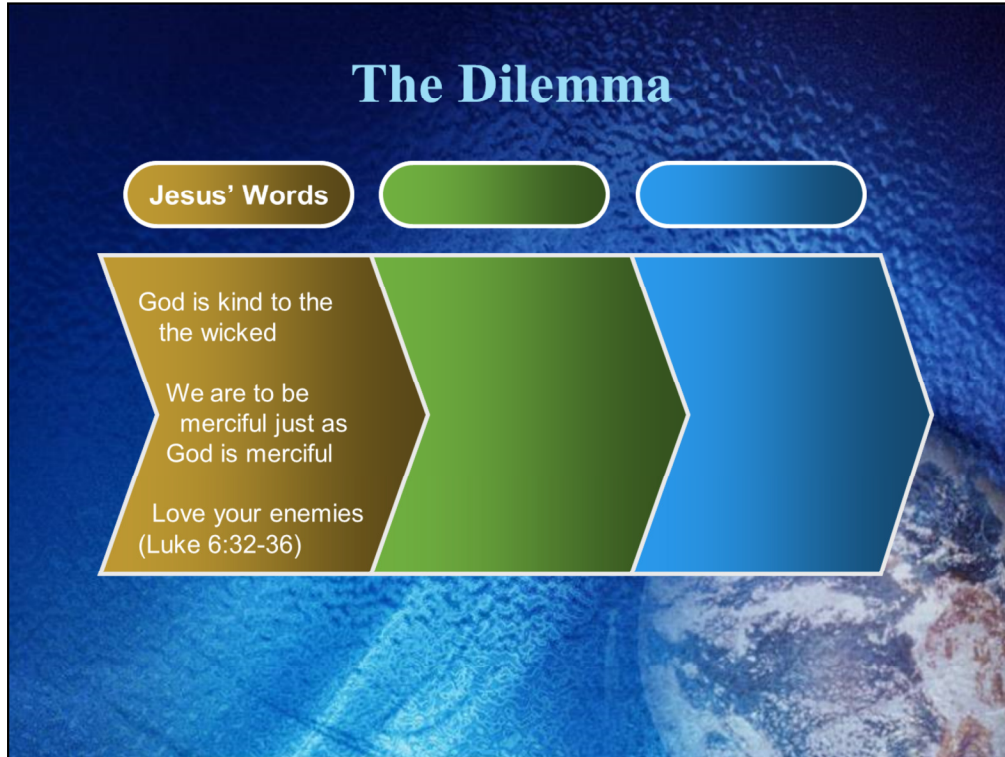
Why does God allow sin, pain, suffering and death?

I'd like to end by presenting an answer to the this question.

The answer I'm going to present is not the only answer.

But it is an answer that makes sense to me and puts the puzzle pieces together.

I'm going to start with a dilemma that comes from the words of Jesus.



Do you love those who love you?

That's not very remarkable.

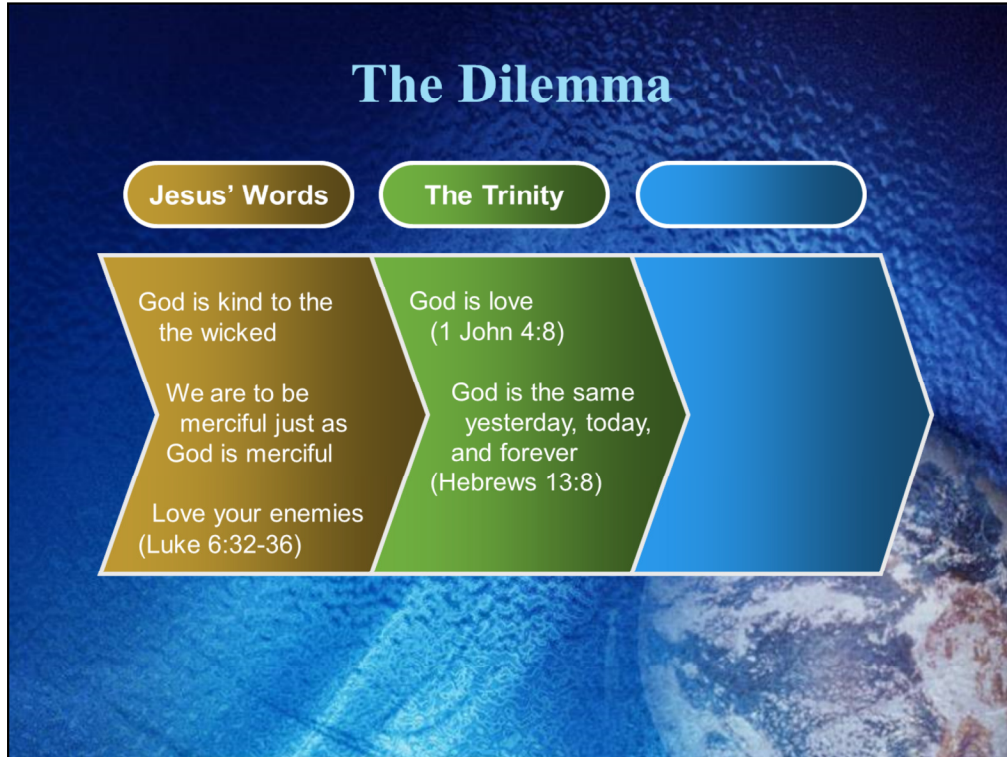
Anyone can do that.

What impresses God is someone who is kind to the wicked, who is as merciful as God is merciful.

What impresses God is someone who loves their enemies.

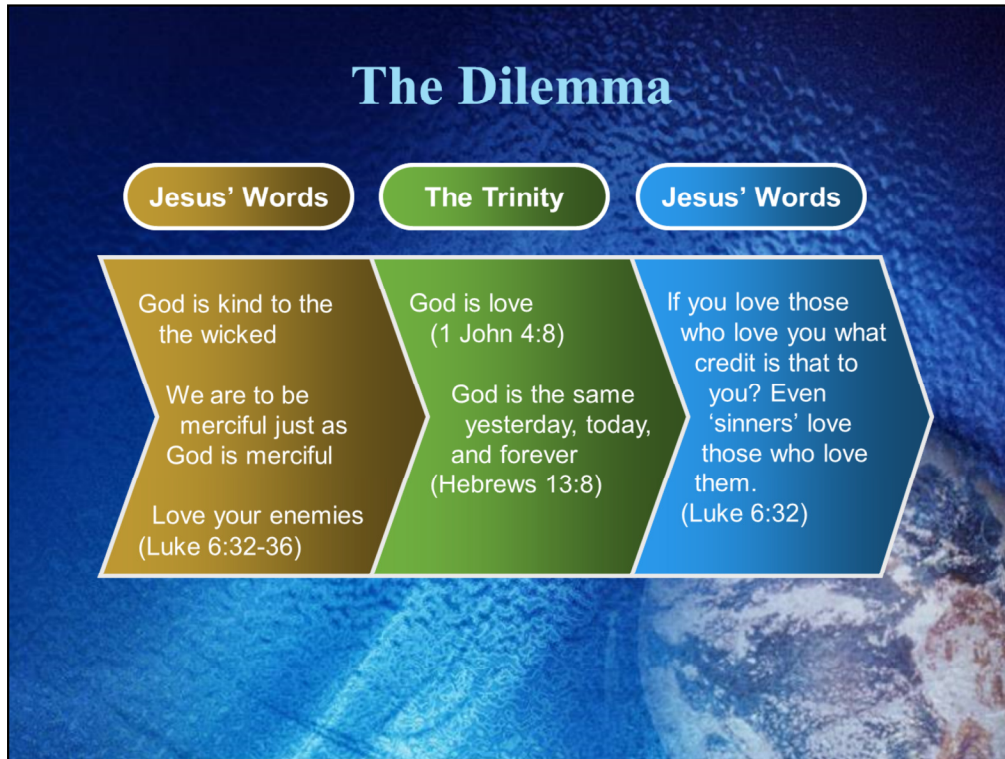
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If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. (Luke 6:32-36 NIV)



God is love; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit love each other.  
God's love is unchanging.  
God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.  
Now before universe was created, before the angels were created, there was just the Triune God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit loved each other.  
And there was no one else to love.  
God had no wicked to be kind to.  
God had no enemies to love.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8 NIV)



According to Luke 6:32 Jesus was not impressed that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit love each other.

That's not very remarkable.

Anyone can do that.

What impresses him are those who love their enemies.

But before God created, he had no enemies to love!

How could God be kind to someone who did not exist, show mercy to someone who did not exist, or love someone who did not exist?

This is not an idle question.

It addresses the eternal nature of God, his unchanging love, mercy, and grace:

Mercy is the aspect of God's love that causes him to help the miserable\*. (Miserable because they broke God's law or because of circumstances beyond their control.)\*

Grace is the aspect of God's love that moves him to forgive the guilty\*.

Can God claim that his love, mercy, and grace are unchanging when there is no one who is miserable or guilty?

Can God claim that he is always kind to the wicked and that he always loves his enemies when there are no wicked and he has no enemies?

\*\*\*\*\*

\*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Copyright (c)1986, Thomas Nelson Publishers



I can think of only one solution to this dilemma: that God would make it possible for others to exist.

And that God would give others the choice of:

Embracing God or embracing everything God abhors.

Doing good or doing evil.

These others would need a place to live in.

God could then enter this place and demonstrate his unchanging love, justice, and righteousness.

God could then show love, mercy, and grace to his enemies.

Now we can put the *Puzzle of Pain* together.



The cross is the first puzzle piece.

Which came first, the cross or God's enemies?

We are told in Titus and Timothy that the cross was promised and given before the beginning of time.

The cross was not an afterthought.

The cross preceded Satan's rebellion, it preceded man's sin; it came first.

It was given before time began.

When God had no enemies, the cross was part of God's existence.

The cross was proof that God loved his enemies when he had no enemies.

Do you understand that it had to happen this way?

Listen to Jesus words in the Garden of Gethsemane:

Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?" (Matthew 26:53-54 NIV)

\*\*\*\*\*

The hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time (Titus 1:2 NIV)

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (2 Timothy 1:9 NIV)



Pain, suffering, and death are the next puzzle pieces.

The cross is a place of pain, suffering, and death.

God is a very good God.

We have a very good God who embraces pain, suffering, and death.

How long has God embraced pain, suffering, and death?

Revelation tells us that Jesus was slain before the creation of the world.

How long will God continue to embrace pain, suffering, and death?

John took a peek into the future and this is what he saw:

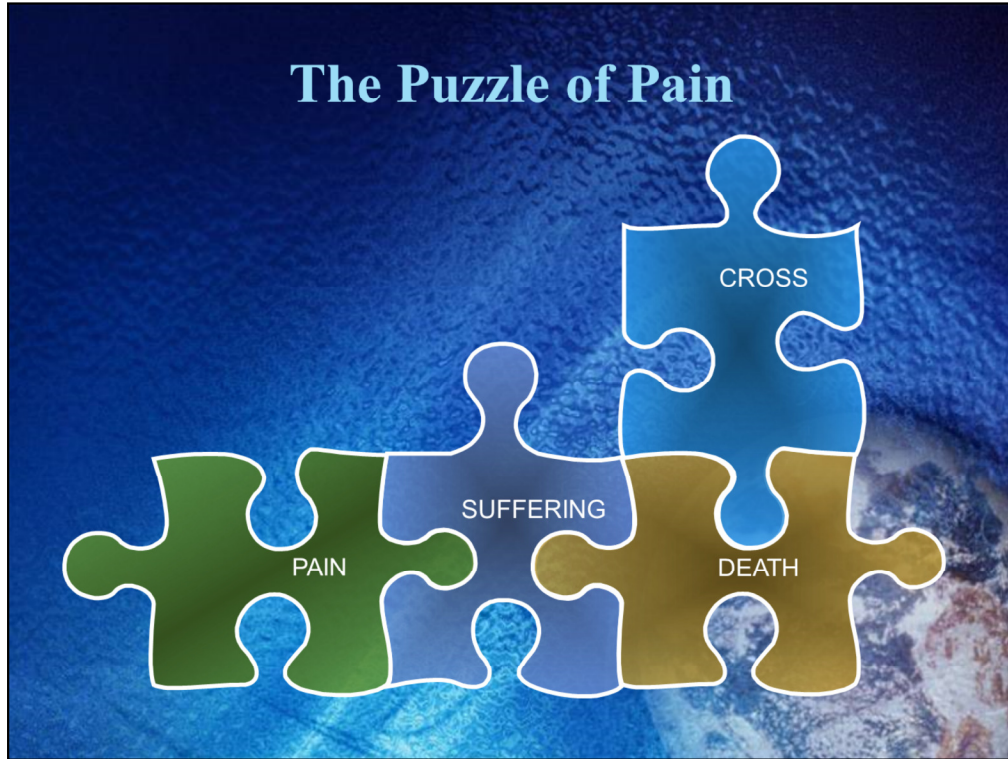
Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne (Revelation 5:6 NIV)

Jesus, the Lamb of God, was slain before anything was created and as God wraps up creation Jesus continues to look as if he had been slain.

Since Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, pain, suffering, and death have been an eternal part of who Jesus is, of who God is.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. (Revelation 13:8 NIV)



We piece together the cross, pain, suffering, and death.  
The cross cannot be separated from pain, suffering, and death.  
They are tightly interlocked.  
It is through the cross, pain, suffering, and death that God:  
    Showed mercy and grace to the wicked.  
    Loved his enemies.  
    Conquered evil.  
    Proved that his love is unchanging.





We piece together creation and the incarnation with the cross, pain, suffering, and death. The Psalmist tells us that creation declares the glory of God.

But the cross is the ultimate declaration of God's glory.

Colossians tells us that God was pleased to use pain, suffering, and death to reconcile us to God.

Jesus said that he brought glory God on earth by completing the work the Father gave him.

The cross was the final work Jesus was to do.

Creation and the incarnation are inseparably bound to the cross, pain, suffering, and death.

The puzzle pieces cannot be separated. They are tightly interlocked.

God cannot be separated from the cross, pain, suffering, and death.

Creation is the place in which the cross, pain, suffering, and death bring God glory.

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The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. (Psalm 19:1 NIV)

I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. (John 17:4 NIV)

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1:19-20 NIV)



Remember that the cross and pain, suffering, and death came before sin.  
Pain, suffering, and death eternally exist side by side with God's goodness.  
Do you understand that pain, suffering, and death cannot negate goodness?  
Not God's goodness, not creation's goodness.

So we have a very good creation in which death sustains life:

Our bodies are surrounded, bounded, crowned, and protected by death.

Animal and plant death sustain the life of civilizations.

And we have a very good creation in which pain enhances the quality of life:

Pain signals injury.

Pain guards injuries, giving them a chance to heal.



Do you see the predator/prey relationship in the cross?

Evil is the ultimate predator.

God is evil's ultimate prey.

God ordained the predator/prey relationship, not as punishment for man's sin, but as his tool to destroy evil.

Remember that the cross, pain, suffering, and death preceded evil and sin, it came first.

Now we can understand why:

God rejoices in a creation that includes animal predation.

God brags about his predatory animals to Job.

According to Genesis, God uses the predator/prey relationship of the cross to conquer evil.

The cross was evil preying at God, striking his heel.

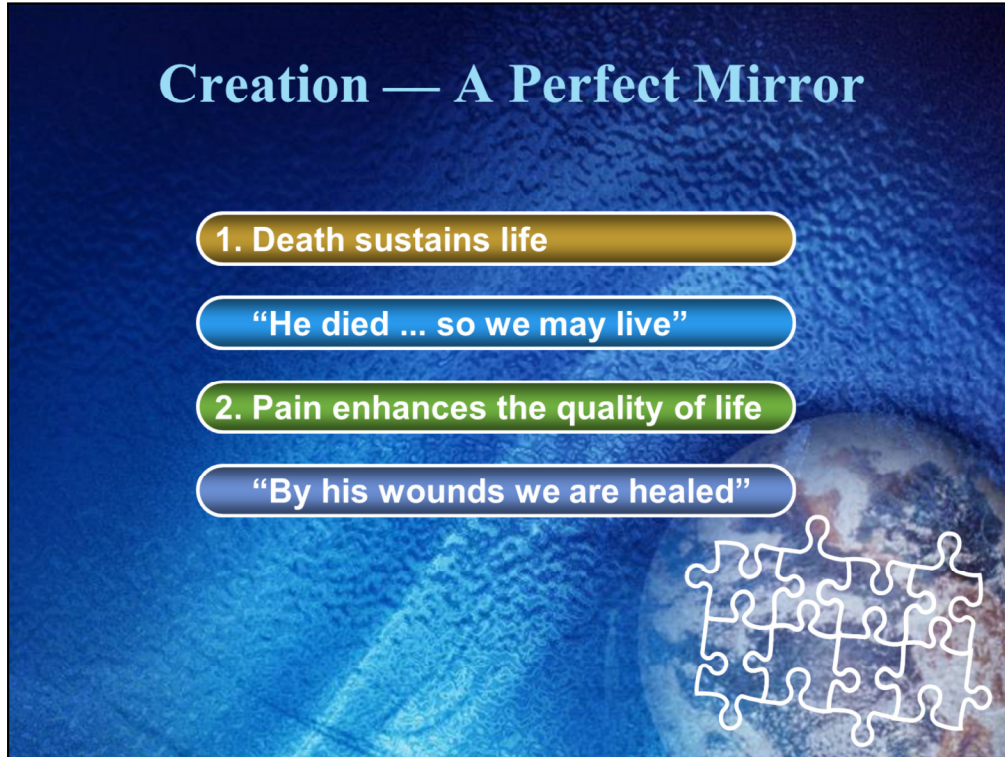
Yet evil did not conquer God.

God conquered evil.

Through the cross God crushed evil's head.

\*\*\*\*\*

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." (Genesis 3:14-15 NIV)



God's creation perfectly reflects what God does with pain, suffering, and death.  
God uses the cross to make peace between God and man.

Why does death sustain life?

Because God's death sustains life.

He died that we might live.

Why does pain enhance the quality of life?

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter ...

It was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, ...

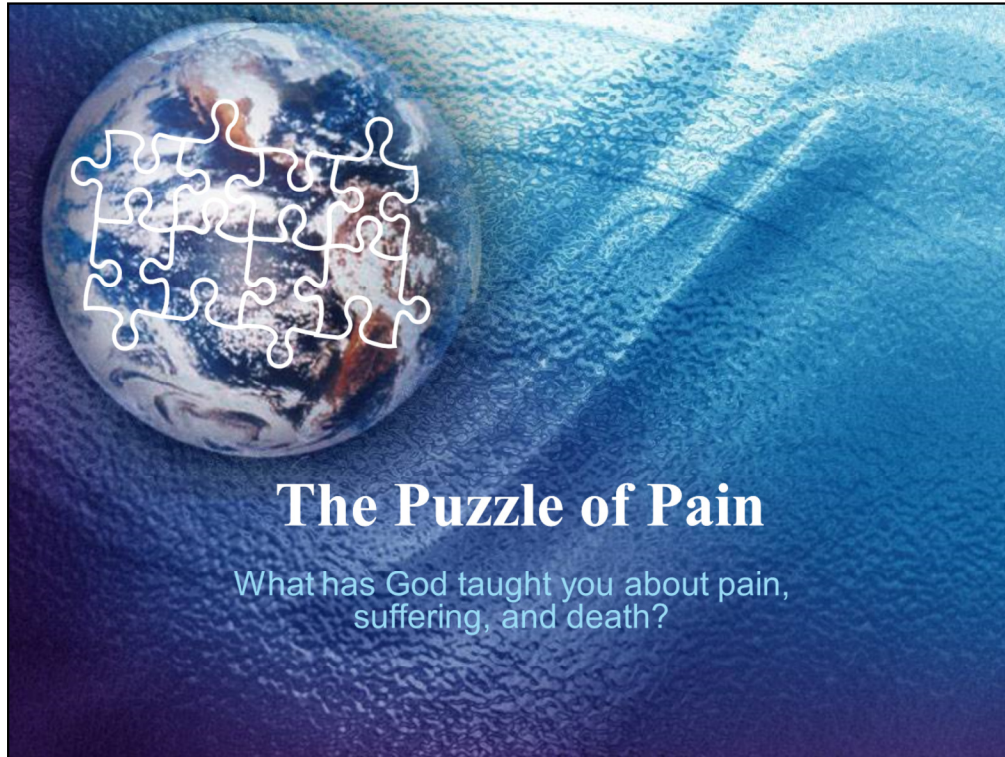
The LORD makes his life a guilt offering ...

He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

(From Isaiah 53 NIV)

\*\*\*\*\*

He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. (1 Thessalonians 5:10 NIV)



What I have outlined are answers to nagging questions I have about pain, suffering, and death.

Not just the “Why?” questions of pain, suffering, and death, but the “How?” questions.

How can I possibly live with pain, suffering, and death?

How can I cope?

**I can live with pain, suffering, and death because God lives with it, has always lived with it, used it to conquer evil and show his love, and God lives in me!**

Your questions may be different from mine. And you may put the puzzle pieces together differently than I do.

What answers do you have to the “Why?” and “How?” questions about pain, suffering, and death?

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The next seven slides are not part of this presentation, but are supplemental material.

## What Job Understood About God

God is to be feared

- God must not be cursed
- Both good and trouble come from God
- We are to accept trouble just as we accept good
- We are not to curse God when we experience trouble

Job 1 – 2

## What Job Understood About God

God makes demands of men

- Honesty
- Sexual purity
- Treat workers justly
- Help the orphan and widow
- Compassion for those in trouble, including your enemy
- Worship only God, not his creation, not gold (riches)

Job 29 – 31

## Job's Trouble

Job's trouble came from God

- Job's pain and suffering and the death of his children were undeserved
- The suffering was so great that not being born was preferable
- The suffering was so great that death was preferable
- God was not treating Job justly

Job 3, 6, & 10

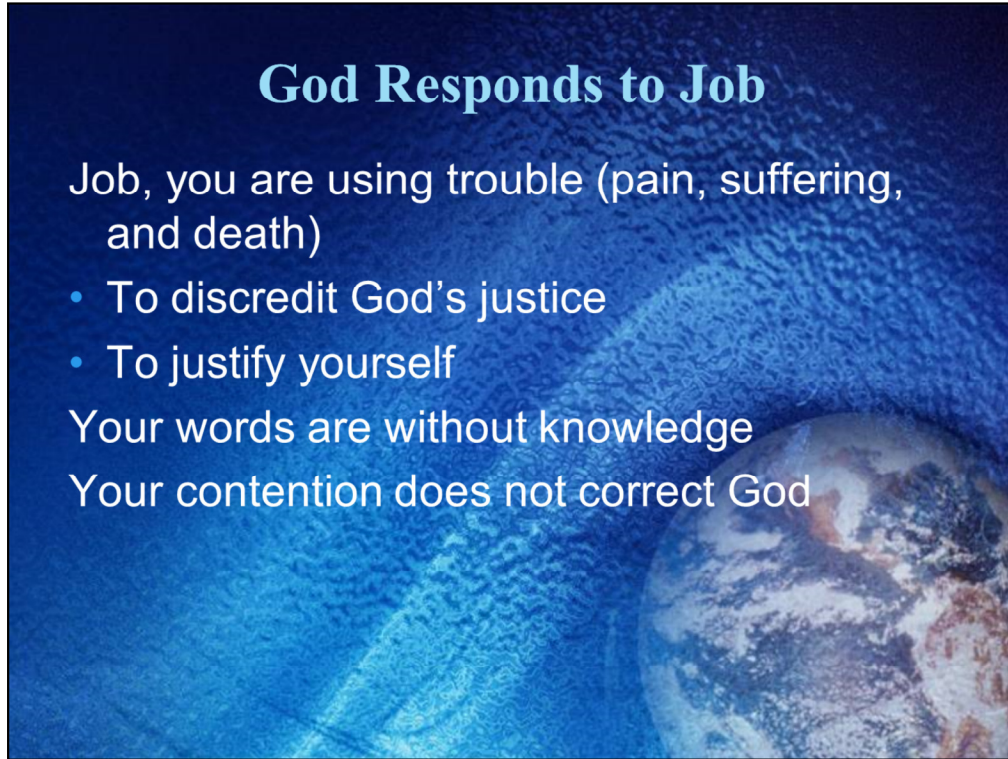


## Job's Trouble

Job wanted to plead his case before God

- Job had his case all prepared and ready to present to God
- Job had kept the demands God makes of men
- What charges did God have against Job?
- Job claims innocence!
- Job knows he will be vindicated

Job 13



## God Responds to Job

Job, you are using trouble (pain, suffering, and death)

- To discredit God's justice
- To justify yourself

Your words are without knowledge  
Your contention does not correct God

Job 38 – 41

## God Responds to Job

Let the one who accuses God answer God!  
Stand up and answer God's questions like a man!  
Job, do you understand God's creation?

- How God created the earth, dry land, the water cycle?
- The constellations and laws binding star systems together?
- The animal kingdom, especially its wild (untamable) creatures, animal predation, and creatures that wreck havoc on man?

Job 38 – 41

## Who or What Dies?

	OT:4191 <i>mut</i> "to die, kill"	NT:599 <i>apothnesko</i> "to die off or out"
Man	Genesis 5:5	Matthew 9:24
Animals	Genesis 33:13	Matthew 8:32
Fish	Psalms 105:29	
Frogs	Exodus 8:13	
Insects	*Ecclesiastes 10:1	
Vegetation	Job 14:8	Jude 12
Seeds		John 12:24
Land	Genesis 47:19	
Wisdom	Job 12:2	

\*OT:4194 *maveth* "the state of death"