

# Why Permit Sin, Evil and Suffering?

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- I. The Accusation: “If a good and powerful God exists, He would not allow sin, evil, and suffering. But since there is so much pointless suffering in the world, we must conclude that the traditional good and powerful God does not exist.”
- II. Hidden in this accusation is the premise that if evil and suffering appear pointless to me, then it must be pointless.
  - A. **Isaiah 61:3** Beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.
  - B. Was the torture of Jesus on the cross pointless?
  - C. **John 1:3** says that Jesus is the Creator of all things. He can even create something good out of something bad that has happened.
- III. Why do we have sin, evil and suffering in the world?
  - A. The Buddhist answer: Because of man’s lust. **James 1:13-15**
  - B. The Christian answer: Because God gave man the freedom of choice.
- IV. Where did sin, evil, and suffering originate?
  - A. In heaven with Lucifer. **Ezekiel 28:15**
- V. God’s Problem: How to condition our choice so that we will hate sin, evil and suffering?
  - A. God’s presence is a consuming fire. **Hebrews 12:29**
  - B. We need to be able to dwell with this consuming fire. **Isaiah 33:14 & 15**
  - C. To do this we need to allow Jesus to take away our sins. **John 1:29 (Malachi 4:1)**  
Sanctification is the process of becoming fireproof.
  - D. We need to fear (reverence) the Lord so that we might learn wisdom and understanding. **Proverbs 9:10**
  - E. With this wisdom and conditioning will come hatred for sin, evil, pride, arrogance and the evil way. **Proverbs 8:13**
  - F. The Holy Spirit will give to all those who desire, the ability to sigh and cry for the abominations that abound. **Ezekiel 9:4**
  - G. Sin, evil, and suffering can’t stand alone. They must be in someone like humans or evil angels.
  - H. The closure on sin, evil, and suffering occurs when the devil and all those who refuse to part with sin are cast into the lake of fire and are devoured. **Revelation 20:9&10**
  - I. After the millennium, while God still permits all to have their freedom of choice, all will have seen the results of sin, evil, and suffering and will never choose to be drawn into this insanity.