

Suffering

«GO AND CRY UNTO THE GODS WHICH YE HAVE
CHOSEN; LET THEM DELIVER YOU IN THE TIME OF
YOUR TRIBULATION» JUDGES 10:14

Outline

- Biblical view of apologetics
- The Reality of Suffering
- The Problem of Suffering
 - Emotional Problem
 - Intellectual Problem
- What's the question?
- The Atheist in trouble!
 - Claiming a Universal Negative
 - Can God & Suffering co exist?
- Intellectual Problem
 - The Logical Case
 - The Probable Case
- The Christian Worldview
 - Reconciling God's Nature & the presence of suffering.



Biblical view on apologetics

- Context of the verse
- The focus of apologetics
- Apologetics do not replace faith & obedience
- Apologetics cannot save
- The Lord is hated, therefore we are hated...John 15:18-19
- No such thing as “blind faith” 2 Timothy 2:15

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer (apologia) to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”

1 Peter 3:15

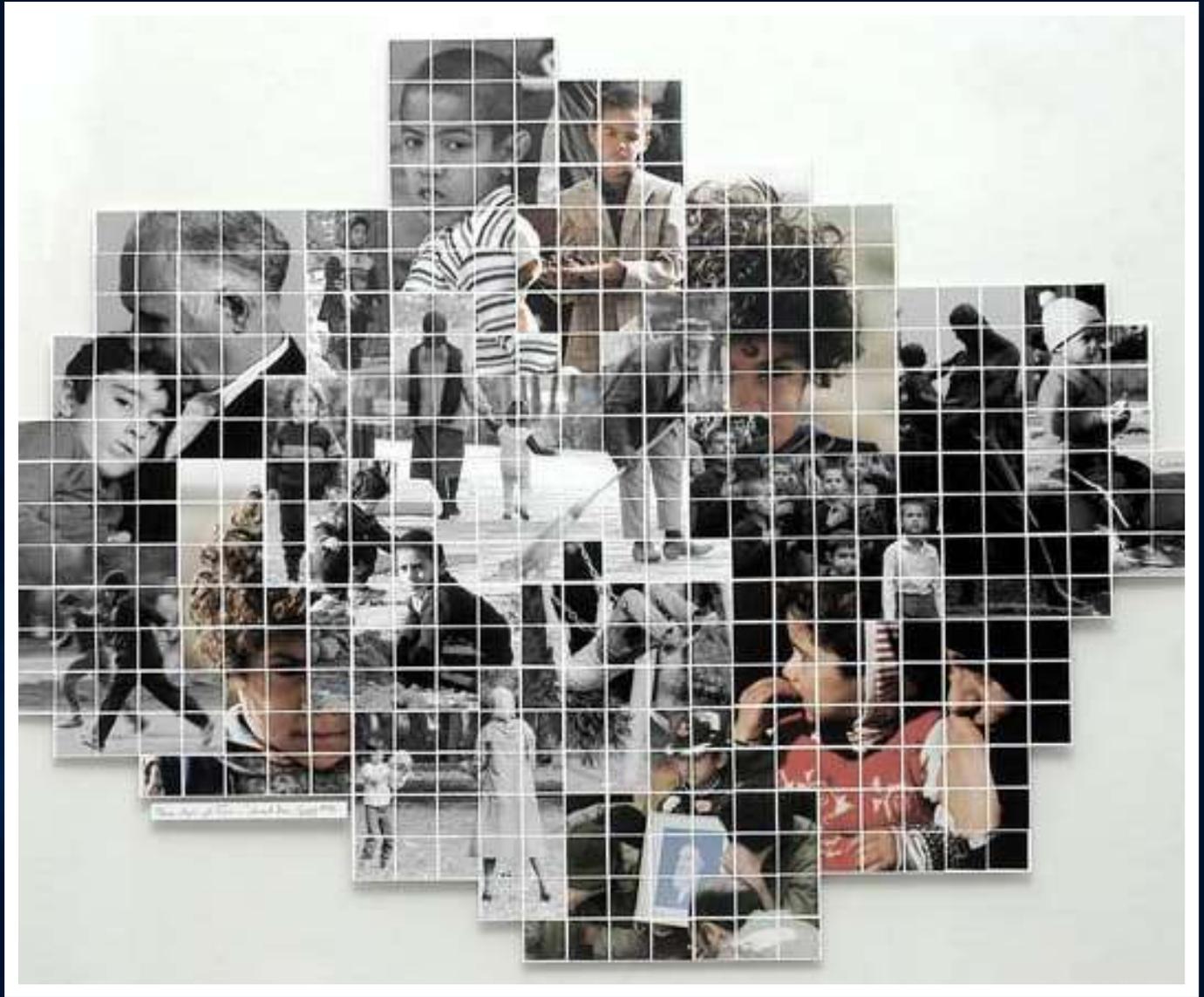
apol·o·get·ics

The reality of suffering

**SUFFERING IS
REAL**

**SUFFERING IS
UNIVERSAL**

**SUFFERING IS
UNDENIABLE**



The Problem of Suffering

Emotional Problem

- The real experience of hurt and pain
- “Why me?”
- Empathy and Compassion

Intellectual Problem

- Rational & Deductive Reasoning
- Logical Case
- Probable Case



Many
gods

- Pantheism
- Buddhism, Hinduism, Taoism, New Age

One
God

- Theism
- Christianity, Islam, Judaism

No
god

- Atheism
- Agnosticism
- Existentialism

The Question...

WHY IS THERE SUFFERING IN THE WORLD?

The Atheists Challenge

UNIVERSAL NEGATIVE “GOD DOES NOT EXIST”

- Universal Negatives can only be proven through contradiction.
- True atheists have no evidence of Gods absence.
- Atheism re-defined = “the absence of a belief in God”
- Atheism becomes a belief not an absolute truth.

GOD & SUFFERING CANNOT CO-EXIST

- Argument: Suffering is evidence that God does not exist.
- Suffering is caused by:
 - Other humans – moral issue
 - Natural disasters – environmental issue
- Morality is subjective ► suffering ≠ evil
- Morality has evolved

Intellectual Problem

LOGICAL CASE

"IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR BOTH GOD AND SUFFERING TO BOTH EXIST"

- No explicit contradiction in the 2 statements.
- Implied Contradictions:
 - God is all powerful, He can & could have created a world with no suffering.

FREEWILL

- God is all-loving, then He would create a world where there is no suffering

GREATER GOOD

PROBABLE CASE

"IT IS HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT BOTH GOD & SUFFERING EXIST"

- Probability is a relative term, it must be referenced.
- Suffering is only one experience in this world.
- All the evidence makes the existence of God highly probable:
 - The existence of the universe
 - The beginning of the universe
 - The finely tuned universe
 - Morality
 - History...the Person of Jesus Christ

The Christian Worldview

1. The Lord Jesus foretold us that we would suffer. John 16:33.
2. God did not create nor cause suffering. Romans 1:28-31
3. Man is to blame for much of the suffering. Romans 3:15-17
4. The natural world is cursed. Romans 8:22
5. God will judge all evil. Psalm 86:15
6. The Lord Jesus suffered more than any man. 1 Peter 2:21-25
7. God can bring good out of that which is bad.

***“The fire that warms you
can also burn you”***

“FOR I RECKON THAT THE
SUFFERINGS OF THIS PRESENT TIME
ARE NOT WORTHY TO BE COMPARED
WITH THE GLORY WHICH SHALL BE
REVEALED IN US”

ROMANS 8:18