



## 1. Evil & Possible Worlds

A.

1)

2)

3)

4)

B.

## 2. Present Use of Suffering

A.

1)

2)

3)

B.

C.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

A.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

B.

C.

1)

a)

b)

c)

2)

3)

4)

### 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

A.

B.

C.

D.

1)

2)

E.



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# 1. Evil & Possible Worlds

## A. Proposed Alternatives

- 1) No Evil Options
- 2) Righteous Coercion
- 3) Immediate Judgment
- 4) Rebels in an Eternal World

## B. Critics Don't Propose Thoughtful Alternatives



## **2. Present Use of Suffering**

### **A. Positive Intention Illustrated**

- 1) Example in Intentional Pregnancies**
- 2) Example in Parenting Patterns**
- 3) Good Intention Obscured by Ignorance**



## 2. Present Use of Suffering

### B. Good Intention Stated

*Romans 8:28*

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*



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## 2. Present Use of Suffering

### C. Good Intentions Carried Out

#### 1) Driving Us to Him

*2 Chronicles 6:29*

*whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing his own affliction and his own sorrow and stretching out his hands toward this house*



## 2. Present Use of Suffering

### C. Good Intentions Carried Out

#### 2) Strengthening Our Character

*James 1:2–4*

*Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*



## 2. Present Use of Suffering

### C. Good Intentions Carried Out

#### 3) Keeping Us From Sin

*2 Corinthians 12:7*

*So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.*



## 2. Present Use of Suffering

### C. Good Intentions Carried Out

#### 4) Assuring Us of Our Faith

*1 Peter 1:6–7*

*you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*



## 2. Present Use of Suffering

### C. Good Intentions Carried Out

#### 5) Preparing Us for Ministry

*2 Corinthians 1:4*

*who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.*



## 2. Present Use of Suffering

### C. Good Intentions Carried Out

#### 6) Directing History

*Genesis 50:20*

*As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.*



## 2. Present Use of Suffering

### C. Good Intentions Carried Out

#### 7) Appreciating Its Elimination

*Revelation 21:4–5*

*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”*



### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

#### A. The Means

##### 1) The Incarnation

*Romans 8:3*

*For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin*



### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

#### A. The Means

#### 2) Human Identification

*Philippians 2:7–8*

*but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant,  
being born in the likeness of men. And being found in  
human form*



# 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

## A. The Means

### 3) Human Suffering

*1 Peter 4:1*

*Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking*



### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

#### A. The Means

#### 4) Human Torture

*Hebrews 13:12*

*So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.*



### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

#### A. The Means

#### 5) Human Death

*Philippians 2:8*

*And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*



### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

#### B. The Hopeful Promise

*2 Peter 3:12–13*

*waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*



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### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

#### B. The Hopeful Promise

*Hebrews 10:36*

*For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised.*



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### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

#### C. The Reality

##### 1) The Template in Job

- a) Genuine Suffering
- b) Inscrutable Purposes
- c) More Than Restoration

***Job 42:10***

***And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job... And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.***

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### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

#### C. The Reality

##### 1) The Template in Job

- a) Genuine Suffering
- b) Inscrutable Purposes
- c) More Than Restoration

*Job 42:12a*

*And the LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.*

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### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

#### C. The Reality

##### 1) The Template in Job

- a) Genuine Suffering
- b) Inscrutable Purposes
- c) More Than Restoration

##### *Job 1:3*

*He possessed 7,000 sheep,  
3,000 camels,  
500 yoke of oxen,  
and 500 female donkeys*

##### *Job 42:12b*

*And he had 14,000 sheep,  
6,000 camels,  
1,000 yoke of oxen,  
and 1,000 female donkeys.*

### **3. The End of Suffering & Evil**

#### **C. The Reality**

##### **1) The Template in Job**

- a) Genuine Suffering**
- b) Inscrutable Purposes**
- c) More Than Restoration**

***Job 1:2***

***There were born to him  
seven sons  
and three daughters.***

***Job 42:13***

***He had also  
seven sons  
and three daughters.***

# 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

## C. The Reality

### 2) Glorified Bodies

*Philippians 3:20–21*

*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.*



# 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

## C. The Reality

### 3) Glorified Universe

*Romans 8:20–21*

*For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

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### 3. The End of Suffering & Evil

#### C. The Reality

#### 4) Permanent

*Revelation 22:3–5*

*No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.*

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## 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

### A. Affirm Fallen Realities

*Job 16:1–2*

*Then Job answered and said: “I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all.”*



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## 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

### B. Team Up

*2 Corinthians 7:6–7*

*But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort with which he was comforted by you, as he told us of your longing, your mourning, your zeal for me, so that I rejoiced still more.*



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## 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

### C. Prayer

*James 5:13a*

*Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.*



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## 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

### C. Prayer

#### *Hebrews 5:7–8*

*In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered.*



## 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

### C. Prayer

*Acts 12:12b*

*he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.*



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## 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

### D. Value Humility

#### 1) Theologically

*Romans 11:31–32*

*so they [i.e., Israel] too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy. For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

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## 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

### D. Value Humility

#### 2) Individually

##### *1 Peter 5:6–7*

*Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.*



## 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

### E. Point to the Solution

*Daniel 9:24*

*Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness*



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## 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

### E. Point to the Solution

*Hebrews 9:25–28*

*Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.*

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## 4. Navigating Suffering & Evil

### E. Point to the Solution

*Hebrews 9:25–28*

*And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*



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