

**The Reason for God**  
***Belief in an Age of Skepticism***  
**“How Could a Good God Allow Suffering?”**  
Romans 8:28

*“God allows terrible suffering in the world. So, he might be either all powerful but not good enough to end evil and suffering, or else he might be all good but not powerful enough to end evil and suffering. Either way the all good, all powerful God of the Bible could not exist.”*

**WE LIVE IN A FALLEN, ABNORMAL WORLD**

1. Evil and Suffering are **VERY REAL**
2. Some of it we can **NOT EXPLAIN**  
*“The secret or mysterious things belong to the Lord our God”* Deuteronomy 29:29
3. Much evil and suffering are **SELF-INFLICTED**  
*“Your own wickedness will punish you. You will see what an evil bitter thing it is to forsake the Lord your God having no fear of him. I, the Lord, the LORD God Almighty, have spoken”* Jeremiah 2:19
4. If God removed all evil who **COULD SURVIVE?**  
*“Lord, if you kept record of our sins, who O Lord could ever survive?”* Psalm 130:3

*“I will not believe in a god who allows suffering...he can not be trusted.”*  
the skeptic

*“In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.”*  
Job 1:22

**EVIL AND SUFFERING ARE NOT EVIDENCE AGAINST GOD**

1. Accusation: “The God of the Bible cannot exist if evil exists”
2. The Underlying belief: If I can not understand something it must not be true. Because I don't see the purpose and reason for suffering **THERE MUST NOT BE ONE**  
*“As far as I am concerned, God turned into good what you meant for evil, He brought me to the high position I have today so I could save the lives of many people”* Genesis 50:20
3. Better thinking: If we can see some good come from evil and suffering is it **POSSIBLE** God can see good from all evil and suffering?

## EVIL AND SUFFERING MAY BE EVIDENCE FOR GOD

1. On what idea do you base "just/unjust, fair/unfair, cruel/kind"?  
*"Darkness exists only because Light exists"*
2. Evolutionary thought and natural selection offer **NO HELP**
3. If there is no God there should be **NO SHOCK**  
*"Apart from God, there really is no answer for evil and suffering"*

## TO HELP UNDERSTAND EVIL AND SUFFERING...

1. Look at the **CROSS OF JESUS**  
*"My soul is sorrowful and overwhelmed to the point of death." Mark 14:34*
2. Look at the **HOPE OF RESURRECTION**  
Revelation 21:1  
  
*"They say of some temporal suffering, 'No future bliss can make up for it', not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even their agony into glory." C.S. Lewis*  
  
*"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28*