

Go Ahead And Ask 1

Psalms 55:15, 69:28, 109:9; Leviticus 24:19-22; Matthew 5:38-39; 5:43-45; Luke 6:28; Romans 12:14-19, 3:23, 5:23; Colossians 3:13-15; John 5:14; Romans 8:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21, 5:6-8; Hebrews 12:2-3; Deuteronomy 33:27; Isaiah 40:28; Psalms 103:17; Isaiah 57:15; Genesis 1:21.24; Job 40:15-24, 41:1-11; Ezekiel 32:1-2

June 10, 2020

1. Is it wrong to pray for God's enemies to be taken out of the way? I've been praying that.

Answer

In the OT it was common for God's people to pray what we call "imprecatory" prayers. Imprecatory comes from the word "imprecation" which means "to pray a curse on." So an imprecatory prayer is one where a prayer is made for God's judgment to fall on one's enemies. Some examples would be some of David's imprecatory prayers:

Bible Verse

Psalms 55:15 (NIV)

¹⁵Let death take my enemies by surprise; let them go down alive to the realm of the dead, for evil finds lodging among them.

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Bible Verse

Psalms 58:6 (NIV)

⁶Break the teeth in their mouths, O God; Lord, tear out the fangs of those lions!

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Bible Verse

Psalms 69:28 (NIV)

²⁸May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.

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Bible Verse

Psalms 109:9 (NIV)

⁹May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow.

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Answer

Now, David lived under the Old Covenant. Moses had written,

Bible Verse

Leviticus 24:19-22 (NIV)

¹⁹Anyone who injures their neighbor is to be injured in the same manner:

²⁰fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth. The one who has inflicted the injury must suffer the same injury.

²¹Whoever kills an animal must make restitution, but whoever kills a human being is to be put to death.

²²You are to have the same law for the foreigner and the native-born. I am the Lord your God.’”

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Answer

But Jesus changed things under the New Covenant: “You have heard the law that says the punishment must match the injury:

Bible Verse

Matthew 5:38-39 (NIV)

³⁸“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’

³⁹But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

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Bible Verse

Matthew 5:43-45 (NIV)

⁴³“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’

⁴⁴But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

⁴⁵that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

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Bible Verse

Luke 6:28 (NIV)

²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

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Answer

Paul the Apostle echoes the same thing,

Bible Verse

Romans 12:14-19 (NIV)

¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.

¹⁸If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

¹⁹Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

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Answer

So while we may pray for God to hinder evil people, or stop their evil actions, which would be in the realm of spiritual warfare, I don't see a place under the New Covenant to pray imprecatory prayers upon them.

2. Here's a question that bothers me often, although my faith is very strong—Why are bad things and suffering allowed to happen to innocent children?

Answer

The general argument people like atheists and agnostics bring up is that, if God is good and benevolent, He would not permit innocent people to endure suffering and pain. But the Bible reveals that God is good and that He allows suffering. First, there is no one who is truly innocent in that there is no one without sin. Romans 3:23 tells us that we are all sinners.

Bible Verse

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

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Answer

Colossians 3:13-15 tells us that we are dead in our sins apart from Christ.

Bible Verse

Colossians 3:13-15 (NIV)

¹³Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

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Answer

The Bible is crystal clear that the result of sin is death (Romans 6:23), and this death has pervaded all of creation.

Bible Verse

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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Answer

The Bible goes on to reveal that sometimes suffering is a direct result of the sufferer's sin. When Jesus healed the man at the pool of Bethesda, He said to him "Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you" (John 5:14). Jesus is clearly insinuating that some suffering can come from personal sin.

Bible Verse

John 5:14 (NIV)

¹⁴Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

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Answer

At other times suffering is caused by the sinfulness of another. How often we have ourselves suffered from someone else's sin! Babies born to mother's hooked on drugs suffer for their sin. A person's heart is broken through the sinful unfaithfulness of their spouse. A person is maimed or killed by the sin of a drunk driver, etc. And sometimes suffering has to do with the general fallen nature of our world. Ever since the judgment of Adam and Eve, "the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now" (Romans 8:22).

Bible Verse

Romans 8:22 (NIV)

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

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Answer

Natural disasters, food and water shortages, violence, disease, and other problems in the world are, ultimately, the result of sin. When you think about it, suffering actually confirms the Bible's testimony about the sobering reality of sin and the fallen nature of the human race. But here's a thought. The most innocent person to ever suffer was Jesus Christ on the Cross! "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21).

Bible Verse

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

²¹God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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Answer

“Yet He endured the cross. Hebrews 12:2-3 says, “for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.”

Bible Verse

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV)

²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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Answer

So we need not doubt God is with us during times of suffering. God does not delight in our suffering, nor is He its author. Yes, God does allow us to suffer. But rather than doubt Him, we can trust in His love and see ourselves identifying with Christ, who suffered before returning to the eternal joy of the heavenly Father.

3. God created man, but how was God created?

Answer

God was never created. He is, and always has been, and always will be. It was an uncreated God that created all things! In Deuteronomy 33:27 God identifies Himself as ETERNAL:

Bible Verse

Deuteronomy 33:27 (NIV)

²⁷The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies before you, saying, ‘Destroy them!’

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Answer

In Isaiah 40:28 He is called EVERLASTING.

Bible Verse

Isaiah 40:28 (NIV)

²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

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Answer

His understanding is inscrutable.”

In Ps 103:17 we're told that His love is from “everlasting to everlasting.” As far back as you can reach, and as far forward as you can stretch, God is there! The prophet Daniel spoke of our Lord Jesus Christ (who is God the Son) saying, “And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.” It's almost impossible for us to grasp eternity because God created us to live in time and space where everything has a beginning and ending. But He doesn't live in time. God created time along with everything else.

Bible Verse

Psalms 103:17 (NIV)

¹⁷But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children—

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Answer

God says,

Bible Verse

Isaiah 57:15 (NIV)

¹⁵For this is what the high and exalted One says— he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

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Answer

So our God is Elohim, the uncreated Creator that created all things!

4. The dead in Christ rise 1st to meet the Lord in the clouds. Is this our physical body only? I always thought to be absent from the body was to be present with the Lord?

Answer

In the church there is a significant amount of confusion regarding what happens to a Christian after death. Some believe in “soul sleep,” that when a Christian dies they simply sleep in death until the return of Christ when they are resurrected. Others, particularly Catholics, believe in purgatory, which is a place or state of suffering inhabited by the souls of sinners who are expiating (paying off) their sins before going to heaven.

But the Bible teaches that when a Christian dies their spirit is immediately separated from their body and goes instantly into the presence of the Lord.

Bible Verse

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NIV)

⁶Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord.

⁷For we live by faith, not by sight.

⁸We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

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Answer

So when a born-again believer dies, his soul goes immediately into the presence of the Lord. There, the soul consciously awaits the resurrection of the body. At the rapture of the church our physical bodies will be resurrected and rejoined with our souls, which will have already been in heaven with Christ. From there we will go to heaven to receive our rewards and enjoy the marriage supper of the Lamb!

**5. Why doesn't the bible mention dinosaurs?
There's evidence but the bible doesn't say it...why
not or where does it mention it?**

Answer

Bible does mention dinosaurs. It doesn't use the word "dinosaur" because that name was not created until the 1800's. The word "dragon" seems to be what was used to describe them in ancient times. First, the dinosaurs were no doubt created on the 5th and 6th days. Genesis records that on the fifth day,

Bible Verse

Genesis 1:21 (NIV)

²¹So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

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Answer

And then on the 6th day,

Bible Verse

Genesis 1:24 (NIV)

²⁴And God said, "Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind." And it was so.

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Answer

The first dinosaur we encounter in the Bible is the BEHEMOTH, described by Job:

Bible Verse

Job 40:15-24 (NIV)

¹⁵"Look at Behemoth, which I made along with you and which feeds on grass like an ox.

¹⁶What strength it has in its loins, what power in the muscles of its belly!

¹⁷Its tail sways like a cedar; the sinews of its thighs are close-knit.

¹⁸Its bones are tubes of bronze, its limbs like rods of iron.

¹⁹It ranks first among the works of God, yet its Maker can approach it with his sword.

²⁰The hills bring it their produce, and all the wild animals play nearby.

²¹Under the lotus plants it lies, hidden among the reeds in the marsh.

²²The lotuses conceal it in their shadow; the poplars by the stream surround it.

²³A raging river does not alarm it; it is secure, though the Jordan should surge against its mouth.

²⁴Can anyone capture it by the eyes, or trap it and pierce its nose?

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Answer

Job says there was no creature created by God like Behemoth. He perfectly describes something like the Brachiosaurus. Skeptics say he's describing either a hippo or elephant. But that's impossible because neither one has a tail like a cedar tree! Since Job describes one then it must be that man and dinosaurs lived at the same time in history. Evolution denies this because evolutionists place dinosaurs long before the appearance of man. Yet nearly every ancient civilization has some

sort of art depicting giant reptilian creatures. Petroglyphs, artifacts, and even little clay figurines found in North America resemble modern depictions of dinosaurs. Rock carvings in South America depict men riding diplodocus-like creatures and, amazingly, bear the familiar images of Triceratops-like, Pterodactyl-like (flying dinosaur), and Tyrannosaurus Rex-like creatures!

A second dinosaur the Bible mentions is LEVIATHAN—a sea creature. Again, Job describes him:

Bible Verse

Job 41:1-11 (NIV)

¹“Can you pull in Leviathan with a fishhook or tie down its tongue with a rope?

²Can you put a cord through its nose or pierce its jaw with a hook?

³Will it keep begging you for mercy? Will it speak to you with gentle words?

⁴Will it make an agreement with you for you to take it as your slave for life?

⁵Can you make a pet of it like a bird or put it on a leash for the young women in your house?

⁶Will traders barter for it? Will they divide it up among the merchants?

⁷Can you fill its hide with harpoons or its head with fishing spears?

⁸If you lay a hand on it, you will remember the struggle and never do it again!

⁹Any hope of subduing it is false; the mere sight of it is overpowering.

¹⁰No one is fierce enough to rouse it. Who then is able to stand against me?

¹¹Who has a claim against me that I must pay? Everything under heaven belongs to me.

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Answer

This is probably talking about something like the Elasmosaurus, a huge, long necked marine dinosaur.

Then next we find what is called the DRAGON. Ezekiel was ordered by God to sing a song about Pharaoh. God gave him the words: “You compared yourself to a young lion among the nations, yet you are like the big dragon in the seas. You go through your rivers, troubling the water with your feet and making the rivers muddy.” (32:1-2)

Bible Verse

Ezekiel 32:1-2 (NIV)

¹In the twelfth year, in the twelfth month on the first day, the word of the Lord came to me:

²“Son of man, take up a lament concerning Pharaoh king of Egypt and say to him:
“‘You are like a lion among the nations; you are like a monster in the seas thrashing about in your streams, churning the water with your feet and muddying the streams.

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Answer

We don't know what the dragon represented. Maybe again the Leviathan. In the Hebrew it means “sea monster.”