

What Does The BIBLE Say?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself to develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

How did suffering and evil get started?

Suffering and evil aren't things that God created or established. However, the earliest record of their appearance is linked to the angel Lucifer (now Satan) becoming power-hungry and rebelling against God's kingdom of love. **See Revelation 12:7-9.** He rallied other angels to his side, and his inner rebellion escalated into a full-scale revolt that led to his exile from heaven. He brought his ideas to earth and convinced the first humans to accept them, allowing suffering and evil to enter our world (**see Gen. 3**). This means God is not the source of evil.

He didn't create it. This leaves us with some questions. Why did He allow Lucifer to rebel? Or why did He create a being capable of rebelling? And why did He allow Satan to have contact with humanity? **Read Joshua 24:15.** The Bible helps us understand how God operates on the principle of freedom. God embodies love (**1 John 4:8**), and pure love cannot exist without free will. God could have created beings incapable of choosing evil. Then he would have made beings similar to robots. In the world of AI, we know too well that a robot can't love.

A robot cannot choose feelings or actions; it just follows programming, which makes true mutual relationships impossible. Without real feeling, interactions are hollow. God can't force love, as that would hinder His relationship with us. “True love must give the right not to love... [and that] freedom involves risk.... Why would God take the risk? Because He aims to create a world of absolute freedom and universal love.” By creating beings capable of loving Him, God risked they might refuse and become enemies like Satan, who rebelled against God. Satan is now the source of sin, suffering, and evil.