

# GOD AND HUMAN SUFFERING

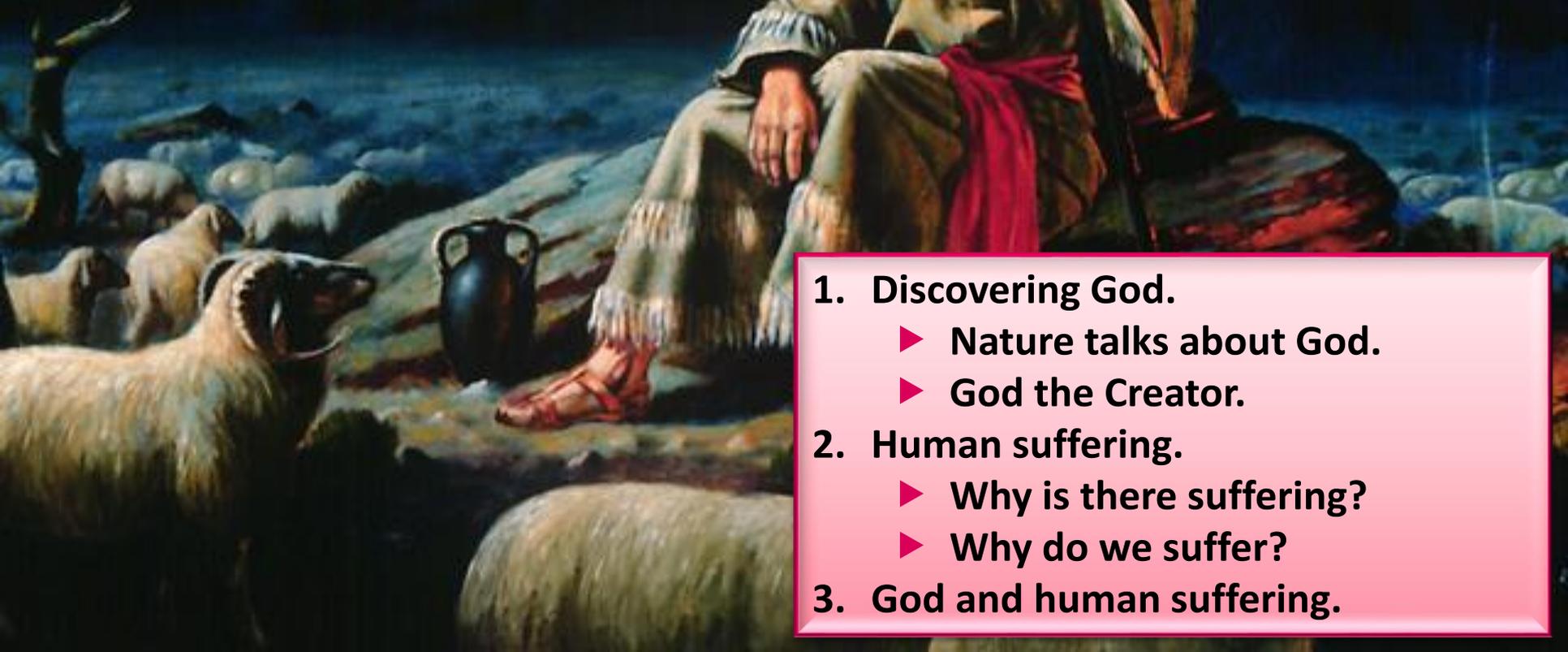


Lesson 4 for October 22, 2016

**Moses wrote the books of Job and Genesis while he was living in Midian. Thus Job is one of the earliest books in the Bible.**

**Unlike the other books in the Old Testament, the theme of the book of Job is not related to God's covenant with His people.**

**The main theme of Job is universal, God and human suffering.**



- 1. Discovering God.**
  - ▶ Nature talks about God.
  - ▶ God the Creator.
- 2. Human suffering.**
  - ▶ Why is there suffering?
  - ▶ Why do we suffer?
- 3. God and human suffering.**

# NATURE TALKS ABOUT GOD

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?” (Job 12:7-9 NIV)

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.” (Romans 1:20)

Nature reveals enough about God so that we can know Him and praise Him.

There is no excuse to believe in a God who created the world after asking nature.

We would laugh at someone stating that a complex smartphone was made by chance without a designer. Why should we accept that something much more complex (nature) was made by chance?



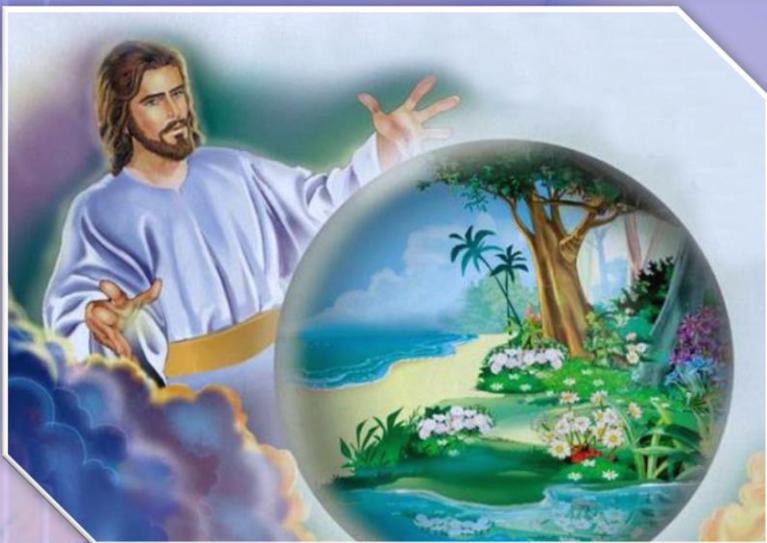
# GOD THE CREATOR

**"For by Him [Jesus] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." (Colossians 1:16)**



Besides the testimony of nature, logic also talks about the existence of God as Creator.

A point in favor of the existence of God is that nothing came to be by itself, and nothing created itself. For example, we came to be from our parents, and they did from our grand-fathers, and so on. We can go on and on until we find someone or something that had always existed because it didn't come to be from anything else. We only know One who wasn't created and who exists from eternity, God.



Many scholars may try to prove that we exist without God, but that doesn't make the wrong true.

# WHY IS THERE SUFFERING

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

**Job deals with one of the greatest challenges people face when trying to understand that God is love. Why does a loving God allow His creatures to suffer without relieving that suffering?**

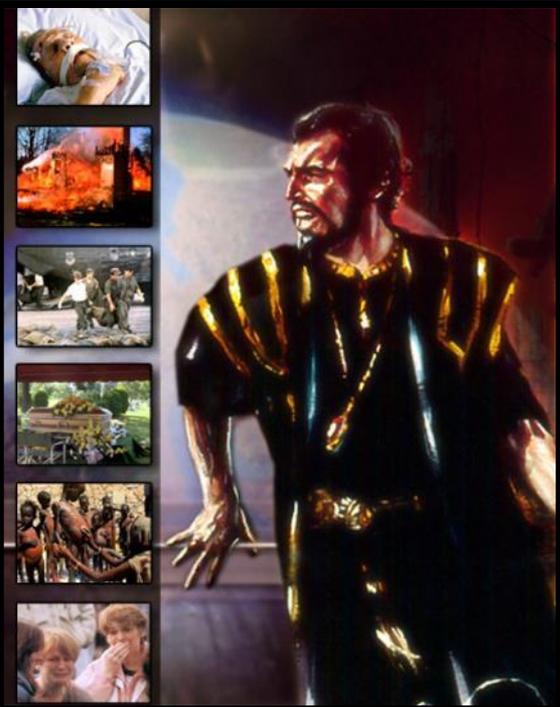
**The book of Job explains that evil is the source of suffering.**



**On the other hand, God is omnipotent, all-powerful and loving. He cares for Job and brings a final remedy for his situation.**

**God doesn't cause suffering. Quite the opposite, He has a plan to definitely end with that pest.**

**We must trust His kindness and wait for the fulfillment of His plans.**



# WHY DO WE SUFFER

**"Your hands have made me and fashioned me, an intricate unity; yet You would destroy me." (Job 10:8)**

**Job didn't doubt that God existed or that He was powerful to create. Nevertheless, he constantly wondered, Why am I suffering? What wrong did I do to suffer like this?**

**Atheists think that suffering is part of the chance that rules our lives (by the way, that's quite an unsatisfactory and hopeless answer).**

**Believers struggle to accept that suffering also affects those who are faithful to God's will.**

**Sometimes suffering is a direct cause of our own sins, but it's not always like that. Therefore, we might sometimes doubt of God's true character.**



# GOD AND HUMAN SUFFERING

**"Even if everyone else is a liar, God is true. As the Scriptures say about him, 'You will be proved right in what you say, and you will win your case in court.'"**

**(Romans 3:4 NLT)**



**It's hard for us to accept God's kindness as we live in this world full of evil that brings pain and suffering.**

**Do angels and other non-fallen worlds understand it? If God had destroyed Lucifer just after he rebelled against Him, they would've seen God as a heartless tyrant.**

**As Paul states, the Judgment will vindicate God's character. The way He dealt with sin will show that God is love and that His ways are just before all the angels, the non-fallen worlds and all the human beings who have lived on this Earth.**



E.G.W. (The Great Controversy, cp. 42, p. 670)

**“Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy has now been made plain. The results of rebellion, the fruits of setting aside the divine statutes, have been laid open to the view of all created intelligences. The working out of Satan’s rule in contrast with the government of God has been presented to the whole universe. Satan’s own works have condemned him. God’s wisdom, His justice, and His goodness stand fully vindicated. It is seen that all His dealings in the great controversy have been conducted with respect to the eternal good of His people and the good of all the worlds that He has created. ‘All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints shall bless Thee.’ Psalm 145:10. The history of sin will stand to all eternity as a witness that with the existence of God’s law is bound up the happiness of all the beings He has created. With all the facts of the great controversy in view, the whole universe, both loyal and rebellious, with one accord declare: ‘Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints.’”**