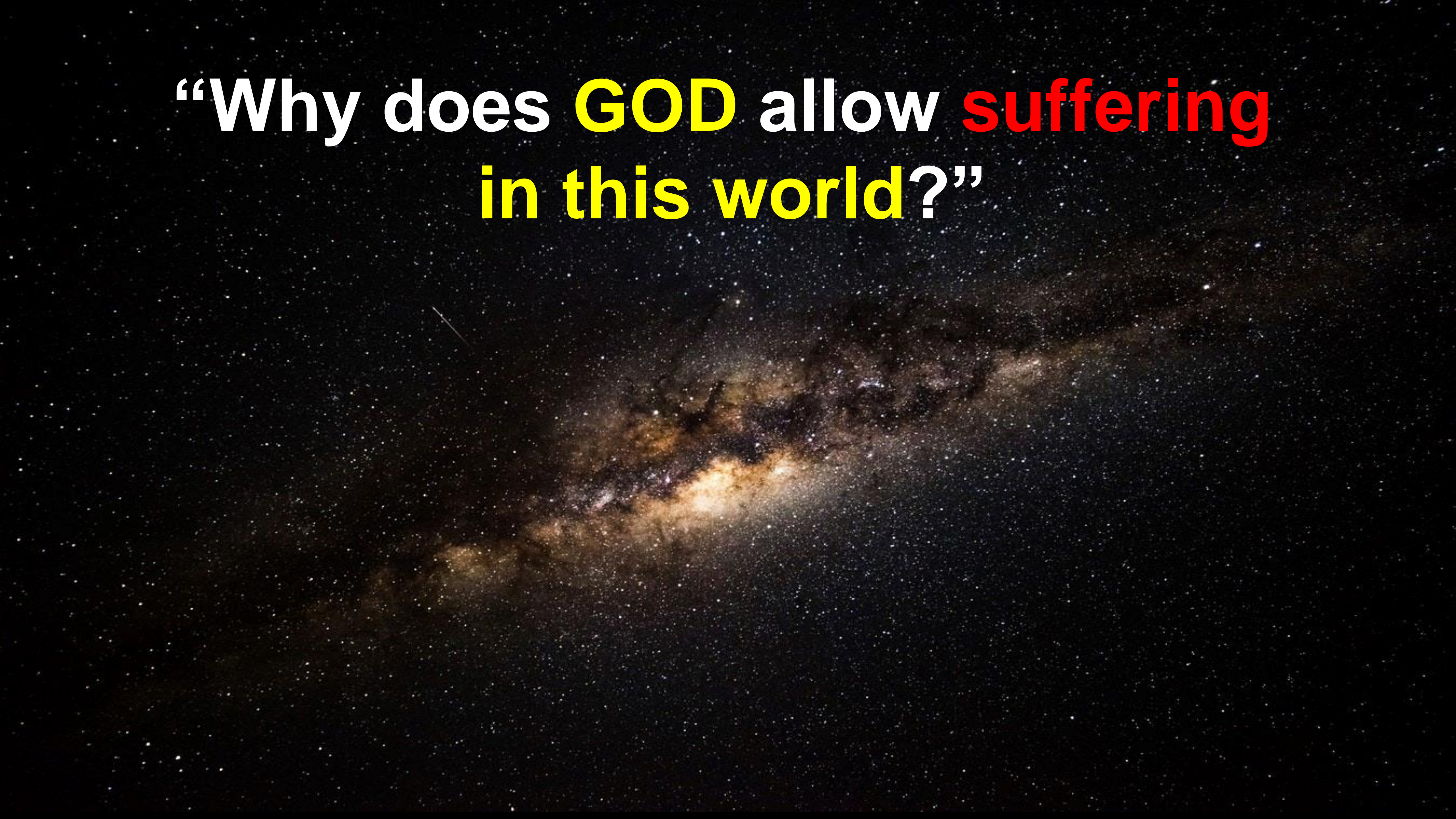



“Why does **GOD** allow **suffering**
in this world?”





“Suffering”: The state of undergoing
pain, distress, or hardship (or loss)

Why do we suffer?

1. We suffer as part of this broken world

“At least 550,000 babies are thought to have died as a result of armed conflict between 2013-2017 in the 10 worst-affected countries, according to new analysis by Save the Children — an average of well over 100,000 every year.”



Genesis 7:23

God wiped out every living thing on the earth— people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat.

Why do we suffer?

1. We suffer as **part of this broken world**
2. We suffer as **imperfect & sinful people**

Genesis 4:8

**One day Cain suggested to his brother,
“Let’s go out into the fields.”**

**And while they were in the field, Cain attacked his
brother, Abel, and killed him.**

Genesis 4:9-12

Afterward the Lord asked Cain,

“Where is your brother? Where is Abel?”

“I don’t know,” Cain responded.

“Am I my brother’s keeper?”

But the Lord said, “What have you done? Listen!

Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground! Now you are cursed and banished from the ground, which has swallowed your brother’s blood. No longer will the ground yield good crops for you, no matter how hard you work ...”

Romans 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”



Innocent victims?

Romans 3:23

“for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

a. No one is innocent

Innocent victims?

- a. **No one is innocent**
- b. **Consistency or Chaos?**
- c. **Human Choice & Responsibility**

Why do we suffer?

1. We suffer as **part of this broken world**
2. We suffer as **imperfect & sinful people**
3. We suffer as **people meant for a better world**

Romans 8:18-21

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us ... For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the One who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

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Suffering does not have the last word

Suffering refines & works “freedom and glory” in us

Suffering is used by God to frustrate evil & destroy sin

Suffering will end one day, & we will live as God’s children in a better world.

**“while pain cannot be avoided,
it can be **transformed!**”**



A better way (to deal with suffering)

- a. Give thanks**
- b. Learn from our pain**
- c. Turn to God**
- d. Suffer with others**

Revelations 21:3-4

I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying,
“Look, God’s home is now among His people!
He will live with them, and they will be His people.
God Himself will be with them.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will
be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain.
All these things are gone forever.”