



HOPE & HEARTACHE: WHERE IS GOD IN A WORLD OF SUFFERING?

A talk by **Gareth Black**



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WHY SUFFERING?



WHY?



**IS GOD WILLING TO PREVENT
EVIL, BUT NOT ABLE?**

THEN HE IS **NOT ALL-POWERFUL.**

IS HE ABLE BUT NOT WILLING?

THEN HE IS **NOT GOOD.**

IS HE BOTH ABLE & WILLING?

THEN **WHY IS THERE EVIL?**

ATHEISM GETS RID THE PROBLEM OF WHAT
KIND OF GOD MIGHT ALLOW A WORLD
WHERE IT IS POSSIBLE OF SUFFER.

BUT IT DOES **NOT** GET RID OF THE REALITY OF SUFFERING.

WE STILL NEED TO **MAKE SENSE OF OUR SUFFERING** IF
GOD DOES NOT EXIST.

In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, and other people are going to get lucky; and you won't find any rhyme or reason to it, nor any justice. **The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is at the bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil and no good.** Nothing but blind pitiless indifference. DNA neither knows nor cares. DNA just is, and we dance to its music.

Richard Dawkins, *A River Out of Eden*



#JUSTICE



My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of *just* and *unjust*? A man does not call a lane crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line... Thus in the very act of trying to prove that God did not exist – in other words, that the whole reality was senseless – I found I was forced to assume that one part of reality – namely my idea of justice – was full of sense. Consequently, atheism turns out to be too simple. If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as, if there were no light in the universe and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark. *Dark* would be a word without meaning.

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*



**CHRISTIANITY MAKES
SENSE OF SUFFERING** 



How dare you create a world in which there is such misery which is not our fault. **Why should I respect a capricious, mean-minded, stupid God who creates a world that is so full of injustice and pain...** What kind of God is he? It is perfectly apparent that he is monstrous, utterly monstrous, and deserves no respect whatsoever.

Stephen Fry

A photograph of a busy city street at night, likely in Japan, with many people walking and bright neon signs in the background. The text "WHAT SORT OF WORLD WOULD IT BE?" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on a dark horizontal band across the middle of the image.

**WHAT SORT OF WORLD
WOULD IT BE?**



B R A V E N E W W O R L D





BEING HUMAN



WALKING IN DARKNESS

**1. GOD DOES NOT
ABANDON US – HE ENTERS
INTO OUR SUFFERING.**



Gareth Black updated his profile picture.

November 14 at 5:47pm ·

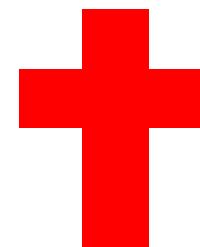


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GOD IS NOT DISTANT



**2. GOD OFFERS US
UNSHAKABLE, ULTIMATE
HOPE OVER OUR
SUFFERING.**

**SUFFERING IS NOT THE
END OF THE STORY**



I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 8:38-39

EVERYTHING SAD WILL COME UNTRUE





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