

# THE MANY FACES OF SUFFERING

## I. SECULAR VIEW

- A. Unfair due to indiscriminate distribution in the world.
- B. Second causes only (the only logical reason for the atheist).
- C. The great humanistic task is to mitigate/eliminate it through reason and intelligence (philosophically and scientifically). Or just live with suffering as a normal, evolutionary consequence of life. There is neither rhyme nor reason to it.
- D. Punishment or illusion according to Eastern religion.

## II. BIBLICAL VIEW

- A. Universal and merited
  - 1. Job 5:1
  - 2. Genesis 3:17-19; Psalm 38:3 - merited
  - 3. Romans 3
  - 4. Romans 6:23
  - 5. Romans 5:12-14; 8:20-22
- B. Many-faced
  - 1. Psalm 107
  - 2. James 1:2; I Peter 1:6, 7
  - 3. Psalm 143:3, 4
- C. Painful
  - 1. Job 2:7, 8
  - 2. II Corinthians 11:23-28
- D. Ordained of God
  - 1. Exodus 4:11; Deuteronomy 28:20; Deut. 32:39; Ruth 1:20, 21; I Samuel 2:6, 7; 2 Chron. 7:13; Job 10:8; Psalm 88:6, 7; Psalm 90:7; Isaiah 45:7; Lam. 3:1; Amos 3:6; I Cor. 11:32; Hebrews 12:10; Rev. 3:19
  - 2. I Peter 1:19, 20
  - 3. Ephesians 1:11
- E. Purposeful
  - 1. Isaiah 26:9 with Romans 2:4
  - 2. Hebrews 12:10

3. Romans 5:3; James 1:2
  4. I Corinthians 1:4-6
  5. I Peter 1:7 - Crown of life
  6. II Corinthians 12:7-10
  7. Romans 8:28
- F. Prayed for
1. II Corinthians 12:8
  2. Matthew 26:44
  3. Psalm 40:1-3
- G. Temporary
1. Revelation 21:1-4; 22:1-5
  2. II Corinthians 5:1-8

"There is a limit to affliction. God sends it and God removes it. Do you sigh and say, 'When will the end be?' Remember that our griefs will surely and finally end when this poor earthly life is over. Let us quietly wait and patiently endure the will of the Lord till He comes." - C.H. Spurgeon

"Extraordinary afflictions are not always the punishment of extraordinary sins, but sometimes the trial of extraordinary graces. Sanctified afflictions are spiritual promotions." - Matthew Henry

"The Lord afflicts us at times; but it is always a thousand times less than we deserve, and much less than many of our fellow-creatures are suffering around us. Let us therefore pray for grace to be humble, thankful, and patient." - John Newton

"The furnace of affliction is a good place for you, Christian; it benefits you; it helps you to become more like Christ, and it is fitting you for heaven." - Charles Spurgeon

"When I am in the cellar of affliction, I look for the Lord's choicest wines." - Samuel Rutherford

"What if we have more of the rough file, if we have less rust! Afflictions carry away nothing but the dross of sin." - Thomas Watson

"The highest honor that God can confer upon his children is the blood-red crown of martyrdom. The jewels of a Christian are his afflictions. The regalia of the kings that God has made are their troubles, their sorrows, and their griefs. Griefs exalt us, and troubles lift us." - Charles Spurgeon

"The winter prepares the earth for the spring, so do afflictions sanctified prepare the soul for glory." - Richard Sibbes

"Afflictions are light when compared with what we really deserve. They are light when compared with the sufferings of the Lord Jesus. But perhaps their real lightness is best seen by comparing them with the weight of glory which is awaiting us." - A. W. Pink

"As sure as God puts His children in the furnace of affliction, He will be with them in it." - Charles Spurgeon

"Afflictions add to the saints' glory. The more the diamond is cut, the more it sparkles; the heavier the saints' cross is, the heavier will be their crown." - Thomas Watson