

Suffering: From God?

*"My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof."
Proverbs 3:11 English Standard Version*

Many _____ have been lost in recent _____. Did God send them?

Why Suffering Comes Upon People

A. Psalm 107 – A sampling of suffering:

1. 107:4-5,23-27 – Some were lost in the _____; others were in a _____ at sea. _____ is not suggested as the cause.
2. 107:10-12,17-18 – Some were in _____; others were struck with _____. _____ was _____ them for sin.
3. 107:6 – In all cases, God _____ when they cried to Him.

B. Is God always involved in suffering?

1. Deuteronomy 19:5 – The cause of another person's _____ was not _____. It was simply an _____.
2. Luke 13:1-5 – Did God _____ these people because they were worse _____? Jesus said, "_____".
3. Matthew 5:44,45 – Sometimes God sends things like _____ and _____ on both the _____ and the _____.

C. Amos 4:9 – God said He sent _____, _____, and _____ upon them – all which cause suffering.

Why A Loving God Would Allow Suffering

A. Seeing the purposes of God in times of suffering:

1. Amos 4:9 – God used painful things to try to get them to _____ to Him.
2. Proverbs 3:11,12 – Don't _____ the Lord's discipline, for He _____ him whom He _____.
3. Genesis 50:20 – God could have _____ Joseph's _____ from their evil deeds, but He had a larger _____ in allowing Joseph to _____.
4. James 5:10,11 – In _____'s case we can see the _____ of the Lord, that He is _____ and _____.
5. Cowper: "Behind a _____ providence [God] hides a _____ face."

B. Ecclesiastes 9:11,12 - _____ and _____ happen to them all. Instead of giving up we must ask, How do I accept God's _____?

Some in prison say, "I wasn't _____; I was _____." Amen!

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