

# How can a loving God allow war and suffering?

God loved His initial human creation so much that He gave mankind freedom to make choices. [Genesis 2-3] This freedom involved the choice of saying "yes" or "no" to an obedient, yet personal relationship with God. The first two individuals He created both said "no" – a decision that subsequent generations of men and women have confirmed by their own choices.

The Bible teaches that evil originated from outside this world (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6) and entered the human race through Adam, whose disobedience in turn affected all of creation. (Genesis 3:16-19) Because we are by nature social creatures, an individual's activities are not limited to himself, but will always affect others. Therefore, when we willfully choose to reject God and go our own selfish ways, others will necessarily suffer.

When Adam failed to trust Him, God could have begun all over with a new creation – one which did not have the option to accept or reject God, like robots. But, while He restricts evil, He has allowed evil to run its course so that individuals may voluntarily choose Him. The climax of this great antagonism is that evil and decay shall not rule in the universe forever, but will be decisively and ultimately overcome by God's power in the future. (1 Corinthians 15:24-28)

God is in control over all things and while it may seem like He is an absentee landlord as many secularists like to claim from time to time, on the contrary, our suffering and hardships that we go through are for our good and His glory. Especially if the end result of that suffering is coming to a place of wisdom and maturity in ones heart realizing how much we need to be saved and rescued from all that is fallen and broken in each of us.

The other unfortunate reality of a fallen world is that our bodies are suspect to suffering medical disasters and accidents. It does test ones faith watching a family member lose their life due to any form of sickness. But again we must realize that we are in a fallen state of bodily decay. These things will happen to very good people. This is why it's so important to come to the truth and good news in Jesus Christ. Our time here on earth whether it's one month or 100 years is just a blink of an eye in comparison to all of eternity.

However, the key question is, "How will you use your free will?" or, stated another way, "What decision will you make regarding Jesus Christ and His claims towards you?"