

Hope Trending

[2] The Voting Booth—No More Fear of Evil

- Sam Harris (atheist): “Of course, people of all faiths regularly assure one another that God is not responsible for human suffering. But how else can we understand the claim that God is both omniscient [all-knowing] and omnipotent [all-powerful]? This is the age-old question of theodicy, of course, and we should consider it solved. If God exists, either He can do nothing to stop the most egregious calamities, or He does not care to. God, therefore, is either impotent or evil.” (*Letter to a Christian Nation* 55)
- C. S. Lewis (atheist turned Christian): “My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.” “What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust? If the whole show was bad and senseless from A to Z, so to speak, why did I, who was supposed to be part of the show, find myself in such violent reaction against it?” (*Mere Christianity* 45)
- Peter Hitchens: “He [Christopher Hitchens, his atheist brother] even refers to ‘conscience’ and makes frequent thunderous denunciations of various evil actions. Where is his certain knowledge of what is right and wrong supposed to have come from? How can the idea of a conscience have any meaning in world of random chance, where in the end we are all just collections of molecules swirling in a purposeless confusion? If you are getting inner promptings, why should you pay any attention to them? It is as absurd as the idea of a compass with no magnetic North. You might as well take moral instruction from your bile duct.” (In Thomas William’s *Greater Than You Think* 143-144)
- I Corinthians 13:4—“Love suffers long.”
- War in heaven and on earth:
 - Revelation 12:7-9
 - Ezekiel 28:12-16
 - Isaiah 14:12-14
- The voting booth—Genesis 2:16-17

HOPE

- Love must not only grant you the right to say YES—it must also grant you the right to say NO.
- Lucifer's NO to God is the cause of all suffering on earth and in heaven.
- Matthew 13:28—"An enemy has done this."
- John 3:16
- "Jesus was here."

Questions:

___How do you know a line is crooked?

___How does the story of a cosmic civil war in Heaven explain the cause of human suffering on earth?

___In what way(s) does the story of the cross respond to the reality of human suffering?

___How can the idea of a loving God suffering with us ease our own private suffering?