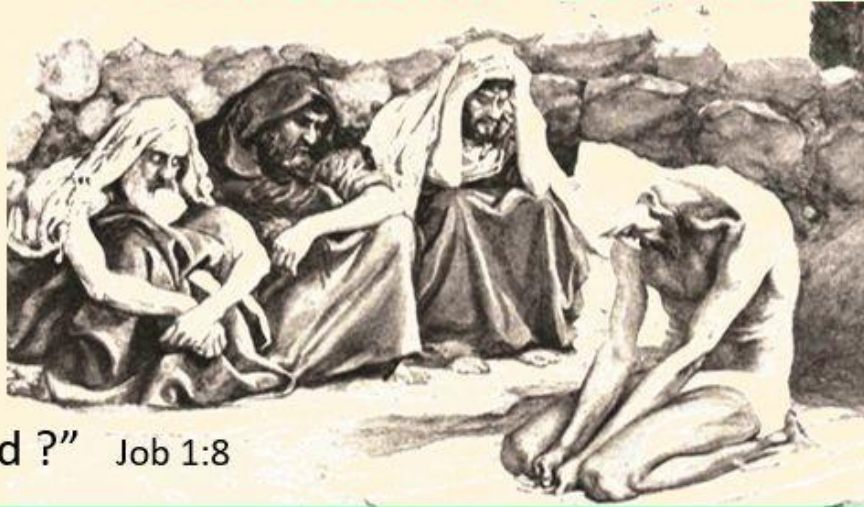


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"Have you considered?" Job 1:8



Theodicy!

The Defense of God's Justice in
the face of human suffering

THURSDAY, MAY 9

Introduction to the Problem of Evil ~ Chris Foreman

Old Testament Theodicy ~ Frank Foreman

New Testament Theodicy ~ Chris Foreman

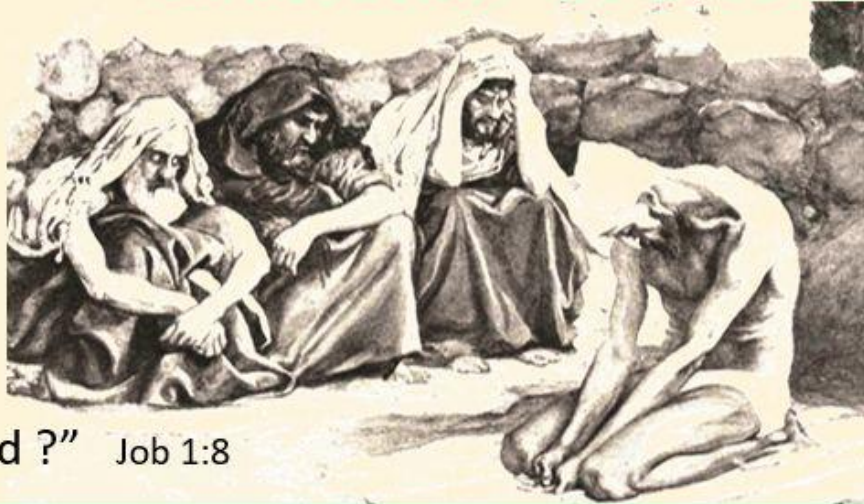
Is a prosperity doctrine Biblical? ~ Nehemiah Kithathutha

Christian response to Persecution? ~ Panel Discussion

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**The Defense of God's Justice in
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FRIDAY, MAY 10

Testimony ~ Dr. Frank Foreman

Testimony ~ Dr. Chris Foreman

Testimonies on 25th Anniversary of Rwandan Genocide

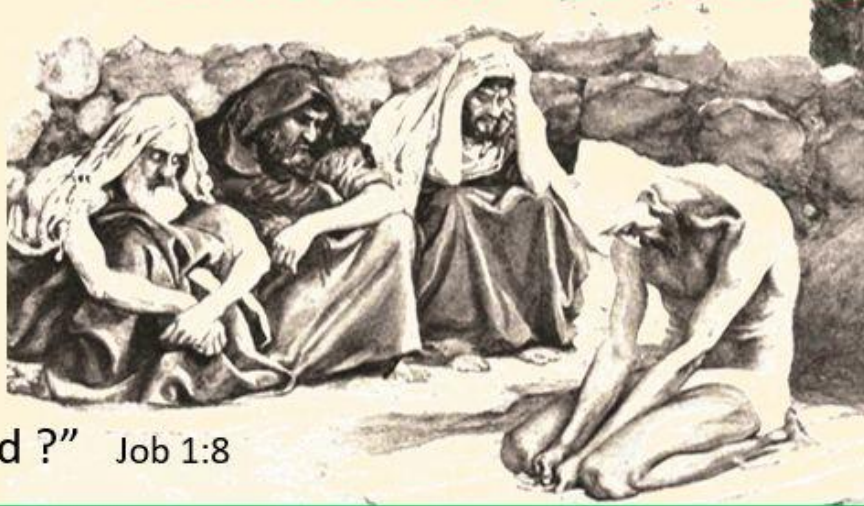
~ Pastors David Nahayo and Francis Murenzi

YOUR QUESTIONS

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SATURDAY, MAY 11

Christian Gender Roles~ Frank Foreman

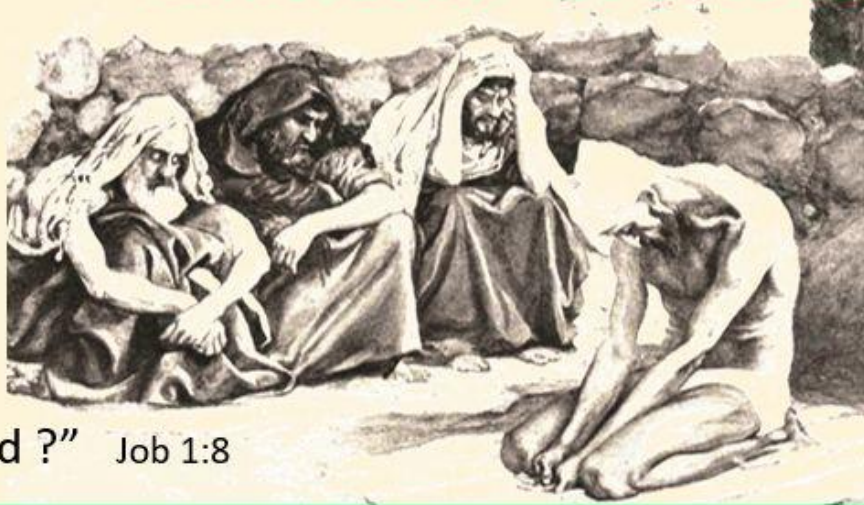
Sexual Integrity~ Chris Foreman

YOUR QUESTIONS

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**All this Teaching Material
will be available to you at no cost at
CHRSIALANFOREMAN.COM/APOLOGETICS
After June 1, 2019**

THE TRADITIONAL STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Why do bad
things happen
to good people?

IS GOD WILLING TO PREVENT EVIL,
BUT NOT ABLE?

THEN HE IS NOT OMNIPOTENT.

IS HE ABLE, BUT NOT WILLING?

THEN HE IS MALEVOLENT.

IS HE BOTH ABLE AND WILLING?

THEN WHENCE COMETH EVIL?

IS HE NEITHER ABLE NOR WILLING?

THEN WHY CALL HIM GOD?

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL · EPIKOUROS 341 – 270 BC

Where is God
when it hurts?

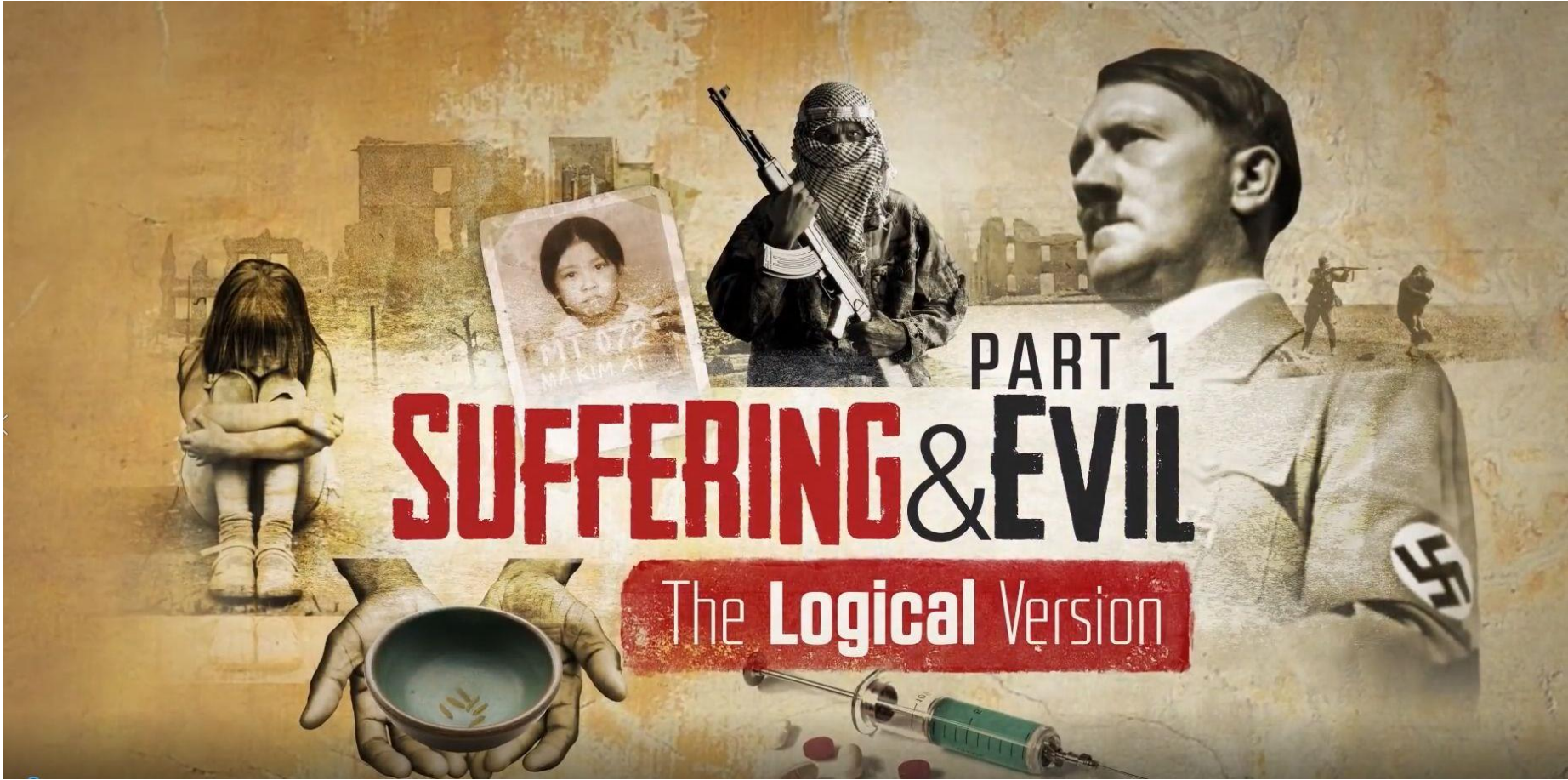
TWO FORMS OF UNBELIEF THAT MAY RESULT FROM HURT

- I hurt therefore ... **God does not exist**
(this is modern atheism)
- I hurt therefore ... **God does not care about me**
(this is the theodicy of the Bible)

HOW TO ADDRESS SUFFERING IN A PERSON'S LIFE

- The head response – **intellectual argument**
(apologist needed)
- The heart response – **compassionate counsel**
(pastor needed)

A FIVE-MINUTE VIDEO FROM REASONABLE FAITH



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- To be honest, if all we knew of the world was its evil and suffering, then God would seem improbable to me.



**WITHIN A CHRISTIAN FRAMEWORK,
EVIL HAS A REASONABLE EXPLANATION.**

Four divine options:

- no creation – God Alone
- no good or evil – Amoral world
- no choice of evil - Robots
- true choice of good or evil – Our world

WHAT IS EVIL?

- **Moral Evil** is a disorder of the will in an image-bearing creature.
- **Natural Evil** is the environmental consequence of the moral disorder. A sinful creature by necessity must inhabit a fallen world.
- Evil is not a substance, but a **deprivation**. Like cold is to heat or darkness to light, so is evil is to good.

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE 2
**THE CHIEF PURPOSE OF LIFE IS
NOT HUMAN HAPPINESS.**

- God's intention is not to make us "happy" but to make us "holy".
- Love always has the best outcome of the beloved in mind.
- Both joy and pain can lead to a knowledge of God. He chooses the instrument.

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE 3

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD IS AN INCOMPARABLE GOOD

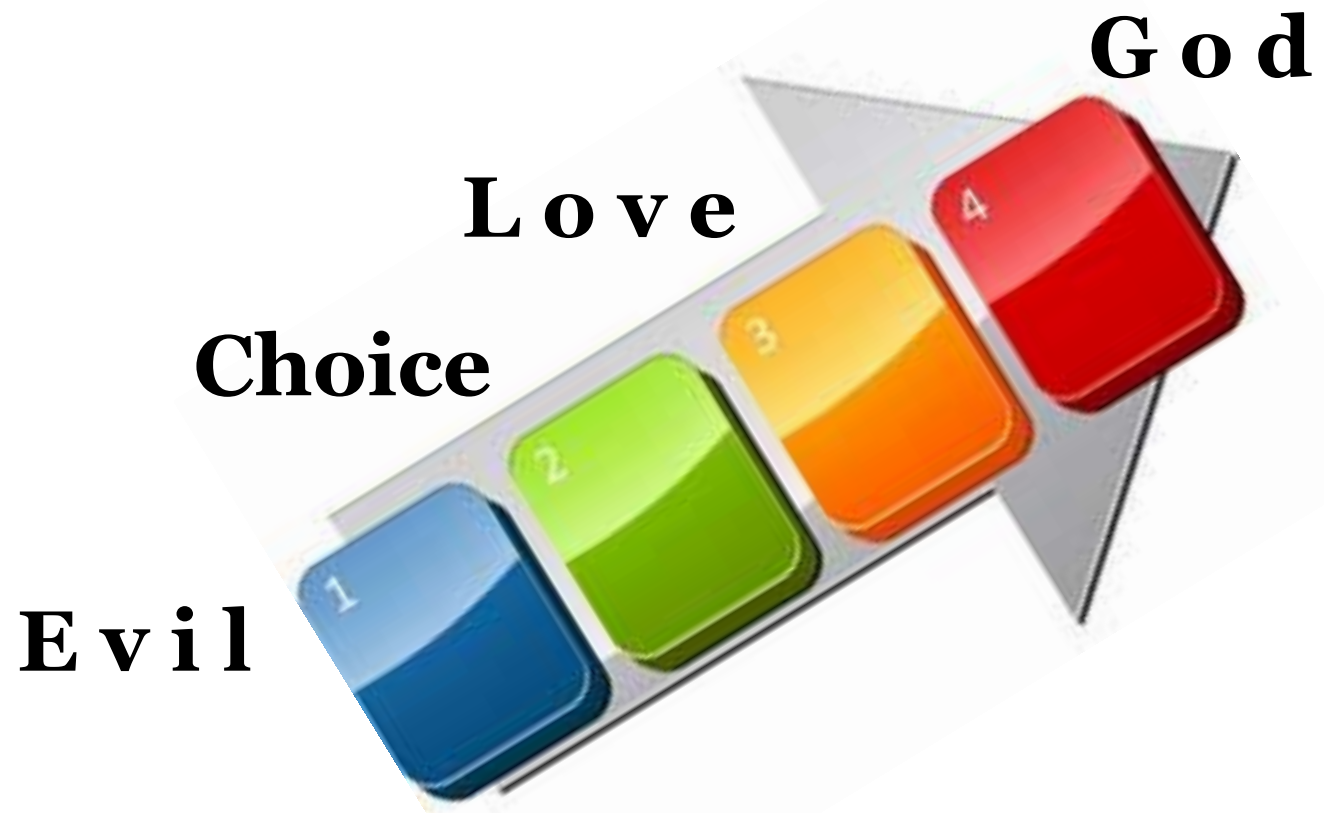
- God may have morally sufficient reasons to permit an evil in your life.
- If God knows that pain will best lead you to Him, He will allow it.
- A “Complex Good” is only possible in an environment of evil.

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE 4

GOD'S PURPOSE IS NOT RESTRICTED TO THIS LIFE, BUT SPILLS OVER INTO THE GRAVE AND INTO ETERNAL LIFE.

- We are eternal beings. Good and evil can only be assessed in light of eternity.
- We may not live in the best possible world, but this world may be the best possible means into the best possible world to come.

FOUR STEPS THAT MAKE SENSE TO ME AS I WRESTLE WITH EVIL



SHOWING AND KNOWING

Remember there is a difference between

SHOWING GOD EXISTS

and **KNOWING GOD EXISTS**

THE “DEFEATER-DEFEATER”

- A “defeater” is any argument or narrative that is able to defeat a believer’s faith in God. The problem of pain can sometimes defeat the Christian’s Faith.
- The indwelling Holy Spirit is a personal, living, and direct witness to the reality of Jesus Christ. He is the “Defeater-Defeater”.

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.
(Romans 8:6)*

**FOR THOSE WITH AN EAR TO HEAR,
THE ULTIMATE RESOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM
OF EVIL IS:**



The Christ who hung on the cross!

AN EIGHT-MINUTE VIDEO FROM REASONABLE FAITH

