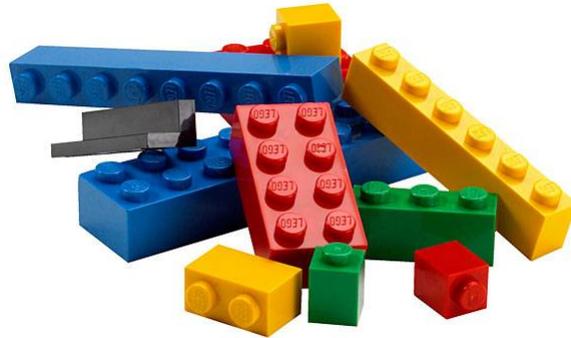


Rev. Thomas McCuddy



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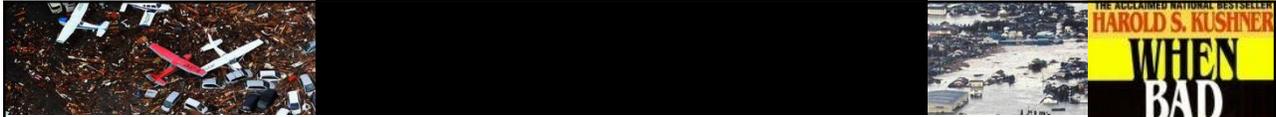




We all experience pain and suffering from stepping on legos to diseases to death. And we all ask the same basic question:



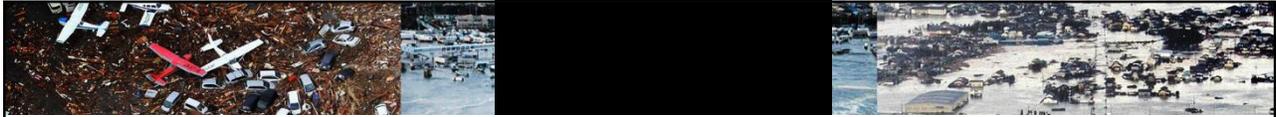
WHY?



- Why do bad things happen to good people?
- Why does God allow evil to run rampant through the world.
- Why didn't God heal my ____, stop ____, give me ____, prevent ____, do ____, fix ____, warn me about ____...
- Why would God let ____ happen. (Doesn't he care? People who care would do something about it!)

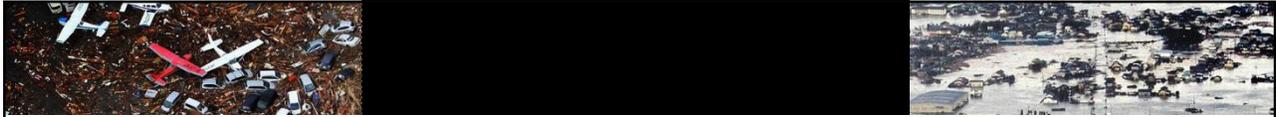


- If God is all powerful and all good, then he could and would destroy evil (or never let evil come to be in the first place).
- Evil exists.
- Therefore (by Modus Tollens), God is not all those things (Harold Kushner) or God doesn't exist.

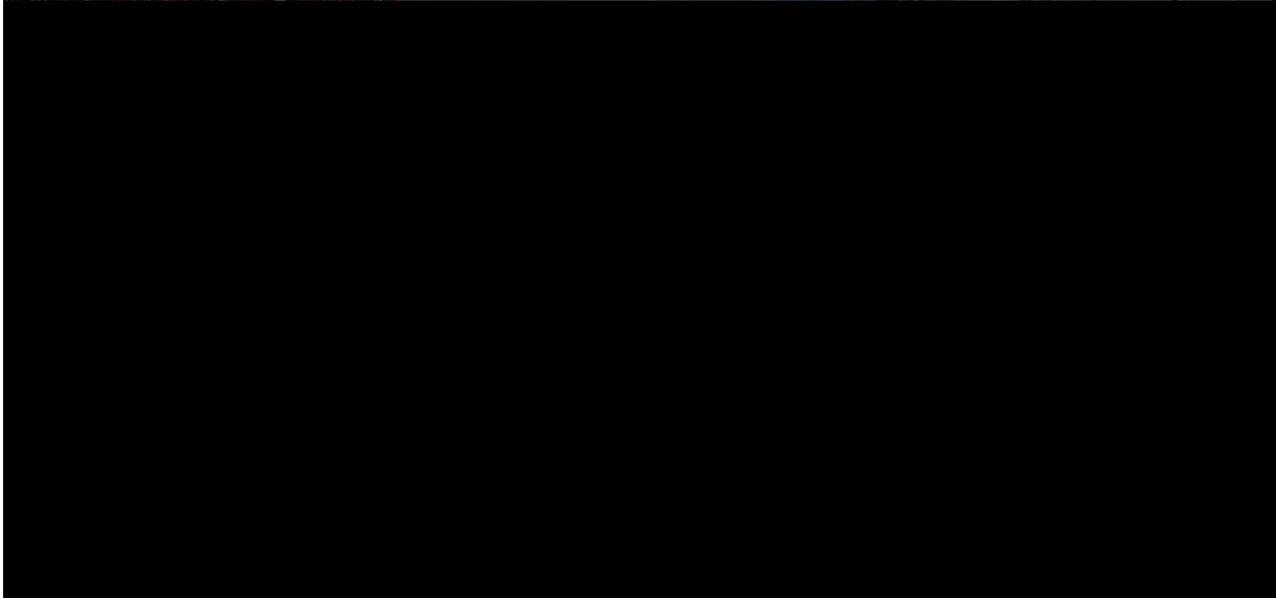


- First, we are going to answer the general challenge by looking to the FUTURE.
- Second, we are going to explain what evil is and where it came from to understand what we are dealing with and why.
- Third, we are going to return to the present to answer the present struggles and issues people face as a result of evil in the world.





- If God is all powerful and all good, then he could and would destroy evil (or never let evil come to be in the first place).
- If God is all powerful and all good, then he could and would, **or could and will** destroy evil.
- Revelation explains that God **will** destroy evil.
- And we are told the reason he **must** destroy evil is that he is **just**. But he also provides forgiveness because he is **merciful**.



- 
- Evil is the corruption or distortion of good.
 - Is cancer evil?
 - Is “rottenness” evil?
 - Do such things exist all by themselves?
 - Good things suffer from evil when they cease to function as they should or something goes wrong.

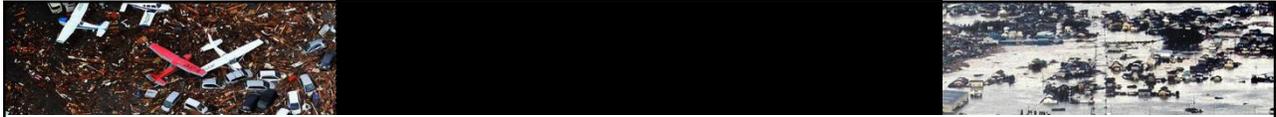
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- Evil entered our world through people.
 - Adam and Eve sinned.
 - They died spiritually (cause and effect).
 - God did NOT destroy them instantly (mercy)
 - But they were cast out and the earth was cursed (judgment)



- Because they were not destroyed, they had Cain, Able, and Seth.
 - Cain killed Able (which was evil).
 - God punished Cain (judgment).
 - But God did not destroy Cain (mercy) and protected him with a mark (mercy)
- Cain kept rebelling (evil), and his children kept rebelling (evil).
 - God decides to cleans the world with a flood (judgment)
 - But saves one family (mercy)



- Noah and his family multiply (good), and his grandkids start a city and build a tower to “make a name for themselves” (evil).
 - God confuses their language (judgment).
 - God does not destroy them (mercy).
- Later, God chooses Abram (mercy) to father a special people (mercy) to bring the Messiah (mercy) to save us (mercy) from our sins (evil).
- So God is in the mercy business while we are busy thinking of new ways to do evil!

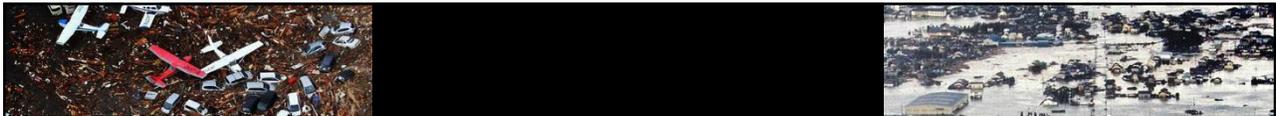


- The Spiritual Fall that allowed for physical death of people also allowed for the potential for accidents, disease, birth defects, starvation, drowning, etc.
- If God had destroyed humanity from the beginning (unmerciful) we wouldn't have to deal with the evil.
- If God jumped in and stopped humans any time they were about to do something wrong, we wouldn't be free.
 - And honestly, would you even want this?!

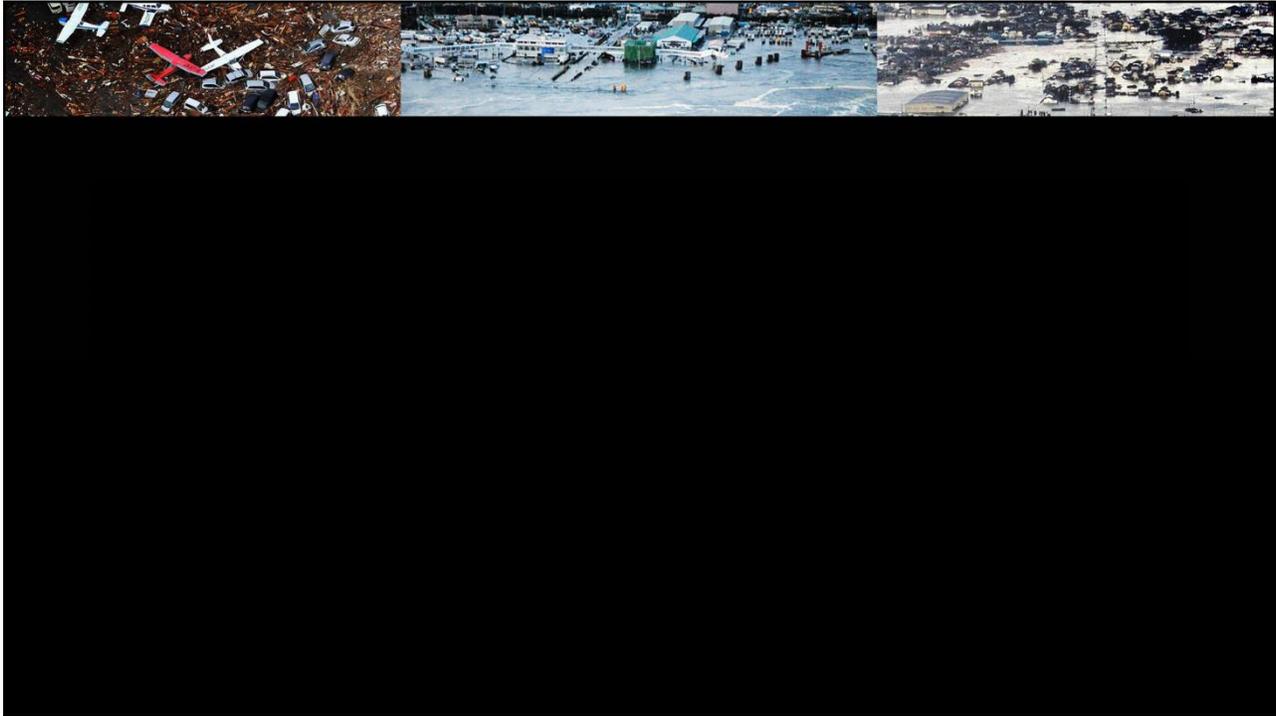




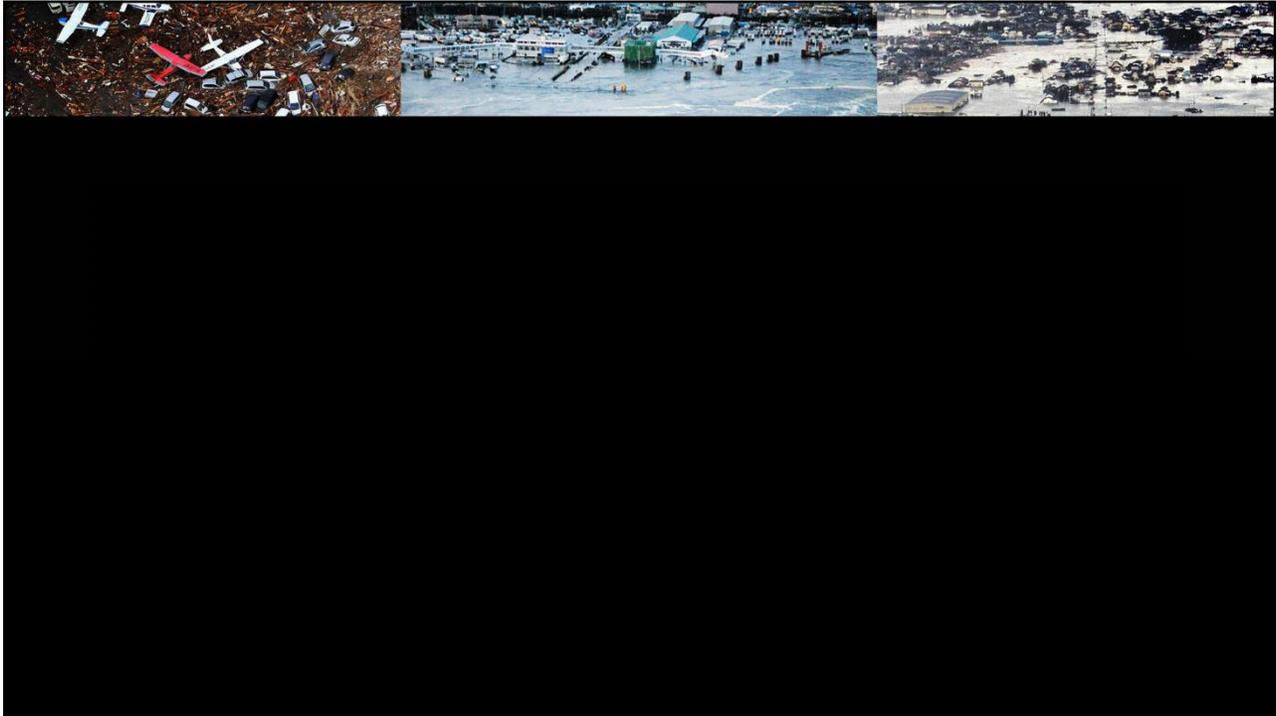
- We experience Diseases, Disorders, Disasters, and Death.
- So did Job.
 - Disaster struck and bankrupted him and killed his children, all on the same day, within minutes of each other.
 - Disease struck his body.
 - Disorder struck his heart as his wife turned on him.



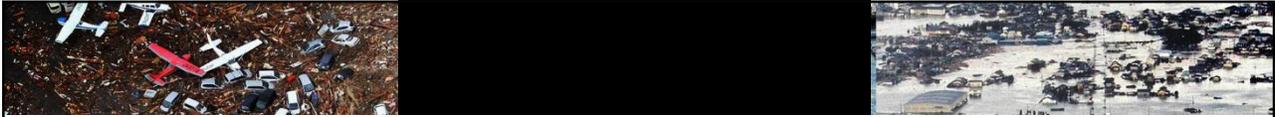
- We tend to think:
 - Stinks for him, but I'm me, and I'm suffering.
 - We ask "why" as if receiving a full report from God would ease the pain.
 - We use words about us like "unfair," "undeserved", etc (all of which exactly demonstrate Job.
- We ask "Why doesn't God do X to stop Y."



- This is not emotionally fulfilling.
 - Knowing doesn't take the pain away.
 - The hope of knowing it will be made right provides the fuel to persevere.
- We focus on the wrong thing.
 - We focus on death rather than celebrating life.
 - We live with pain of loss rather than the fulfillment of life.
 - We grovel as the victim rather than striving for victory.



- Evil proves the existence of God.
 - For evil to exist, good things must be corrupted.
 - But good things can exist without corruption.
 - So evil is depended upon the good, but not good the evil.
- If this world wasn't created good, then there can be no evil to speak of, only difference.
 - Disease, disaster, disorders, and death differ only in quantity, not quality from a mosquito bite.
 - And the best we can hope for in this life is a self-delusion to help us cope with our feelings.



- Why do bad things happen to good people?
 - Because sin and evil run rampant.
- Why do sin and evil run rampant?
 - **Because God is merciful!**
 - He does not desire the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11)
 - He does not wish that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9)
 - God does not destroy the evil so that he can show mercy to the wicked to give them time to repent.
- When God does finally deal with evil, the wicked will cry foul!