

3 WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF SO MUCH SUFFERING?



As a result of the bombings of the last world war, thousands were left homeless.

Children often wandered the dilapidated streets looking for their parents. Many never found them, as they either died or the cruelty of war had separated them. Their home, where they could be found, no longer existed.

All of humanity is disoriented. Something has happened that has led them to lose their right course. Instead of happiness, we experience frustration; in place of well-being, we experience discomfort. Why do the innocent suffer? Why do pain, sickness and death exist? Did God create a wicked world? What is our true origin and destiny? Where have we come from, and where are we going? These are questions that haunt most people but only the Author of life can answer.

MAN'S ORIGIN

1. God is Lord and He existed before anything was created. By Him were all things created (Genesis 1:1). But what does the Bible mean, when referring to the plural term "Let us make", in Genesis 1:26?

a) *The Heavenly Father. (Ephesians 4:6).*

b) *The Son, Jesus Christ. (John 1:1-4).*

c) *The Holy Ghost. (John 14:26).*

The first page of the Bible refers to the three persons of the Deity. Several verses in the Scriptures mention Christ's presence and role in the world's creation. (Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-3; 8-10).

2. How was man created? Ecclesiastes 7:29. _____

3. Man received four gifts from his Creator:

a) **Eternal life.** Man was not condemned to die.

b) **A righteous character.** There was no sin in him.

c) **A wonderful home.** Pain and suffering did not exist.

d) **Dominion over everything.** Adam was the crown jewel of creation. All nature was under his command.

4. What was the only condition given for it to stay that way? (Genesis 2:16, 17).

For his own good, he was to learn to obey. Can there be happiness in a home if parents are not respected or order in a nation if the government is not honored? The law of God was placed in the heart of man from the beginning. It was the foundation to God's government.

5. Man decided to obey another lord- Satan, the prince of darkness, seduced him. Did God create the "devil"? What was Satan at the beginning? Ezekiel 28:13-17.

He was a _____ who _____ against his Creator.

6. What did man become when he allowed Satan to defeat him? 2 Peter 2:19: (Romans 6:16).

a) The gifts received in creation: eternal life, a righteous character, a wonderful home, and dominion over everything, were substituted by death, sin, and a land full of thorns.

b) By so doing, man inherited a life of sin and death, which ends in eternal death and final destruction.

7. What inheritance have we received and what is man's current state? (Romans 5:12).

8. Is there a perfect or entirely righteous person in this world? What consequences must every human being face? (Romans 3:10-12, 23; 6: 23).

a) There is none _____, no, not _____

b) We come short _____

c) The wages of sin is _____

IS THERE A WAY OUT?

9. What does God want the sinner to do? Ezekiel 33:11.

10. Through whom only can we be saved? Acts 4:11, 12.

11. What solution has God provided? John 10:7, 9.

12. What does Jesus invite us to do? Matthew 11:28-29.

13. Which is the only bridge between life and death? John 14:6

ENCOURAGING PROMISES

14. What does God give to those who sincerely believe in Jesus? 1 John 5:11, 13.

15. Does Jesus reject anyone who comes to Him for salvation? John 6:37.

God desires to justify us freely, that is, to declare us forgiven and reconciled by His grace through Christ. "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:24).

CONCLUSION

16. What must we do to be called children of God and receive salvation? John 1:12.

By accepting Jesus, we become acquainted with Him and His law, as He is our Lord.

We will obey Him through love and for what He has done for us, and we will strive to live daily with Him. The purpose of His death was to deliver us from this valley of suffering and pain, and to give us the inheritance of eternal life. This is good news. Don't you think?

.....
My decision: I believe in Jesus Christ as the only way to eternal life and I wish to give Him my heart.

Yes No I'd like more information

.....