

Tough Love

- Was all the pain really necessary? -

*by Rachel Cory-Kuehl, July 2014
Scripture from NKJV unless otherwise noted.*

A child of five loses his beloved father in a tragic accident. Another child is born with a genetic disorder that will fill her life with pain. Another starves as his land is torn by war or natural disaster. Violence, evil, ignorance, poverty, disease – all resulting in physical or psychological pain. I could give a thousand examples. Is God to blame? He created physical beings with high intelligence and most importantly with free will, therefore the possibility of rebellion and was inherent within the design.

Let me paraphrase C.S. Lewis. With free will, the possibility for evil exists, but without free will there can be no love. For love - by definition - must be freely given. God chose to create beings of high intelligence, with free will. He *knew* that rebellion was a possibility. And because He sees through all time, He knew that it would come. And He made provision for the rescue of those who would one day, return His love.

I want first to address the causes of pain.

THE PHYSICAL WORLD

The book of Genesis tells of very long-lived human beings. Adam lived for 900 years, and Methuselah for 969 years. What happened that life spans decreased to an average of only 40 years during the first century after Christ? I believe the two major players were poor nutrition, and atmospheric disturbance. The flood of Noah's day changed just about everything. Rich topsoil with balanced mineral content was washed into the depths of the sea. The firmament which provided protection from damaging UV rays was almost completely obliterated. Extremes of temperature forced adaptations. The atmospheric pressure decreased by 50% leading to a loss of bone density. The flood brought horrendous change. But what caused the flood?

I personally believe that an asteroid impacted earth, but that still begs the question - Why? I thought the LORD made all things "very good". What happened? . . . It's called entropy. That is basic thermodynamics. Without the input of energy, any system will slow down, run down and break down. You see, this dimension includes the starry heavens, not simply this one planet.

If you are not aware this planet is dying, then you have not been paying attention. God set everything in balance, and then He held everything in balance. He is the energy source. Without Him, everything begins to slow down, run down, and break down - everything within this physical universe. So - Why did God stop inputting energy. Why leave this planet to die?

Let's go back to the flood of Noah, and ask again. Why?

Job 21:14 [Speaking of those who lived just prior to the Flood of Noah] "Therefore they say unto God, Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of thy ways" (KJV).

Job 22:17 "They said to God, 'Leave us alone! What can the Almighty do to us?" (NIV)

Genesis 6:5 "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

God set everything in balance, and then held everything in balance. When the people of earth told the LORD "Depart from us!" - the LORD honored their wish. He withdrew His Spirit from this physical dimension except for a boat with eight people on board (and a whole lot of animals). Entropy set in. Everything began to go out of balance.

The LORD could protect only those who obeyed him by building and entering the ark. Noah begged the people to prepare for the flood, but they mocked him. I believe that a very large asteroid slammed into earth, fracturing the crystalline "firmament" of hydrogen, which then was drawn towards earth, becoming gaseous as it fell from the colder high altitude. The hydrogen gas combined with oxygen to form water - which rained down for "forty days and forty nights" creating oceans which today cover three quarters of the earth's surface. A good resource for understanding the fractured firmament is "The Creation Evidence Museum" and the video series by Dr. Carl Baugh.

The LORD brought the ark of Noah safely to rest. Noah and his family emerged to find the world completely altered. Before the flood the crystalline firmament protected them from damaging rays, but from that day forward those rays would "age" them much more rapidly. Those rays coupled with poor nutrition, and consumption of animal foods, weakened their immune systems, shortened their lives and caused mutations of their DNA. Starving animals became carnivorous. Scavengers multiplied. But - the balance had shifted. Just after the flood of Noah, more people wanted God to protect and teach them, than did not.

The earth has continued on towards sure and certain "death" since the flood of Noah's day. And the LORD allowed all of this. King David wrote, "The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off" (*Psa 90:10*). These words apply to saint and sinner alike. But why? Why has the LORD allowed all of this pain? Was it just to punish us?

MADE FROM DUST

God made Adam from the dust of the ground (*Gen. 2:7*). Then He made Eve from a small bone sample, taken from Adam. The first pair were not created with “spiritual” bodies - like the angels. They were created with physical, carbon based bodies that *feel* physical pain. Why? I believe the LORD wanted to spare them.

Revelation 20:10 tells us that the Devil - once the highest created spirit being - will be “cast into the lake of fire and brimstone” and “will be tormented day and night forever and ever” [unto the age of the ages].

The Devil is a spirit being - not a physical being. Human beings are consumed instantly by the “fire of God”. There are several examples in Scripture. Long story short - **I believe the LORD wanted to spare human beings the “forever and ever” in the “lake of fire”.**

Yes - physical bodies mean physical pain. Whoever heard of an angel stubbing his toe? We feel physical pain because we live as physical beings, but one day the redeemed will receive “spiritual” bodies, and then we will be free from physical pain (*1Cor. 15: 42-44, 51-54*).

For further explanation, please see the studies: “[Where Are the Dead?](#)”, “[Hell - What It's Not](#)”, and “[Final Judgment - Lake of Fire](#)”.

POWER AND GREED

Strength is given for a purpose. The stronger are to *serve* the weaker. But without the spirit of God, “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely” (*Sir John Dalberg-Acton*). Might then makes right. Strength - created for good - may be used for evil.

Men are physically more powerful than women. After sin, at the gate of the garden the LORD said to Eve, “Your desire shall be for your husband and he will rule over you” (*Gen. 3:16*). He will be your master. Women have been bought and sold, abused, raped, used as virtual slaves and valued less than some animals for almost the span of recorded history. Only in very recent years have some societies elevated women by law, to relative equality with men. Those laws are tenuous. They are only as good as the men who stand behind them.

Power - whether of one individual or of nations - simply allows the exercise of unbridled selfishness. Only the indwelling spirit of God brings wisdom and selflessness. But that is not enough. Our all powerful God must rescue those who would serve Him, from those who use power to take what they want. One day soon, the Son of God will return in glory. Those who serve him will be rescued from this earth. Those left behind will destroy one another, as the earth is consumed.

“So - what’s He waiting for,” you ask.

Answer - He is “not willing that any be lost” (*2Peter 3:9*).

His invitation must go out, so long as there are *any* left to speak it. When the last witness for the LORD is imprisoned, killed or threatened with death, *that* is when this age will end.

Those of us who serve Him, understand that the misery must continue - for now.

I know you must be thinking that there are millions who have died without hearing the invitation. No problem - the LORD has a plan for them also. I wrote the "The 8th Day" to explain the LORD's plan for those who have died in ignorance or immaturity.

ANGER AND HATRED

People hate because they have been hurt, or because they can't get what they want. Cain hated his brother Able because the LORD favored his brother. Ishmael hated Isaac because Abraham favored his miracle son by Sarah. Esau hated Jacob. The hatred of Ishmael and Esau began a cycle of hatred which has passed from generation to generation for more than 3000 years.

The indwelling spirit of God is the only preventive, and the only cure - for hatred and anger.

When a person has been deeply wounded, he *will* be angry - unless he is perfectly indwelt by the Spirit of God. It is a given. He may turn his anger against inappropriate targets (many times unconsciously) with negative consequences. He may try to numb his mind with alcohol or other drugs. He may distract with competitive activities. He may unconsciously repeat the circumstances of his injury, trying to make things "turn out differently" this time - trying to heal the old wound. It never works. Only the spirit of Christ can heal the old wounds, and resolve the feelings of anger and hatred.

Hitler knew that the German people were angry after the first world war. They had lost almost everything. He turned their anger against the Jews. He directed that anger against an inappropriate target, and men did things they could not have imagined doing only a few years before. **But why would God - who "is love"- allow such horrible cruelty? Why?**

IGNORANCE and STUPIDITY

How many have died because they ate things, or smoked things, or exposed themselves unknowingly to things that cause disease? Even today when health educators try to warn them, young people especially do not believe they will personally be the ones to suffer. (Tanning beds might serve as a prime example.) The older generations were ignorant. The younger generations who ignore sound advice, are just stupid.

Some of those toxic substances or foods might have been avoided if they had followed the laws set down in the Old Testament, but many modern engineered substances like insecticides, or smog or radiation, are unavoidable. They have touched almost everyone.

Entropy, selfishness, ignorance, stupidity, anger, hatred or just plain accidents - all with horrendous consequences. The question is still - WHY? Why did the LORD allow this horrible mess! And how can He possibly resolve it without some mind-control maneuver?

I do not believe that our God will ever resort to mind control, in order to maintain peace within His eternal kingdom. If He could use the “easy button” then He should have used it back in the Garden of Eden - and skipped this mess!!! No. The long painful history of this earth clearly demonstrates that our God will never take over the free will of any sentient being.

LIFE IN A WAR ZONE

From the first breath of Adam, **we humans have been living in a war zone.**

Revelation 12:7-10 “There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought ... So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him”.

Lucifer - the highest created being - wanted to sit with God, sharing His throne. When God would not allow this, Satan rebelled against the Father, and has vowed to bring down His kingdom and rule.

Satan demanded access to every being of high intelligence, so that he could spread his lies and accusations against the Father. *If the Father had denied him access, Satan would have portrayed the Father as unfairly restrictive, and a vindictive despot - further instilling doubt.* On this planet called Earth, the LORD allowed Satan access at one place only - the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Eve listened to the Serpent, and was taken in by the deception. Adam could not bear to lose Eve, and the rest - as they say - is history. Dominion of earth, had originally been given to Adam and Eve, but the LORD could no longer protect humans from the domination of Satan - not without their obedient submission to His authority.

Please see the study “[Dominion](#)”.

Through deception Satan incites jealousy, lust, greed, anger and hatred. Then he blames the Creator for the ensuing chaos, and suffering. His power is especially directed at those who seek to serve the God of Heaven and His Son. He seeks to deceive, to tempt and to torment. He knows that the Father feels our pain. If he can hurt us, he hurts the Father, whom He hates with a seething passion. Enough pain may cause us to turn from the Father because He has not healed. **Make no mistake. Pain is a test!!**

Satan’s power will continue until Christ returns. Until that day, the persecution will continue in one form or another. Paul wrote, “All who would live godly in Christ *will* suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 3:12). We are trapped in a war zone. Those who have chosen the side of Christ *will* be targeted by the enemy.

One day - Satan will be gone. We will be delivered from the presence and power of Satan and from those who serve him (knowingly or not). We will be raised with immortal spiritual bodies which are not subject to the hungers or physical lusts we feel in this life (*1Cor. 15:44*). The earth will be healed and restored. We long for that day!

THE PAIN WAS NECESSARY

If you ask a recovering addict why he does not take just one more hit, he will answer, "Because it would kill me. I would loose everything." He *knows* that one hit would not be enough. He *knows* that he would end up far worse than he was before. He *knows* that he would have to go through a very painful withdrawal again - or die.

It is his memory of the pain, and his knowledge of sure consequence which prevents relapse. I believe the same will be true for redeemed human beings, and for all of the intelligent spirit beings who sided with the Father in the great War of Heaven, against Satan.

Remember. Two-thirds of the angels rebelled with Satan. The remaining one-third must have had some divine help, to defeat an opposing force that was twice their own. (I agree.) But *why* did the remaining one-third side with their Creator? What made them stay with God? All of their questions were *not* yet fully answered at the start of that war. That my friends, is the mystery of faith.

If ever - for all eternity - I have a momentary thought of something which the LORD has forbidden, **I will remember the abyss - the black hole of pain and hatred caused by sin, and I will recoil from it.** Our present pain is the best guarantee of our eternal future in peace. The pain is a revelation to us, that God does know best.

Every created being has felt the pain or witnessed the chaos. I have personally known a goodly amount of physical pain. I was born with Chiari Malformation, and I also have cluster migraines. I have experienced emotional pain because of childhood experiences. I try to accept the pain as a guarantee of future happiness. Accepting it intellectually is one thing, but I admit I often get impatient with the LORD when I'm hurting. He understands.

I know someone is going to say this means that we will serve HIM out of fear. I would reply that fear of Him, is different from fear of being left without Him. A child who has done something which his father forbade, and has ended up in big trouble, will literally run to his father, absolutely thankful that help has arrived. He is not at that moment, thinking of punishment at his father's hand.

Just eating a piece of fruit seems a *very* small thing. Yet it opened the door. It was like the one small drink for an alcoholic. Eve was deceived by the Evil One, but Adam knowingly disobeyed the express command of God his Creator. If the LORD had allowed them continued access to the Tree of Life, then evil would go on and on and on. **Only by shortening life-spans could the LORD somewhat limit the spread and power of evil - at least for a time.**

We know that physical death is only a sleep. We are approaching the day when millions of human beings will rise to life immortal. Their experience of pain will guarantee their loyalty forever to the One who Created them and rescued them. *They know that without Him chaos ensues.* They have come to *trust* His word and His ways.

HE SHARED THE PAIN

God's own Son became a human being. He inherited the physical nature of Abraham. He *felt* the pain. He became tired, hungry, and thirsty. "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head" (*Matt 8:20*). He was misunderstood, rejected, despised, hated, stripped, whipped almost to unconsciousness and finally nailed to a wooden cross to die publicly. If that was not enough *participation* in our pain, I don't know what would qualify.

Imagine *never* having a human friend who understands you - not really. That one hits home for me. His Father was His *only* true friend.

But God went much farther than the pain which Christ suffered during His life on earth. I remember one day, walking out the back door from work with a terrible migraine headache. I looked up at the sky and said out loud to God, "Why?" Immediately I heard the words of Isaiah 63:9. "In all their affliction He was afflicted." **He feels our pain.** The LORD was letting me know that He was hurting *with* me, not just *for* me. When you hurt, He hurts.

Only an infinite Being could absorb all the pain of every human being, through all of history - and continue to exist. He knew. He knew before He created beings with free will, that He would have to feel the pain. He knew that His own Son would need to demonstrate His great love before humans would believe Him. He knew - and yet He created men and angels.

We humans cannot understand such love - but we *can* choose to trust Him.

*We pray this study will prove a blessing.
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