



## WHY SUFFERING AND DEATH?

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In the beginning God created the earth and all that is in it, and when He finished He declared it was "very good." Genesis 1:1-31. Adam and Eve was given dominion over all of the earth. The only thing withheld from them was one tree. Genesis 2:16-17.

Satan, in the form of a serpent, caused Eve to doubt and distrust God, and thus through disobedience to sin against Him. Genesis 3:1-5. She in turn led Adam to sin. Genesis 3:6-7. As a result of sin Adam and Eve were expelled from the garden and denied access to the tree of life. Genesis 3:23-24. In choosing to serve sin rather than God Adam chose death over life and through him sin and death entered the world. Romans 6:16.

Having usurped the power and authority as the head of this planet from Adam, Satan continues to bring pain, sorrow, sickness and suffering to the world. Job 2:6-7; Luke 13:16. His reign in this world brings woe to the inhabitants, but his time is short. Revelation 12:12. Many of the disastrous deeds of the devil are attributed to God, and are even called "Acts of God."

During the short time he has left he is trying to destroy as many of God's people as he can. 1 Peter 5:8. One of the ways in which He does this is by turning people away from God's word and toward worldly things. Luke 8:12.

Where did the devil come from? Jesus declares that he fell from heaven. Luke 10:18. He incited a rebellion in heaven, which led to an all out war, that ended with him being cast out into this earth. Revelation 12:7-9 Heaven is a strange place for a war, but there was war there because Satan was there. Wherever Satan is found there will be war and strife. In the home, at work, at church, wherever he is there is war.

He became very self-centered and sought to exalt himself above God. Isaiah 14:12-14. He had been a "covering cherub" which stood beside the very throne of God, but became lifted up by his pride and desired to sit on the throne rather than stand beside it and this led to sin. Ezekiel 28:14-16. His sin will soon bring about his total destruction as he will be brought to ashes. Ezekiel 28:18-19.

While in this world Jesus won back what Adam had lost through disobedience and through His death on the cross He has obtained the right to destroy the devil himself. Hebrews 2:14. With the destruction of the devil, the very "works of the devil" (sin, sickness, suffering, death, etc.) will also be destroyed. 1 John 3:8.

Dear friend, soon Jesus is coming for His people and then "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Revelation 21:4. Until that day we must be sure that not one piece of the "whole armour of God" is missing if we would defeat the devil. Ephesians 6:11-17.

Absolute victory is assured you IF you are willing to do two things. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7.