





Chapter 11: Theodicy

The Problem of Evil

term coined in 1710 by the German philosopher

Gottfried Leibniz

in his book *Theodicy: Essays on the Goodness of God, the Freedom of Man and the Origin of Evil*. The purpose of the essay was to show that the evil in the world does not conflict with the goodness of God and that the world is the best of all *possible* worlds, despite the evil in it.

Theos = God *dikos* = justice

“Justifying the ways of God”



IF GOD EXISTS, HE IS:

OMNIPOTENT



AND CAN STOP
ALL EVIL

OMNISCIENT



AND KNOWS
HOW TO DO IT

MORALLY PERFECT



AND DESIRES
TO END EVIL

BUT EVIL EXISTS, SO EITHER GOD DOESN'T EXIST,
OR HE IS NOT ALL THREE OF THESE.

—When—
BAD
Things Happen to
GOOD
—People—

HAROLD S. KUSHNER



READ BY THE AUTHOR

Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering

Part 2 – Genesis 3:17-19, Romans 8:19-22

Genesis 3:17 “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.
¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering

Part 2 – Genesis 3:17-19, Romans 8:19-22

Romans 8:18 Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. ¹⁹ For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. ²² For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.



Toward an Understanding of Pain and Suffering

Part 2 – Genesis 3:17-19, Romans 8:19-22

²³ And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us. ²⁴ We were given this hope when we were saved. (NLT)