

PREPARED

GOOD GOD?

*Always be **prepared** (ready)
to give an **answer** (defense)
to everyone who **asks** you
to give the **reason** (explanation)
for the **hope** that **you** have.*

1 Peter 3: 15 NIV



Why do you follow Jesus?



PREPARED TO ANSWER: “WHY JESUS?”

Old Testament

Jesus

**Matthew, Mark, Luke,
John, Peter, James & Paul**



PREPARED TO ANSWER: “WHY JESUS?”

I believe that Jesus **died** for **my** sin,
was **buried**, and **rose** from the dead,
but not because the **Bible** says so.

I believe because Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter,
James and Paul, Jude and the writer of
Hebrews who were reliable eyewitnesses
or friends of eyewitnesses all said so.



The Problem with Pain



IF GOD IS GOOD?

If God is good, ...

why is there so much suffering in the world?

why do bad things happen to good people?

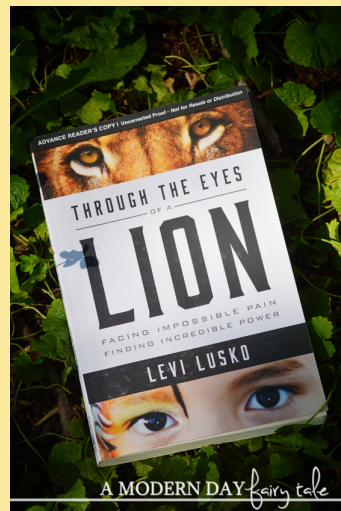
If God were all-powerful ... or all-loving ...
he could/would eliminate suffering.

So, is God unable or unwilling?



IF GOD IS GOOD?: **RESPONSE #1**

1. Have you ever **read** anything on that **topic**?
Response: There are **answers**.
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IF GOD IS GOOD?: RESPONSE #2

2. If you could, would you **remove** everything **bad** from the **world** right now?

Follow up Questions:

Have **you** ever done anything **bad**?

How about your **kids**?

How about your **parents**?



The only way for God
to remove our primary **complaint**
is to remove all the **complainers**.

Christians **believe** that
you and **I** are the reason God
has not removed **everything** bad.



*The Lord is not **slow** in keeping his **promise**,
as some understand slowness.
Instead he is **patient** with **you**,
not wanting **anyone** to **perish**,
but **everyone** to come to **repentance**.*

2 Peter 3: 9 NIV



IF GOD IS GOOD?: CONCLUSIONS

➤ Certain things **ought not** to be.

➤ The world is **broken**.

Not just human beings (us)

but the **whole** world

(weather, environment, our bodies).



PREPARED MINDSET

Christians believe ...

the current world is not the final version.

the current world is the best path
to the best possible world.

The best possible world is a world
where we are free to sin but freely ...



I am convinced that any suffering we endure is less than nothing compared to the magnitude of glory that is about to be unveiled within (upon) us. The entire universe (creation) is standing on tip toe, to see the unveiling of God's glorious sons and daughters. For against its will the universe (creation) itself has had to endure the empty futility (ought not) resulting from the consequences of sin.

Romans 8: 18-20 TPT



*But now, with eager expectation (in hope),
all creation longs for freedom
from its slavery to decay (i.e. pain and suffering)
and to experience with us
the wonderful freedom coming to God's children.*

Romans 8: 21 NIV

We aren't right.

Nature isn't right, either.

Something better is coming.

That is why we have hope.



PREPARED MINDSET

If God removed **evil** from the world,
he would have to remove **me**.

But I believe God **entered** this evil **world**,
through his **son**, Jesus to **forgive** me,
rather than **remove** me.

I believe that Jesus **died** for **my** sin,
was buried and **rose** from the dead ...



IN THE MEANTIME ...

He who testifies to these things (Jesus) says,

*“Yes, I am **coming soon.**”*

Amen (so be it).

Come, Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22: 20 NIV

