
WHAT
ABOUT...

“You say that there is a God, you say that he is all good and powerful, but what about suffering?”

“If God is all powerful he probably doesn’t care enough to stop [suffering], so he’s not loving. Or if God’s all loving and he wants to stop it, then he must not be all powerful.”

– Tim Keller

summarizing the “problem of suffering”

The Bible Says God is Good

“For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.” (Psalm 100:5 ESV)

The Bible Says God is All-Powerful

"I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."
(Job 42:2 ESV)

The Bible Says God says Suffering is Real and Wrong

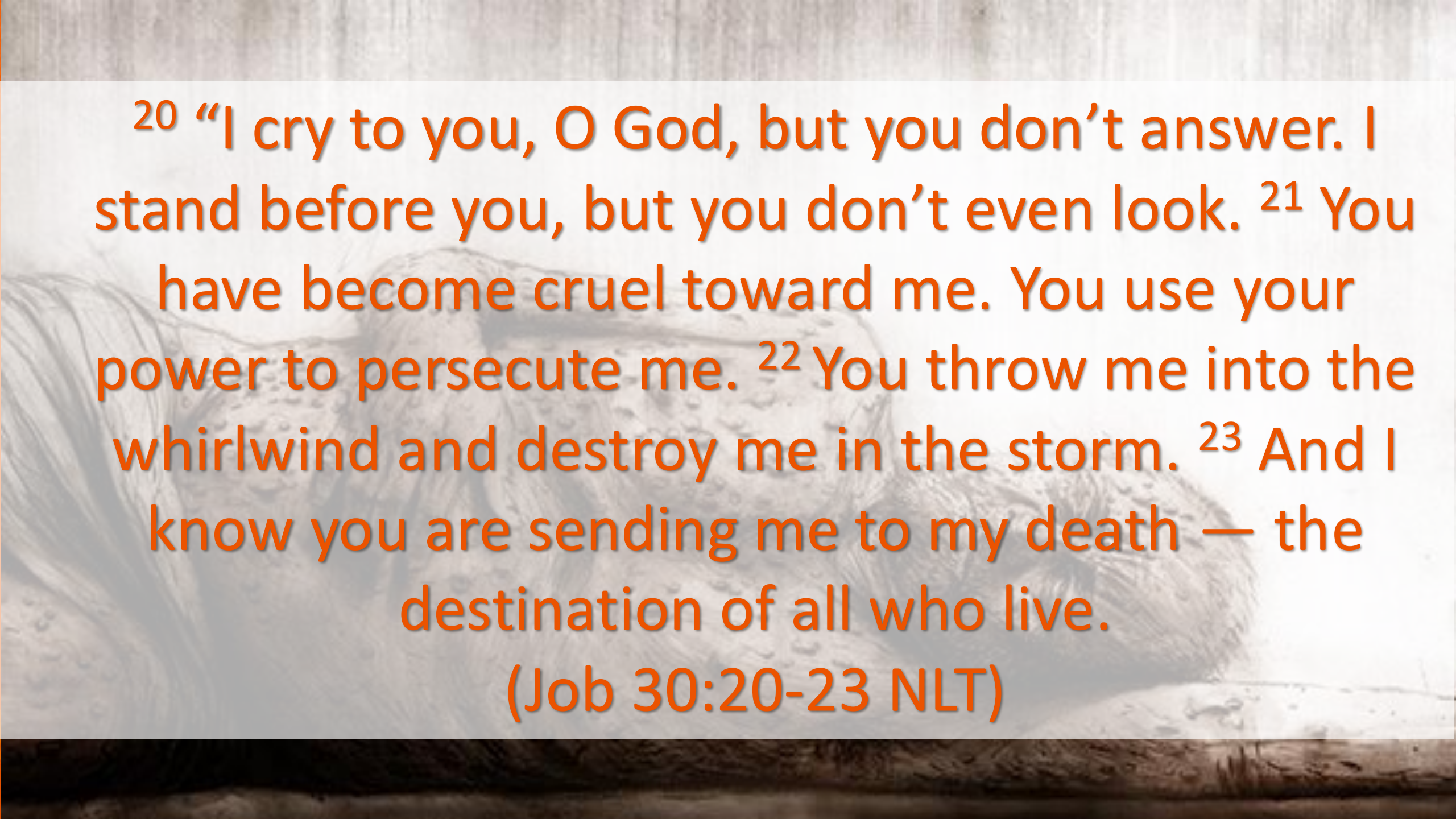
2 O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?
Or cry to you “Violence!” And you will not save? 3 Why do you
make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong?
Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention
arise. 4 So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth.
For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth
perverted. (Hab. 1:2-4 ESV)

The Bible Says God is Wiser Than Us

[8] For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. [9] For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isa. 55:8-9 ESV)







[20] “I cry to you, O God, but you don’t answer. I stand before you, but you don’t even look. [21] You have become cruel toward me. You use your power to persecute me. [22] You throw me into the whirlwind and destroy me in the storm. [23] And I know you are sending me to my death — the destination of all who live.

(Job 30:20-23 NLT)

[1] Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind:
[2] “Who is this that questions my wisdom with such
ignorant words? [3] Brace yourself like a man, because I
have some questions for you, and you must answer
them. [4] “Where were you when I laid the foundations
of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. [5] Who
determined its dimensions and stretched out the
surveying line? [6] What supports its foundations, and
who laid its cornerstone [7] as the morning stars sang
together and all the angels shouted for joy?
(Job 38:1-7 NLT)

[1] Then the LORD said to Job, [2] “Do you still want to argue with the Almighty? You are God’s critic, but do you have the answers?” [3] Then Job replied to the LORD, [4] “I am nothing—how could I ever find the answers? I will cover my mouth with my hand. [5] I have said too much already. I have nothing more to say.”

(Job 40:1-5 NLT)

“You say that there is a God, you say that he is all good and powerful, but what about suffering?”

Just because we can’t think of a good reason for why God allows suffering, it doesn’t mean there isn’t one

The Bible Says God Has a Plan

[1] Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven
and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone.
[2] And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from
God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her
husband. [3] I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, “Look,
God’s home is now among his people! He will live with them,
and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. [4] He
will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more
death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone
forever.” (Rev. 21:1-4 NLT)

The Bible Says God Is With Us

14 So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. 15 This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin. 16 So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

(Heb 4:14-16 NLT)

“Be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt 28:20 NLT)

Suffering is Real and Wrong

God is Good

God is Powerful

God is Wise

God has a Plan

God is with Us