

Who is the Victim God or Man?

By Mark

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Introduction:

When a parent has lost a child too early to accept, is there a way Father God can make it right? Concerning the deepest hurt a parent can feel, some might ask, "Did Father God do anyone wrong?" It is my position, and I implore you to trust me when I say this, Father God has done no one wrong.

To be honest, it has taken me more than twenty-five years to even begin to understand the concept of suffering in relation to the mind of God. Yet, to have some peace in the human experience we must try to understand. To comprehend the question, let us review the Nazi holocaust of the Jews. More than six million men, women, and children were put to death in some of the cruelest ways. While the human mind can only hope to pretend to understand the impersonal level of national suffering, and is some- times therefore incapable of understanding the personal level of humanity's suffering; yet, this suffering is basically the same. Although we may not totally trust our assumptions, since we look through a glass darkly, we must still try to understand as best we can, by utilizing an honest heart and asking honest questions. Whether concerning all too personal or national loss, it is a fair question to ask-- where was God? Or for that matter, where was God when the children of Israel were enslaved by the Pharaoh's of Egypt for FOUR hundred years- let alone the suffering of non-Jewish men through the centuries?

It seems nearly impossible to understand, let alone explain; and I admit that, it may be impossible to completely understand now. However, let's reason together the truths that we do know. Many very competent people have refused to even try to explain the suffering of the ages, but perhaps, we should at least try now.

Magnitude of suffering

The magnitude of it all gets worse when we consider how long the issue of man's suffering and the alleged absence of God has been debated. Consider for that matter, where was God when Lucifer fell? Why didn't God just NOT create Lucifer in the first place? These are logical questions that require both individual and in depth responses. Perhaps we might guess the fall of creation was inevitable. God only confined that fall to a measured amount of time-and- chance. So is this life a schoolmaster unto Christ--I think so?

After more than twenty-five years, I have whittled my way through the dilemmas of both justice and suffering. Although my knowledge is limited, while coupled with a cloudy view from this side of the vale, I am still convinced-God in Heaven is just. Following the next few passages, I am convinced that you will agree that God is just.

Jesus asked, "Will I find faith when I return?" That question is in doubt but is one explanation for the opportunity for suffering today. So in small portions, I will attempt to answer with bites of reason for the purpose and meaning of human suffering. Initially, we must understand that our faith in our Father, having not yet seen His Glory is very important. Remember that in the original fall, those that fell in front of the Father could see Him in all His Glory, but could not partake in any of the grace, which God in Heaven seems so willing to share with mankind for blind faith now. So ask yourself, is this a part of the reasoning we are looking for in the mind of God to explain the suffering of this age--blind faith. John 3:16

Faith at the end of the universe:

In the short term, at the end of the tribulation, the world will face horrible judgments for refusing light-and-love. But let's imagine a long term view without experience. Consider a man a thousand years old having never lived on this earth.

He has lived in a perfect world. Nothing has ever changed. It has always been the same. Then Father God decides to make all things new. The floor you see, it is gone. The throne God sits on, it is gone. The heavens melt with fervent heat and they are gone! Nothing remains except: the Father, the host of Heaven, you and me, the Holy Spirit of God, and the Son. Except for the afore mentioned, it is all gone--except one thing--the promise of a new Heaven and a new earth found in the book of Revelation. Yes, unlike the novice that has only known perfection, another mature man that has experience trusting God will stand. Like King David who, in the trials of life: slew a lion, a bear, and a giant. Others could say, "I lived and supported my household for four decades and had seen God do great things in that temporal life." However, that man who is raised in a perfect Heaven, having never seen anything but what is pure and perfect, that man could very easily realize the universe is ending with a smashing great noise, and he could start running back-and- forth screaming in total panic, "This is the end!" So yes, our faith is very important. Our trust having not seen His Glory is more important than we can imagine. Remember, the outline above is going to happen to our universe in the distant future. It is in the Bible, and through it all we will be just fine. By the way, everyone will have a front row to watch the creation of a new Heaven and new earth. When the elements melt and BANG go off with a great noise, will you stand on the promise? That standing with God is exactly what this life teaches? (2 Peter 3:10)

So before we can understand the magnitude of suffering, perhaps we need to take a glimpse at the magnitude of God's plan for His sons- and- daughters. God's plan for an eternal future is a very important consideration within the dynamics of human suffering. That plan includes using all of His power and God Head to create and do as He pleases. Consider Moses and the Children of Israel, after roaming the desert for forty years, while the entire nation of Israel turned and ran, even Moses pulled back from the mountain Father God came to visit in front of Israel. So, if we are immature in our faith in God, we limit God and His Glory. After this life, that will not be the case. This is a start to our understanding of suffering, but there is still more.

How do we get there? How can we possibly glimpse beyond the above cursive overview of this mystery? First, know the word of God for yourself with an honest heart. Throughout this essay, everything in quotes is found in the Bible in context or is very closely (paraphrased). It takes a lot of time my friend, but you need to believe that God is just. When it is all said and done, it will be apparent that, although difficult to understand, God has never done anyone wrong.

Don't stop half way because it hurts!

I begin with a question. Are you going to continue with me through this with an open mind? At any time, you can choose to shut me out. I don't know you and have no clue who you are, but I must share this one thing. If I open my heart to you, don't shut me out without at least seriously considering that this is an honest attempt to explain something so emotionally charged that most people would not even try.

Explanation: Start at our present age

Lets move forward a few years. It might be within our own lifetime. It might be just after we have lived out our lives, but what I am going to write about (the next major crises) is not thousands of years away. Jesus said, (paraphrased) "You will NOT know the day or hour, but you will know the season." (Matthew 25:13) We are in the season of the end of this age. Many know this truth: Christian, atheist, agnostic or secular humanist--most know and are aware something is going to happen to this world. After the rapture of the church, sometime during the tribulation, there will be a short thirty minute silence in heaven. During that silence, toward the end of the tribulation, God will begin to judge the earth. What does that mean to the believer? First, for all those who have been sealed to Christ, they will be in Heaven. The church is long taken from the earth. At this point, no one on the earth will have any desire for turning. (Yes, everything we believe does matter.) The majority of the people remaining on this earth will not want to return back to God. Their sins will be complete. So for those, it will be too late. Most people don't like this part of truth, but there is a too far. When the

eternal collides with the temporal world, the word of God says--"let he that is filthy be filthy still--let he that is just be just still." (Revelation 22:11) (Revelation 21:8)(Romans 10 4-8)(Romans 1 20) So refusing to trust in our maker, in the light of so much evidence creation itself provides, does that make us filthy? It all hangs on what we believe and who we really are deep down inside. However, the point is this-- there is a too far when refusing to believe God.

The abusers of all relationships have one thing in common; they all fail to believe there is a "too far" until it is too late. Consequently, the relationship(s) they treasure are gone. It does not matter if it is: a wife being abused by a husband, or a child being abused by a parent, or God in Heaven enduring through the ages, there is a too far. With the world having turned to total darkness, the God of Heaven will finally say "Enough." For the conclusion below, it must be noted, all relationship(s) have a limit--most humans just do not want to admit it. There are altruistic certainties: change is certain, and everything in the temporal universe has a boundary including the universe itself.

Likewise, concerning suffering, there too is a boundary. The point being, human suffering will one day end. Human suffering has a boundary and is part of the temporal universe and all its boundaries. This point is very important with regards to both all too personal or national suffering. There is an end of suffering coming for those that believe in God and love Him in all His ways. (Romans 8:28) (Galatians 3:23-25)There are limits to suffering long and short term.

There have been many limits to suffering, but there is one final limit coming. Toward the end of this chapter, it will be explained in more detail. There are short term limits for the opportunity to see humanity's suffering and a very long term permanent limit. I am convinced the suffering of mankind will NOT continue forever (at least on earth). I believe God has set a permanent limit to human suffering with the completion of the age of grace and the election of the saints; yet, very few have a clue as to how truly devastating the dimensions of that limit will be or what it will entail. However, if you read very carefully, you will discover that there is a permanent limit to human suffering. This altruistic truth and is already marked in the heart of believers. It is just a matter of time until suffering

will cease from the universe for those who trust in the Father of Life. Eternity is marked on our hearts. This is evident when we dream and wake before falling too far. We declare the limits of suffering when no matter how old we become we still believe in love. We are eternal beings. This is planted in our hearts from birth.

Depth of Suffering

In the short term, at the end of the tribulation, the world will face horrible judgments for refusing light-and- love. Concerning those judgments, think of all the millions of souls that have suffered countless times, just since Christ said "It is finished" on His cross. Let alone the millions that will suffer during the tribulation in total spiritual darkness. If we can explain why the Father of Life waited to take total control over this world since Christ said those words on His cross (It is Finished.), you will have determined why God is just. (John 19:30) (Revelation 2: 20-23) Yet, during the tribulation, the Bible says over-and- over; "they refused to repent of their wickedness that they loved." (John 3:19) The Lord of the Host of Heaven even cries out, (paraphrased) "He is amazed after all that is done, they still will not turn." Even then, God would accept them (mankind) if men would turn from darkness. (Revelation 16:9) But why has God waited since the cross to take total control of this earth and human suffering? Why is there so much darkness? Do we really understand the dimensions of the question? Considering the history of earth just since the cross of Christ, which includes: the Roman period, the barbarian rule of anarchy, the feudal period of Europe, the Medieval, the Renaissance, the age of Metternich, the industrial revolution, the Great Wars and minor wars, the technological revolutions, and the secular humanist rise to power in the modern age--with all of those ages combined, God has waited for the fruit of the earth. (James 5:7)(Ezekiel 34:27)The fall was a crucial event for mankind and it plagues us even until this day. The Bible says, "He is longsuffering for the fruit of the earth." The Father waits for the fruit of the earth, which is you and me. This is perhaps the most important part of the equation when answering why the Father has waited so long and allowed so much darkness to continue. So I ask, "Who is the victim-God or man?" If we can answer this, we will know how we can trust in someone that has allowed so much to occur through the centuries. Is the fruit of the earth an important enough goal for the Father to allow short term

and long term limits of suffering? Consider and answer that question for yourself. (John 3: 16)

Personal experience:

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I wish to first share something of myself, since I have chosen to trust in Christ over two decades ago, I know that I believe with all of my heart that my Father God is love. He showed us that love at Jesus/Yeshua's cross. I have no doubt that the greatest story ever told is the story of God coming to man to call him friend. I, like everyone else, have had set backs that cannot be explained away. I humbly understand the paralyzing hurts of this world. From mystery illnesses to serious accidents, I am in the trenches of life just like you. Yet, no one can understand the suffering of our age any better than Christ Himself. For me to say I am in the trenches with you the reader in understanding the suffering of our age is one thing, but God in His love does not sit in high Heaven saying "you can deal with it!" He came here and explained; (paraphrased) "here is how I want you to deal with it; and, I am here with you." (Hebrews 13:5)

Christ too lived in a human body. Yet, He lived without fault. (Isaiah 9:6) And this is where we pause and ponder. Is this perhaps the whole reason Christ was crucified. No one can ever say "God did not live in a mortal body, and He can't understand what it was like to be human." What I am saying is this, Christ came and lived as a man just like us, yet, without sin. He instructed through His own blood, tears and pain, because we are that important. We are important enough for God to give His only Son for mankind. That experience, exemplified by Christ on this earth, is a major reason for suffering. God inversely will not waste one drop of His son's blood that redeems us from the curse of the law. Remember God did not sit in high Heaven and say "deal with it"; (Hebrews 7:27) He came and shared in the suffering to win our hearts and minds through sacrifice.

Argumentum ad hominem

The Latin phrase Argumentum ad hominem is simply an excellent debate tactic that attacks one person in an argument to avoid that person's logic or reasoning. Our politicians love to use this tactic on T.V., but it is a poor excuse for turning a

deaf ear. It follows the procedure of attack on a person and defaming their name or motive. This logic proceeds that we don't have to listen to that person. By Christ laying His life down on the cross and living just like you –and- me, no one can ever say, "God you were not there, so you don't have a clue what it was like!" God with us, Emanuel, was here with us and it was foretold hundreds of years ago. (Isaiah 61 1-3) Therefore, the only person in the universe that can judge mankind-is Christ-- because He lived here without sin, and the only person that can save mankind-is Christ for the same reason. These are exactly what the Bible predicts is the future of mankind. This will depend on what is JUST in Christ's judgment, because He was the only one without sin that lived here among men. (Revelation 20:11)In judgment, rest assured, God will be just. In the end, the scales will be balanced. Either we accept the permanent sacrifice for man, Christ himself, or we stand for our own actions before a Holy God at the Great White throne (Hebrews 7:27) judgment of Christ. As the Bible says, "all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God." We can never be good enough by our actions. We must accept what Christ did to cover our sins (BY FAITH), or we must stand before God and account for our own actions. Surprise, it does not matter how "good" you are to God, only that you love Him, and believe in Him, in all His ways.

Footnote:

(Isaiah 61 1-3) (Some say that Christians must have changed the book of Isaiah to make it look like Jesus' fingerprint in history 335 BC years before Christ's birth. Yet, the Dead Sea Scrolls hidden by non-Christians called Jewish Essenes right after Christ's lifetime showed our copy of Isaiah as being the same.) Back to the story:

Christ laying down His life unto death speaks volumes to our suffering. Christ exemplified, from His cross, that suffering is not just academic but real. (paraphrased) Christ wept at Lazarus tomb for the families suffering, and Christ wept at the death of His friend John the Baptist. Through it all, Christ is not without feeling. Additionally, the Bible says Christ was "tempted in all points like as we are." (Hebrews 4:15) Though, in this essay, suffering can be understood to a

degree, every being that has lived on this earth understands that suffering is not merely academic--including Christ Himself. I for one had to face a real possibility at one time that I may not be able to see my son grow up. If we could see tomorrow, we would be like God, but that has been taken from us at the fall.

Our greatest fears can be faced knowing the reality--God is just. (John 5:30) For those that do not understand or know this, I do not know how they can go through life day- to- day. For the parents of those that have lost children, there is still hope all things will be made right by the last trumpet at the end of time. Why do we know this? Christ was here with us and is still with us right now. Our faith in Him is not just book taught intellectual jargon but a way of living. All of the previous foreshadowing is to make a few simple points, with deep compassion, for what some people may deal with as these words are read. Please understand; I am not without deep feeling, nor is Christ. When a child is lost, I suspect; all the angels on the hillside weep with us. Perhaps no human can ever explain a loss such as this, but I believe God the Father can when His books are opened. (Daniel 7:10)

God is not alone because He chooses not to be alone--just like you and me.

One thing is certain; God had a choice to live alone in the universe. In like manner, I easily could lock myself up in my room and refuse to participate in the affairs of man. I could think, "Whatever affairs are God's, they are not mine." Concerning the all too real fears of inevitable loss, the uncertainty of all tomorrows still looms. While trusting God with all the unknowns of tomorrow, we must choose to trust God with all issues such as: a house note, a family, and a refusal to live in isolation. With all the stresses of a family life, we must choose to live by trusting in the Father to make all things right. That is the ultimate faith of God.

As mentioned, keep in mind, most humans do not live alone, and God does not have to live alone either. When we are alone too long, we don't like it. The single that have lived alone for years can understand this emptiness. Is there something worse than the pain of loss? Yes, it is eternal loneliness? It is not good for man to be alone and neither is it good for Father God. (Genesis 2:18)

For those who have family and have never been without family, they may not truly appreciate aloneness as pain. Consider Father's only two choices, to have the sheer joy in creating you and me while believing we will love Him and trust Him, or Father God could live alone forever. What a choice! You and I did not make the choice to live alone and neither has Father God, and yes it is the same thing. By creating the first being in His class to love, He created the possibility, and I argue, the inevitability of someone falling--Lucifer. Do not kid yourself, Jesus knew what Judas Iscariot would do before he did it, and He knew exactly what Lucifer would do before Lucifer was created.

If God is not alone, then anyone with Him could stumble on their choices to look at darkness. (Deuteronomy 30:19) Don't say, it can't happen in a perfect heaven, it already has, and one out of three of those tempted fell in a day. The original and continuous fall has been serious business for the Father. He is not the deist god far off somewhere in the galaxy not worried about man. (paraphrased) The Father is right here where two or three agree. (Matthew 18:20) Right implied not to be alone and to be loved!

God made Lucifer and all things since He is the Alpha and the Omega of Revelations 22-- the beginning and the end. Or should I say, Time is within God. God knew, without a doubt, Lucifer would twist with one in three of His angels. If God inhabits the future and the present at the same time, and He does, then He knew exactly what was going to happen. In spite of His creation's potential to fail, Father made a decision to be loved just like you and me. Like the Father, when we choose to have a family, visit family, or go out on a date with someone, or just watch TV, we are interacting with the creation God had to decide to create. That is the exact same choice that created Lucifer and put Christ on His cross. There is no difference in our refusal to accept aloneness and the Father's refusal. In fact, the Bible says, (paraphrased)"before the (Matthew 25:34) foundations of this world, Christ was crucified." So yes, by choosing to create Lucifer and all the angels that turned, God chose not to live alone in eternity, but to have a chosen people that understand Him and love Him and trust Him. Because of His chosen people, the Father will not remain alone over the possibility of evil. Do you blame Him? I don't. Is this right to be loved for you and me-- and the Father-- a major

point in our search to try to understand human suffering? You decide for yourself. A dear friend that went through a long painful end to a relationship she treasured asked me, "is it too much to ask to be loved?" I told her "No". It is not too much to ask to be loved. And that is when it hit me. It is not too much for God Almighty to ask to be loved either. At this point, take notes because it is going to get deeper.

Statistical failure and survival implied:

Out of all the wars that have been fought, out of all the carnage, the floods, the lost, the found and all those in between--it is a statistical fact that some will survive against all odds. Throw fifty men into battle, one will inevitably walk away without a scratch. That is God. He said over-and-over; (paraphrased) "I will have my peculiar people (Exodus 19:5), my royal priesthood, (1 Peter 2:9) and my chosen nation." God never changed His mind. He stated, "I will trade nations for thee." When God healed ten lepers, only one returned in the book of (Luke 17:12), and said "Thank you Lord." The fruit of the one is what it is all about? He has done so much for us all--giving us life and love and a chance to live--just like my own little boy that I so cherish. God is good.

For the question, why is there all the darkness in our history? Remember there is a statistical value of those that will survive and those that will fail. Is that part of the answer we have been looking for as to why the darkness is in our history? To God the Father, for the prize of those that will love Him forever, at this moment, the loss factor does not stop His desire to create, but will this always be so? Do the loss and gain factors implied make the Father pause at the suffering of this age?

Will the loss factor bring the suffering to a conclusion?

I must caution this is NOT some kind of weird formula as to who is lost or found in God's judgment. I just imply-- some will always accept the Father and some will always reject Him just like the Bible indicates. Stay tuned. We are getting deeper still.

No experience-no hope.

From the first moment Lucifer believed in his heart that, "God is a push over. I can do what I please. He will not stop me. I will raise my throne above His throne." Lucifer created evil. Not God. To have His chosen people, God in Heaven must remove the dross/impurities (Jeremiah 9, 7), just like the Old Testament says, so we will be the refiner. I think it is only through such intense training that if we see darkness, then we will flee from it. The Bible tells us, "Some are saved hating even their garments as filthy rags." (Isaiah 64:6) O no, you think you can understand God in a perfect heaven and never turn from Him without experience, you forget, as mentioned, one in three of the angels that had known God for eons of time, turned from Him in a day.

Think of Peter in the New Testament saying, "Lord, I will not deny you." (Mark 14:29) Jesus in turned prophesied, (paraphrased) "you will deny me by the crock of roosters." God knows the future, and He knows we will make mistakes. He just created a place called earth and a time called chance for us to make those mistakes and learn from them by faith having not yet seen His Glory.

Example: My son started drinking after all his friends at the daycare. I told him not to do that. He inquired "why"? When he got sick, he discovered that his dad was not so wrong after all. Why is it we must learn from doing the dumb things instead of just listening? I don't know, but it seems to be in our very nature to learn this way. Is this why things are the way they are?

So, is our determination to learn from experience necessitating the need for the fall and linear time to deal with that fall? The Bible encourages, "With experience we have hope." (Romans 5:4) Is this why things are the way they are?

The Point is that if God did not give us time and a chance to grow up, then our first failure, in a perfect Heaven, would be our last --just like Lucifer. No we need time and grace and experience. We have learned so much about things like: what is right, what is good, about listening, one's character in doing the right thing no matter what the cost. If we are going to talk about experience, we must consider that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 5:12) So the number of mistakes does not matter, only that we get it right by the last trumpet-correct.

In fact, for years, there have been questions of integrity on police officer exams. The exam would ask questions such as, "Have you ever stolen anything or lied"? If you answered no, then you failed the test. It is that simple; we learn from our mistakes; and, we have all made mistakes.

So I ask again, is that part of the reason for human suffering? Answer that, and you can know if you can trust in the Father of all things. Even in the case of personal loss, you can understand experience is God's teacher. The Bible says, (paraphrased) "this life is a schoolmaster to Christ." When Father God makes it right for this family and yours, we will all see He is just and right and Holy.

The severity of the fall!

The original fall of the host of Heaven was serious business. It fired shock waves through time. The very character and nature of God was put on trial and is the very essence of our choice to trust in God the Father today. If you say today, "I don't know about a God that allows such things", but you refuse to live totally alone, how do you expect a God who is pure love to live alone forever and ever with no one to be the object of His affection? That would be hell for God, and you and me-- be honest. Experience has already taught us something about this and prepared our hearts to worship God for everything in this world.

Be advised, God had every right to create life, in spite of Lucifer and his minions. So, before we cast too many stones at God about why things are the way they are, we need to consider one more thing. He told us, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5) Right now, with the unknowns of tomorrow I choose to trust God. I have peace no matter what. Remembering that "all things will work for good for those that love God and are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28) You see, the Bible is no old dead book, but something that is alive through Christ. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living. Without minimizing the suffering of those that have lost children, in the midst of it all, the Father is there with us. All we need to do is to ask for His companionship. If you the individual want to live alone, the Father will let you.

But I promise you this, He is just and you are wrong for condemning God in your heart. That was Job's mistake. (Job 4:17) How do I know this--because for the last twenty-five years of trusting Him--I gained experience? This faith in God does not diminish the severity of the original fall or the suffering today. However, it does supply a way- through because Christ is alive, and He is with us through it all.

The fall was going to happen no matter what!

There is an inference here. If God created Lucifer, time, and opportunity for him to fall, then the fall was inevitable. If God is a time traveler, or Time Is Within God, the Bible clearly indicates that that is absolutely true, then the fall of: Lucifer, Adam, you and me, and everyone including Hitler was foretold and inevitable. The Bible tells us that, "We were predestined to be the sons and daughters of God." (Ephesians 2:10) The doctrine of predestination implies that God inhabits every moment in time. Furthermore, "God knows how to save the righteous or those in right standing." And that is what allowed the suffering we see today--those that God can sift out of the fire--you and me the longsuffering fruit of the earth will be sifted. That is what this world is all about. So, why are we here? To grow up in His image and learn from our mistakes IE: gain experience-- that is our purpose. To grow in the understanding of God, and to love Him, that is our purpose. People search the earth in places like Tibetan caves or chanting or doing whatever historically including believe it or not shaking to find the purpose of life and salvation. All along, it was simple faith in our maker that through His Son we are called whole and someday-- home. Our purpose, through that faith, was to learn of Him our Maker.

In relation to the matter of God knowing all moments of time before the events happen(ed), I suspect Father God knew no matter how many timelines He created for His creation, right down the middle was the best choice, and He justly made that choice for all of us. I find it ironic. The children of Israel left Egypt, went straight to Israel's now their homeland, refused to go in, then wandered around in the wilderness for forty years only to return back to where they were meant to be--the new nation of Israel. The shortest way through is right down the middle, and that is exactly what created the timeline that we know that includes human

suffering through the ages. Don't think the example of the Israelites wandering around and returning to the point of blessings does not apply.

Straight down the middle is Father God's way of doing things; and, to be honest, mine and most likely yours as well. I have never wandered around much if I had a direction. I rarely walk on sidewalks; I just walk straight across the yard to the front door. This is how God looks at time and the chance of suffering. Until suffering is completely ended, the route Father God chooses for us all is right down the middle.

The Bible says, "This life is a schoolmaster unto Christ." (Galatians 3:24) The inference is clear. Without this life, we are going to have a real hard time understanding Christ in a perfect kingdom. The Bible also states, "With experience we have hope." (Romans 5:4) Again, after you survive this life, you will not turn back to darkness--ever. It is that simple. God is preparing you to NOT fail but to walk with Him forever. You survive this age-- you will never turn away from Him. You will know--He is just. The need for that experience is what put Christ on the cross and you and me right where we are. Why is God in Heaven waiting so long since Christ said "It is finished"? Every day one more soul listens to creation speaking volumes of the Father's love and witness Christians believing, by faith, in what cannot be seen. "Blessed are those that believe having not seen." (John 20:29)

The end of the thousand year reign of Christ and experience

Think about the end of the thousand year reign of Christ on the earth after the tribulation. The Bible says shockingly, that Lucifer will be "loosed for a time, a time, and a half a time." Then, after a thousand years of Christ will rule this world. God is going to let him go again!

This can be upsetting! I could handle the here and now, but it will happen again-- for a time, a time, and half a time (or for a limited amount of time there will be suffering again on the earth.) The Bible goes on to say, that (paraphrased) "As many as the sands in the sea will march on the city of God and turn their backs on

Him." The inference is clear again, mankind has the potential, without experience, no matter what God does to make a mess of things.

The Bible indicates that many will refuse to follow Lucifer, however, many will turn their back on God. Just like you and I, God wants to know--are you my friend or not? He gives us all time and opportunity, you decide. (paraphrased) "The tares and the wheat grow up together; some to be gathered and some to be thrown away." (Matthew 13:25) He said, in (Deuteronomy 30:19), "I sat before you blessings and cursing, now you choose, but as for Me, choose life."

But when do we choose wisely: when we choose to face the doctor who tells us to come in for a test, we choose wisely when we just thought life was perfect but it falls all apart, we choose wisely when we breathe our last breath, and when our child is gone and we are so broken inside all we can do is sit and stare at the wall, so then when we choose wisely--we choose life and trusting in God.

If you can do no more than bow your knee before a Holy God and bless Him with your last breath as Job--then do just that. This is extreme suffering, but it is an answer to a hard question. God is just and not unjust. I quote Job, after his wife said (with the loss of his homes and children), "Why don't you just curse God and die?" (Job 40:5) Job fell to his face and uttered, "naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked I will return, but blessed be the name of the Lord." (Job 1:21) Job in the midst of unimaginable pain just said, "Blessed is the name of the Lord." And shortly after that, all he lost was returned ten- fold. So sometimes, when you cry until you can't cry anymore, it is just this simple, just bless the name of the Lord with your last breath and every breath in between.

If that is all you can do, God will do the rest. It is out of your hands. This is an eternal altruistic truth that has lived through the ages in the hearts of men and women that passed the test and said, "Father I trust you, and I love you"--having not seen His Glory. How precious this is? Consider how that faithful soul that chooses to trust God with his last breath condemns Lucifer and all his minions having lived in Glory and having fallen so far from that Glory.

Concerning those that refuse to trust God and who will refuse to trust God after the later reign, whom at the end of Christ ruling a thousand years will refuse to believe us when we will say, "You do that, you will die-- just bless the name of the Lord and remain quiet before a Holy God." - I suppose no one can say Father did not warn them, I know I will. Yes, these truths are eternal and will carry right over into the thousand year reign of Christ and beyond.

Even then, every being ever created in the class of our Maker must choose. For us, we will have learned our lesson(s) because we have been here and paid with our dearest blood, "as for me and my house we will stand." As the Bible continues, (paraphrased)"having down all to stand, (we) stand therefore." (Ephesians 6:14) But every being made in the image of God will choose good or evil. Is that part of the reason for the suffering we know today? Ask yourself. God in Heaven knows, we have time and chance now to choose. There is an end to human suffering. Human suffering is finite. Brace yourself, we are getting deeper still.

The children of God are finite not infinite.

If all the beings that live through the thousand year reign, after the tribulation, must choose to love God and trust Him or not. Everyone ever created will choose life –or- death.

Yet, after the thousand-year reign the Bible promises "I will make all things new, a new Heaven and a new earth, for the former things have passed away." (Revelation 21:5) The Bible continues, "There will be no more tears." (Revelation 21: 4) Not before, only after the thousand year reign of Christ on the earth will there be no more tears. What does this mean? I have talked to many pastors and most agree that God will stop making children in His class or image.

We need to stop and think about living alone forever. Is that too much? How about deciding to never make a new face or the smile of a new born child--then you can glimpse at what I am saying.

Example: My wife would have continued to make beautiful babies until she was a hundred if we had not agreed one was fulfillment and enough. It is hard to understand God creating except in these mere mortal terms. God will stop doing the thing He loves the most--creating new life!

God will settle with a (paraphrased) "peculiar people, a chosen nation, a royal priesthood", a very narrow band of survivors from all the thousands of years before--and that group, finite in number and certainly not infinite, will be all that is left forever and ever to keep Father God and His love company.

So when we start talking about condemning God for things being the way they are, I think we seriously need to sit back and consider, perhaps, just maybe, we don't have all the facts. If I am right, then God is waiting for us to catch up with Him in eternity and He is absolutely just. If the Father kept creating in His image, THERE WOULD NEVER BE A LIMIT TO HUMAN SUFFERING--and that is too much for the Father to accept. The only way all things can be made new with no tears is if the FATHER STOPS CREATING IN HIS IMAGE. Also, if the inference of a final finite number of the children of God is true, though not explicitly stated in the Bible, then how special is each and every one of us that stands with Christ by faith?

Keep in mind this fact. Every being that has been ever created must have time and chance to choose life. Is this why things are the way it is? (Titus 2:14) (1 Peter 2:9)

If you let it sink in, this is a seriously sad revelation. There are short term limits to suffering: Noah and the flood, the end of the tribulation, the end of the thousand year reign of Christ when humanity again turns their back on the Father, and the bounding of Lucifer and all of those that follow him through the ages. However, the final, long term, limit will be when the Father stops creating in His image and binds evil forever and ever from paradise.

I remember weeping with joy at the birth of my son because he was so beautiful and precious to me. It is hard to imagine Father God already knows the face of His last child. So, it was seriously, painfully, deep business the day creation decided to

explore darkness. It is not over yet for mankind. For God, it was over when Christ said "It is finished".

However, for mankind there is a final limit--no more children of God. However, it is plain to see God is not just waiting for any old fruit of the earth. He is waiting for a ripened first fruit that has the experience the faith and the understanding to trust in Him no matter what. That fruit of the earth, the survivors, will last forever and ever to be the object of the Father's love. That first fruit will love God with all our: hearts, souls, and minds--we will keep the greatest commandment that hangs on all the laws and the prophets. (Matthew 22:37)

We will love God the Father forever with all our: hearts, souls, and minds because--He is just. So why the suffering? For you and me, I am saying; it is our fault! Yet, it is not our actions.

It is the fact we are the prize--the chosen nation.

If we trust in our Maker having not seen His Glory, to our Maker, the way we live choosing His character and His words over our own make us very special indeed.

God inhabits all time and He has NOT decided to live alone forever nor should He. Furthermore, neither should you or I live alone forever.

Also because of Lucifer, and ever single rebellious person like him, my God will give up the thing He loves the most--creating in His image. So I ask, Who is the victim God or man? One pastor said, "I don't like you saying God is a victim to anything." He made a good point. But, in a sense, God is the victim of His love for us.

Consequently God is suffering.

And you can believe the enemy of God knows how to hurt Him. When a soul rejects the perfect Father's love, it hurts. Just like a husband who truly love his unfaithful wife hurts--God in Heaven hurts.

Concerning the Father wanting to be loved by his creation and then knowing, in time, He will have to give up the thing He loves-- which is creating new faces of children-- in a sense, God is suffering from His love for us and from His love of creating life itself. If I am right, God knows the day and hour He will choose to stop creating life. That is very sad. So Who is the victim God or Man? Man's suffering is without question. Likewise, because Father God loves us so dearly, He is suffering too. So is this one reason why things are the way they are? I think so. God's love is drawing all of creation out to gain everything good that can come from it. Father's word says, "All things work for good for those that love Him and are called according to His purposes."

If I can glean these few points, how much more will we understand during that thirty minute silence in Heaven when the books are opened? This is found in the book of Revelations. (Revelation 8:1) The Bible says, (paraphrased) "We will know all things and worship Him for it all." Yes, that includes the: holocaust, the FOUR hundred years of slavery of the Jews, and the parent(s) that have or will lose their children. No it is not just academic to you and me or to the Father. Father is in the trenches with us. The fall was and is serious business. This chapter has attempted to break the suffering of man down to understandable bites, but that does not delude the pain of anyone who is suffering.

Move forward in time and entertain the power of God. Concerning the concept of loosing a child, could it be the child slips from this world and at the same time he or she arrives in Father's Kingdom, the child looks around and says, "Mommy--it is so beautiful here." He looks up and sees the tears of his mother and father agreeing with the child's smile.

"Yes son, it is beautiful, but we have much to teach you from our experiences, so you will trust in the Father with all your heart for much is going to happen--still yet."

You see, to the child there is NO loss of time. For his parents, a lifetime has passed. So the child loses no time in Christ's Kingdom and barely realizes he left this world. This is the only JUST thing Jesus can do since He is the God of all time. Don't ever forget, (Revelation 21:6) "He is the alpha and the omega, the

beginning and the end; or" Time is within God. Realize the power of God to make things right. I suspect we have no idea just how God has already worked things out for our good--(paraphrased) "if we love Him and are called according to His purpose all things work for good." (Romans 8:28) I suspect none of us has even got a glimpse of how JUST the Father really is because of His great power and Godhead. Bless the name of the Lord, my friend, with your last breath and every breath in between. Trust in your maker to make all things right by the time the final trumpet sounds.

We will know all things and love him for it!

The Bible says during the thirty minute silence in heaven, when God judges the earth and the books are open, "we will worship Him knowing all His decisions and judgments are just and good." So just for one moment, realize that someday you will understand ten million times more than you do now and you will worship the Father for making things exactly the way they are. Then in that moment, you will have a glimpse of the answer as to---Who is the victim God or man? The love of God, for you and me and the fruit of the earth, the prize, created things exactly the way they are by giving us time and opportunity to learn from our experiences. Evil took the initiative to create the rest--not God the Father.

In Conclusion

Is God the victim or man?

This is the question and the very essence of the temptation Lucifer and all his minion has been throwing in the face of God and His creation for thousands of years. Choose life. It is not academic. Christ was placed on the cross for His blood to pour: from His face, His side, His head, His back, His hands, and His feet. To say, no one understands what you have been through is not totally true. I may not understand but Christ does. The Bible says, "He suffered in all points like as we are." Follow through to the end. God also reminds, "I have plans that you will prosper." So which is true of God the Father (life or death), or (justice or immeasurable cruelty) to allow things to be the way they are? I believe God that He has plans of life and justice to those that choose to trust Him. Search your

heart; this is right. Consider, John 3:16, all God ask is that we trust Him having not seen His Glory. Is God the Father right or wrong? Just or unjust? You choose!1
Peter 5:10)

"The sufferings of this present world is not worthy to be compared to the glory that shall be revealed in us." (Romans 8:18)

Drop me a note and share your heart. I am listening.

Sincerely

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Mark

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