

Interlocked Series

Lesson #19.2

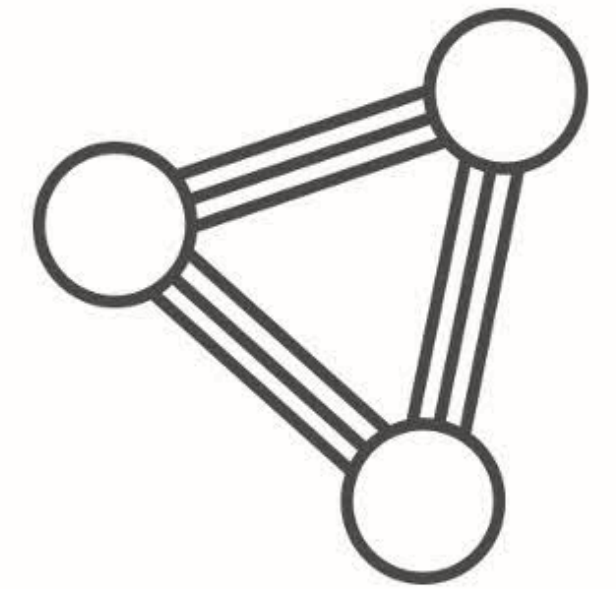
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Dean Bible Ministries

www.deanbibleministries.org

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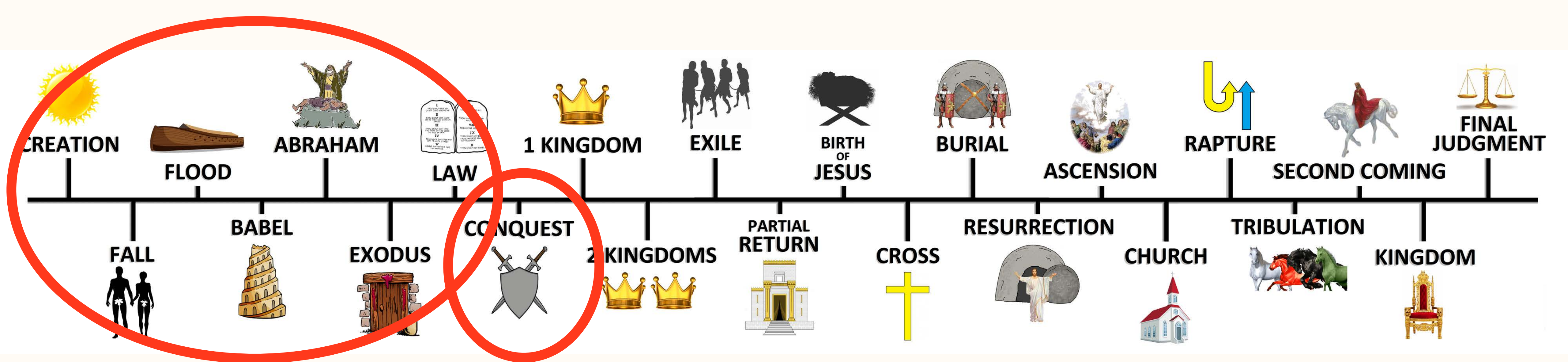
INTERLOCKED



Lesson 19: Understanding Suffering

Lesson 19B Why Does God Allow Sin, Evil, and Personal Suffering?

We will look at twelve kinds of suffering
Including: Suffering because of the direct
consequences of human sin; and ...
... because of God's intervention



Torah
Pentateuch

Joshua
Judges
Ruth

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Type of Suffering:

5. Denial of rewards.

Affects: Believers

Believers will suffer loss when it is time for Jesus to hand out rewards if they have not lived in obedience to Him.

2 Cor. 5:10, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

1 Cor. 3:11, “For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 3:12, “Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,

1 Cor. 3:13, “each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is.

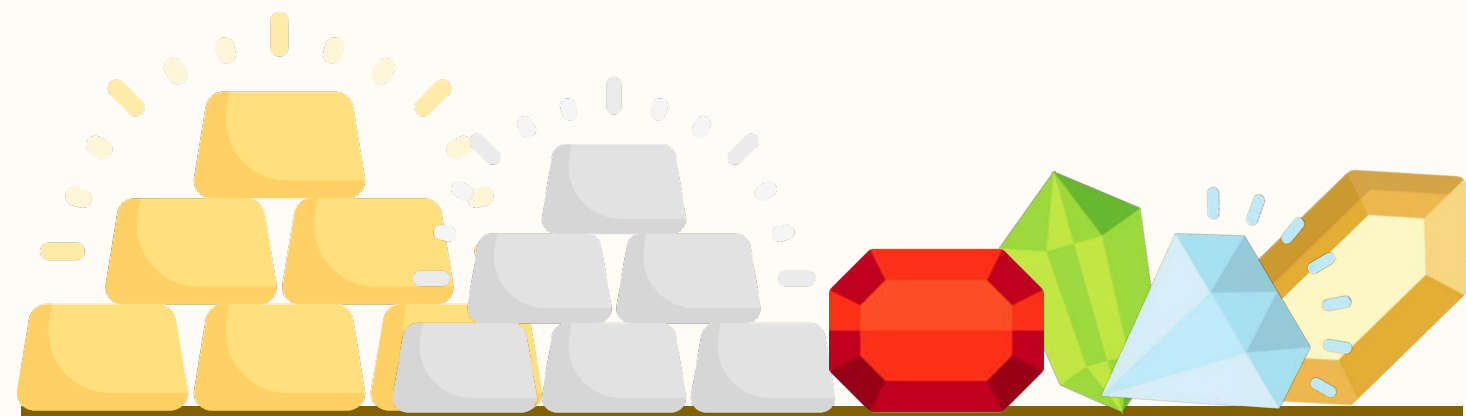
1 Cor. 3:14, “If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

1 Cor. 3:15, “If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”

1 Cor. 3:16, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

1 Cor. 3:17, “If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”

Our Earthly Works



Foundation: Faith in Jesus

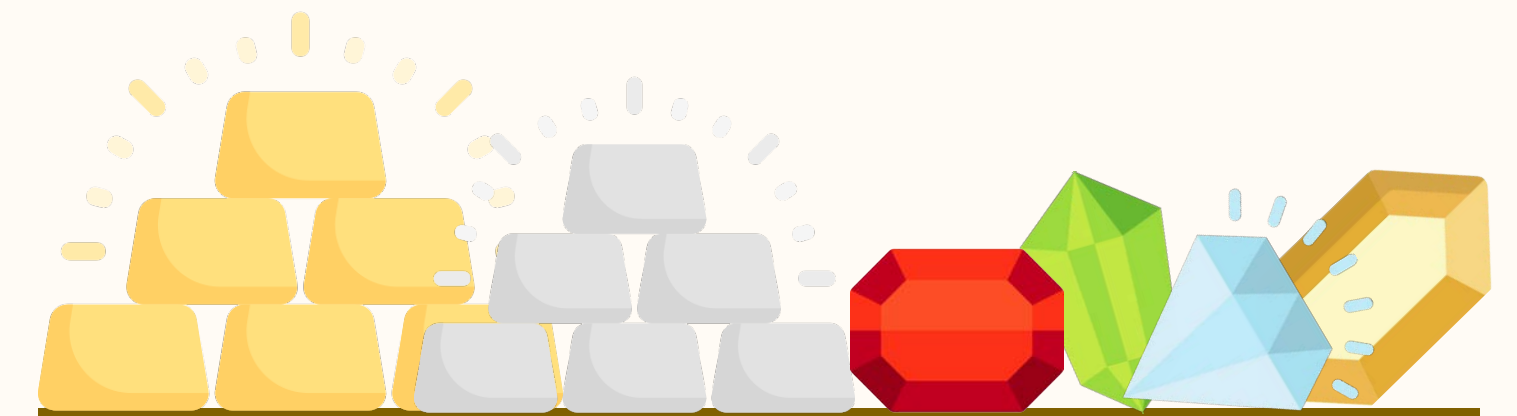
Judgment Seat of Christ



Foundation: Faith in Jesus

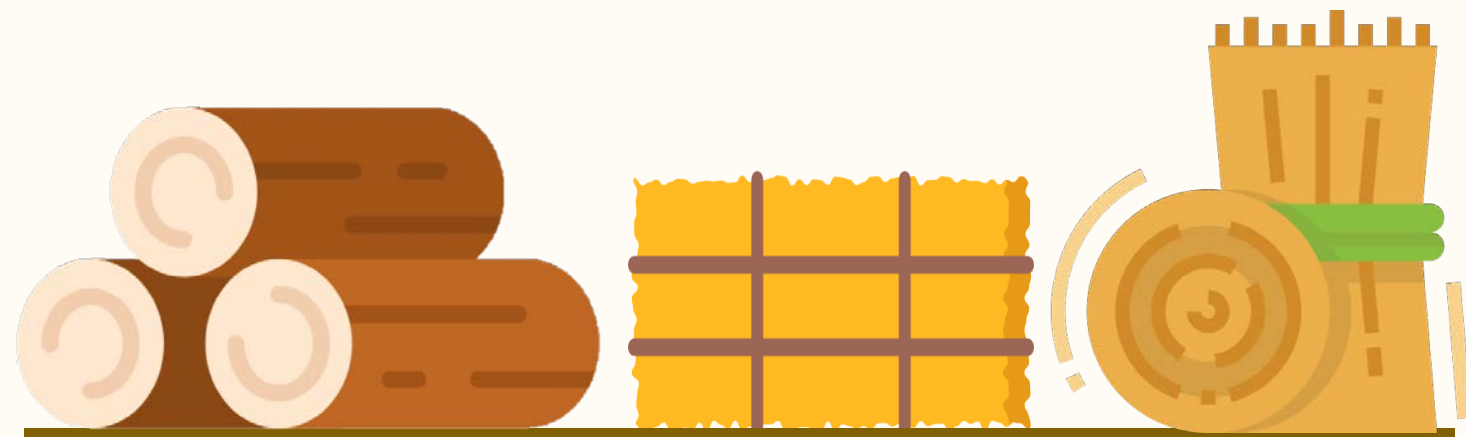
Works Survived

Get REWARDS!



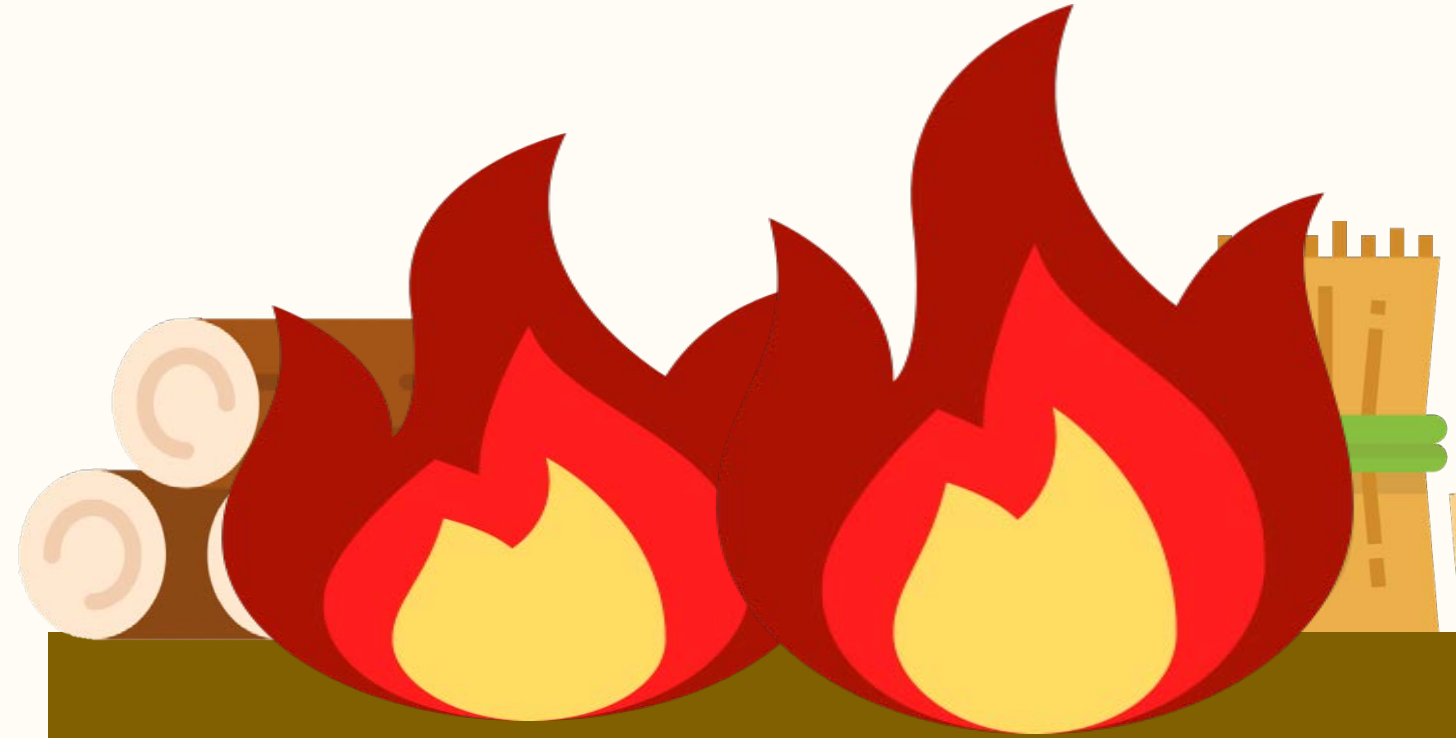
Foundation: Faith in Jesus

Our Earthly Works



Foundation: Faith in Jesus

Judgment Seat of Christ



Foundation: Faith in Jesus

Works Burnt Up

Loss of Rewards!

Foundation: Faith in Jesus

Type of Suffering:

6. Eternal suffering in the Lake of Fire.

Affects: Unbelievers

Unbelievers who do not respond to God's call to be reconciled with Him will suffer for eternity in the Lake of Fire, together with fallen angels and Satan.

I. Direct: Suffering due to sin (Direct consequences of man's sin)

1. Sickness and death due to the Fall
2. Self-induced misery
3. Suffering within families and nations
4. Discipline of the Father
5. Denial of rewards
6. Eternal suffering in the Lake of Fire

II. Indirect: Suffering not due to sin (caused by God's intervention)

7. Wake-up call for salvation
8. Push our spiritual growth
9. Help unbelievers believe
10. Encourage spiritual growth in other believers
11. Because of what happens in the spiritual realm

Pagan Kingdom of Man

Based on WORKS
Man would save himself
through his own ideas



Destiny:



**Lake
of Fire**

II. Suffering Because of God's Intervention

John 9:1, “Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

John 9:2 “And His disciples asked Him, saying, ‘Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?’

John 9:3, “Jesus answered, ‘Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.’ ”

SUFFERING BECAUSE OF GOD'S INTERVENTION

BELIEVERS

⑧ Push our spiritual growth



⑨ Help unbelievers believe



⑩ Encourage spiritual growth in other believers



⑪ Consequence of spiritual world



⑦



God's wake-up call for salvation

UNBELIEVERS

Type of Suffering:

7. Suffering as God's wake-up call for salvation.

Affects: Unbelievers

God uses this specially designed suffering to shock or shake unbelievers to pay attention to His message.

Acts 9:1, “Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest”

Acts 9:3, “As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

Acts 9:4, “Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’

Acts 9:5, “And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ ”

Acts 9:6, “So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’”

Acts 9:7, “And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.”

Acts 9:8, “Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.”

Acts 9:9, “And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”

Type of Suffering:

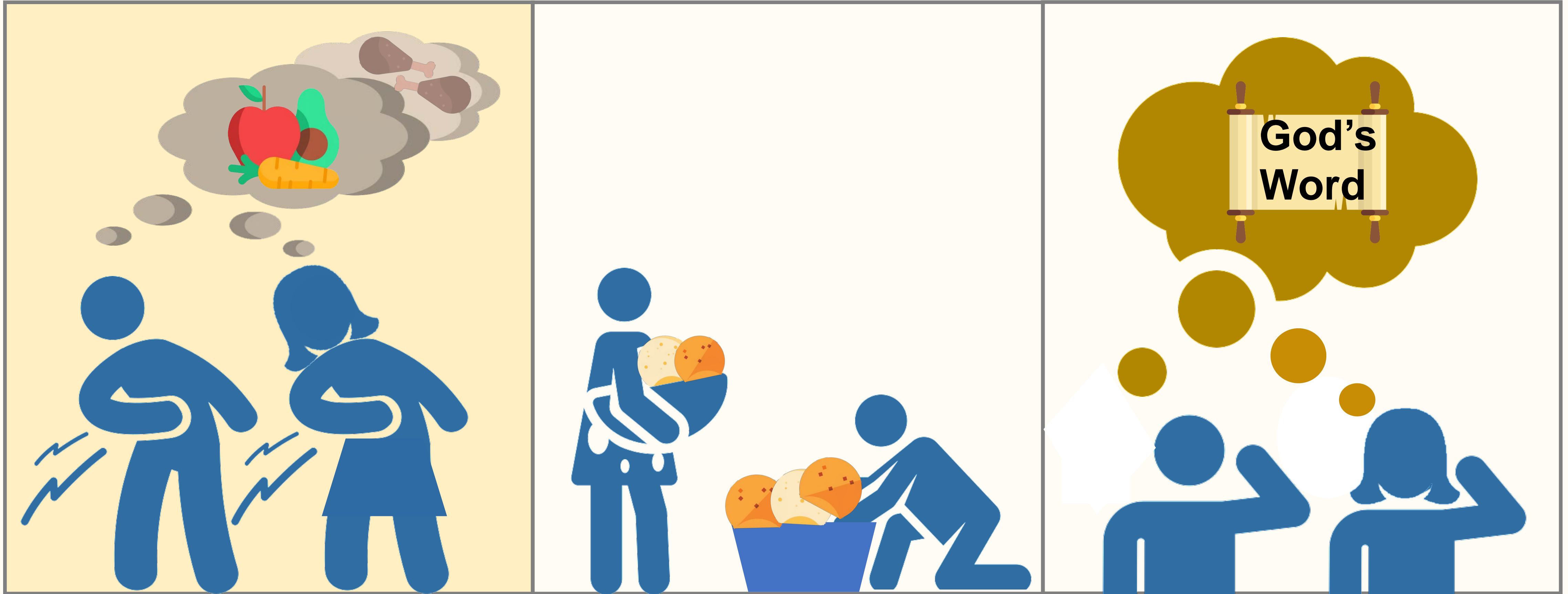
8. Suffering to push our spiritual growth.

Affects: Believers

This type of suffering is designed by God to push believers to grow spiritually.

Deut. 8:2, “And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.”

Deut. 8:3, “So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”



Psa. 119:67, “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.”

Psa. 119:71, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.”

Psa. 119:75, “I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.”

1 Pet. 5:6, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

1 Pet. 5:7, “by casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

1 Pet. 5:8, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

1 Pet. 5:9, “Resist him, steadfast in the faith, because you know that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.” [RD]

Type of Suffering:

9. Suffering so unbelievers will believe in God.

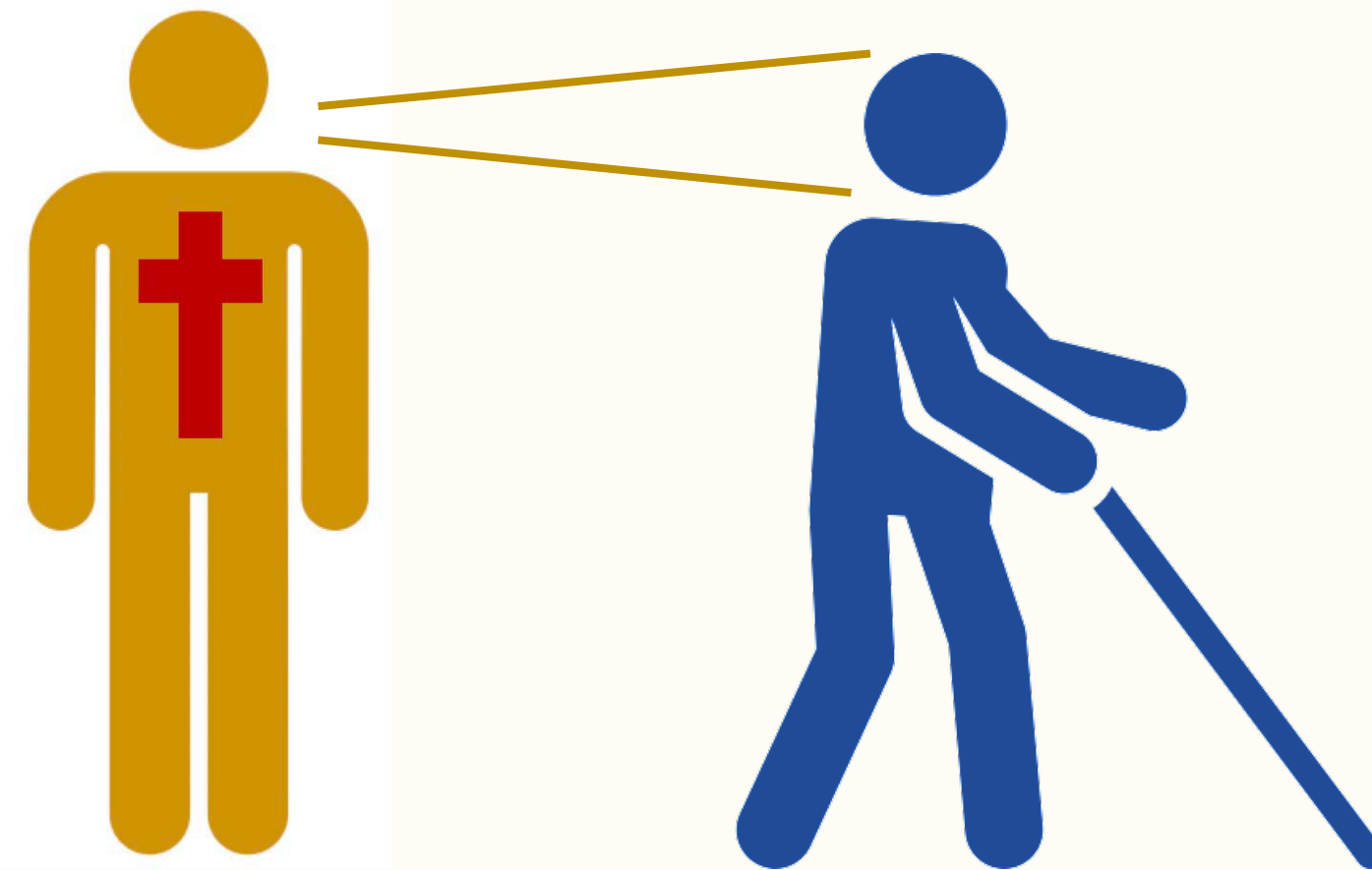
Affects: Believers

1 Tim. 1:15, “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

1 Tim. 1:16, “However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.”



**Saul persecuted
Christians**



**Jesus confronted
Saul**



Saul repented



1 Pet. 2:21, “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps:”

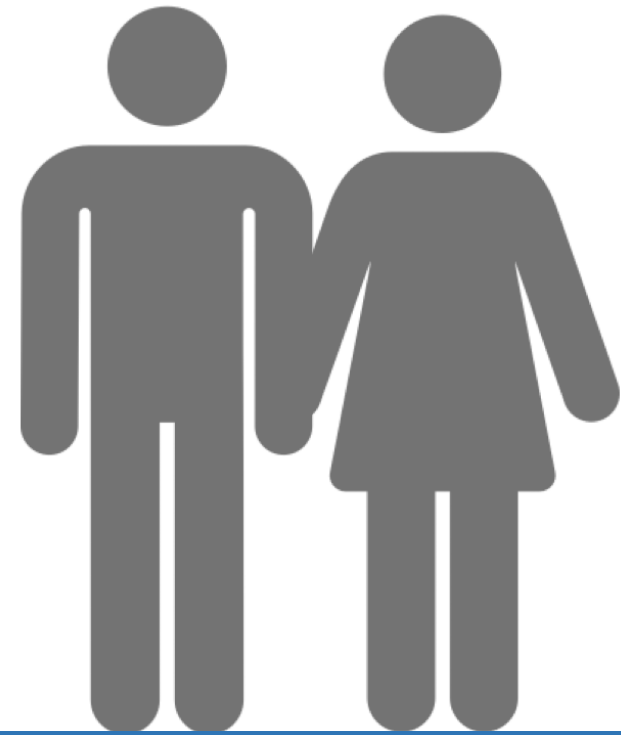
1 Pet. 3:13, “And who is he who will harm you if you become followers of what is good?”

1 Pet. 3:14, “But even if you should suffer for righteousness’ sake, you are blessed. ‘And do not be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled.’”

1 Pet. 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”



Unbelievers



BELIEVERS

Doing good even
when suffering



YAHWEH

(How can they do that?)
Which God do they worship?

Type of Suffering:

10. Suffering to encourage spiritual growth in other believers.

Affects: Believers

God sometimes uses our suffering to help others grow spiritually.

2 Cor. 1:4, “who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Cor. 1:5, “For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.

2 Cor. 1:6, “Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.”

2 Cor. 1:8, “For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.

2 Cor. 1:9, “Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,

2 Cor. 1:10, “who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,

2 Cor. 1:11, “you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.”

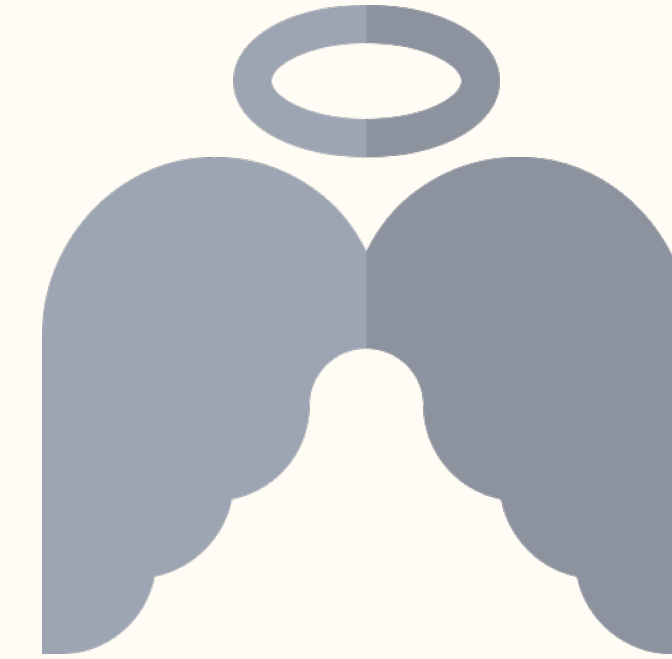
Type of Suffering:

11. Suffering because of what happens in the spiritual realm.

Affects: Believers

Events in the spiritual realm can cause suffering in the lives of believers.

YAHWEH



Spiritual realm invisible to mankind

Luke 22:31, “And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.

Luke 22:32, “ ‘But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’ ”



3 Times Peter Denies Christ

4. When we suffer, we should first examine ourselves and prayerfully ask God to reveal if we are causing our own suffering through our pride or rebellion.

5. When we suffer, we should pray for God to remove our suffering. But we should also pray for God to help us bear and accept our suffering.

2 Cor. 12:6, “For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me.

2 Cor. 12:7, “And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger [*angelos* “demon”] of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.”

2 Cor. 12:8, “Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.

**2 Cor. 12:9, “And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’
Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

2 Cor. 12:10, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”



YAHWEH

**Creator-God of the
Universe
Sovereign
All Knowing
All-Powerful
All-Loving
All-Wise
All-Good**

6. When we suffer, we should still faithfully worship God and obey Him.

Creator-Creature Distinction

1st level
CREATOR
(*Yahweh*)

SOVEREIGN: FULL CONTROL
OVER EVERYTHING

2nd level
creature (man)

•
)
limited

Job 42:1, “Then Job answered the LORD and said:

Job 42:2, “ ‘I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.

Job 42:3, “ ‘You asked, “Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?” Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

Job 42:4, “ ‘Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, “I will question you, and you shall answer Me.”

Job 42:5, “ ‘I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You.

Job 42:6, “ ‘Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.’ ”

Box Question

Since evil isn't anyone's fault, aren't people just victims of evil?

Isn't the best we can do is learn how to survive and move on?

Four Options for Answering Evil:

1. Deny evil really exists.

Four Options for Answering Evil:

- 1. Deny evil really exists.**
- 2. Just accept that evil is normal.**

Four Options for Answering Evil:

- 1. Deny evil really exists.**
- 2. Just accept that evil is normal.**
- 3. Pretend there is meaning to the tragedy.**

Four Options for Answering Evil:

- 1. Deny evil really exists.**
- 2. Just accept that evil is normal.**
- 3. Pretend there is meaning to the tragedy.**
- 4. Mask the pain through anesthesia.**