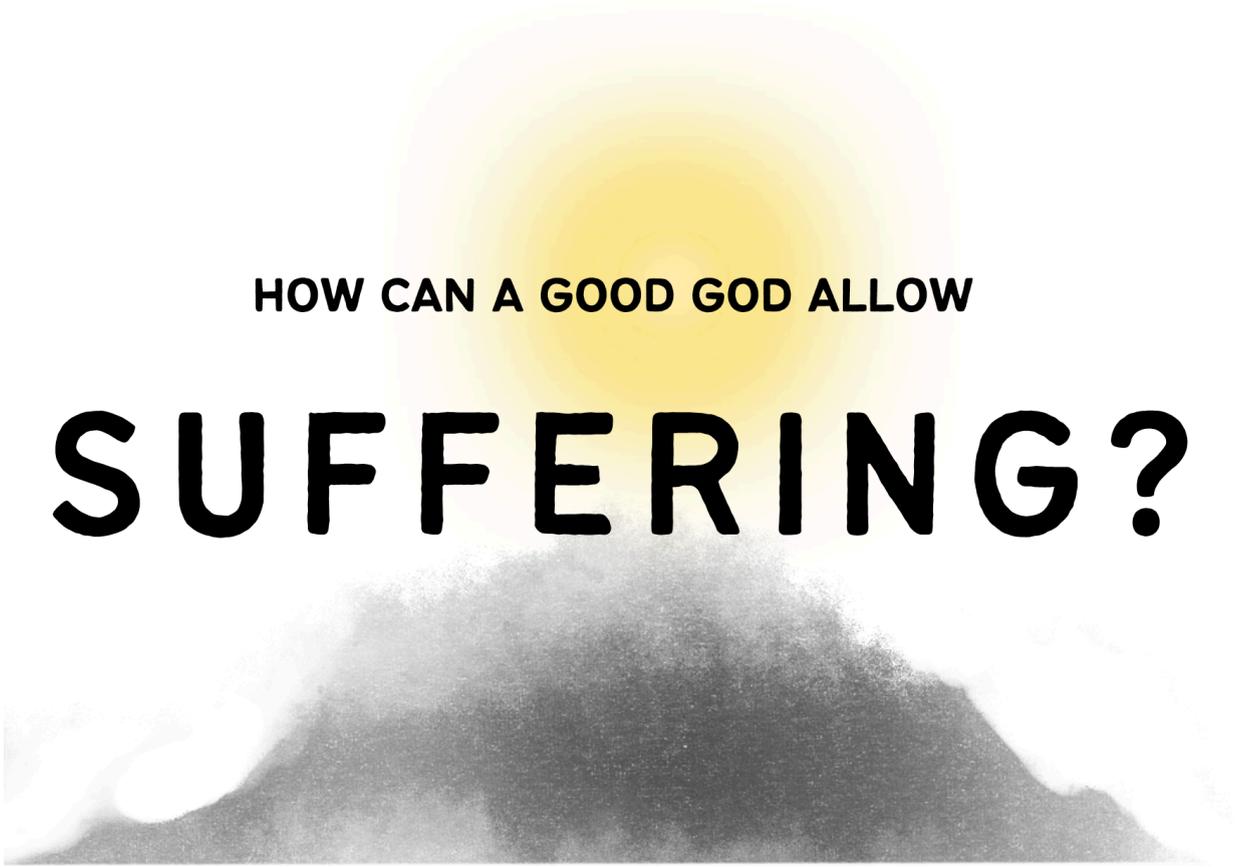


HOW CAN A GOOD GOD ALLOW

SUFFERING?



25 March 2026

Introduction

1. Suffering is an opportunity for joy

James 1:2 ² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

2. Suffering in the world was caused by us

Genesis 3:17-19 ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you

...and we keep causing more if it!

"Try to exclude the possibility of suffering.... and you find that you have excluded life itself." C.S. Lewis (*The Problem of Pain*)

3. God has not shielded himself from suffering

Philippians 2:5-8 Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

4. Jesus allowed suffering so that something better happens

John 11:1-45

....and all suffering for the Christian will bring good in the end

Romans 8:28 ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

5. Jesus proves there is hope beyond suffering

John 11:43-44 ⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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