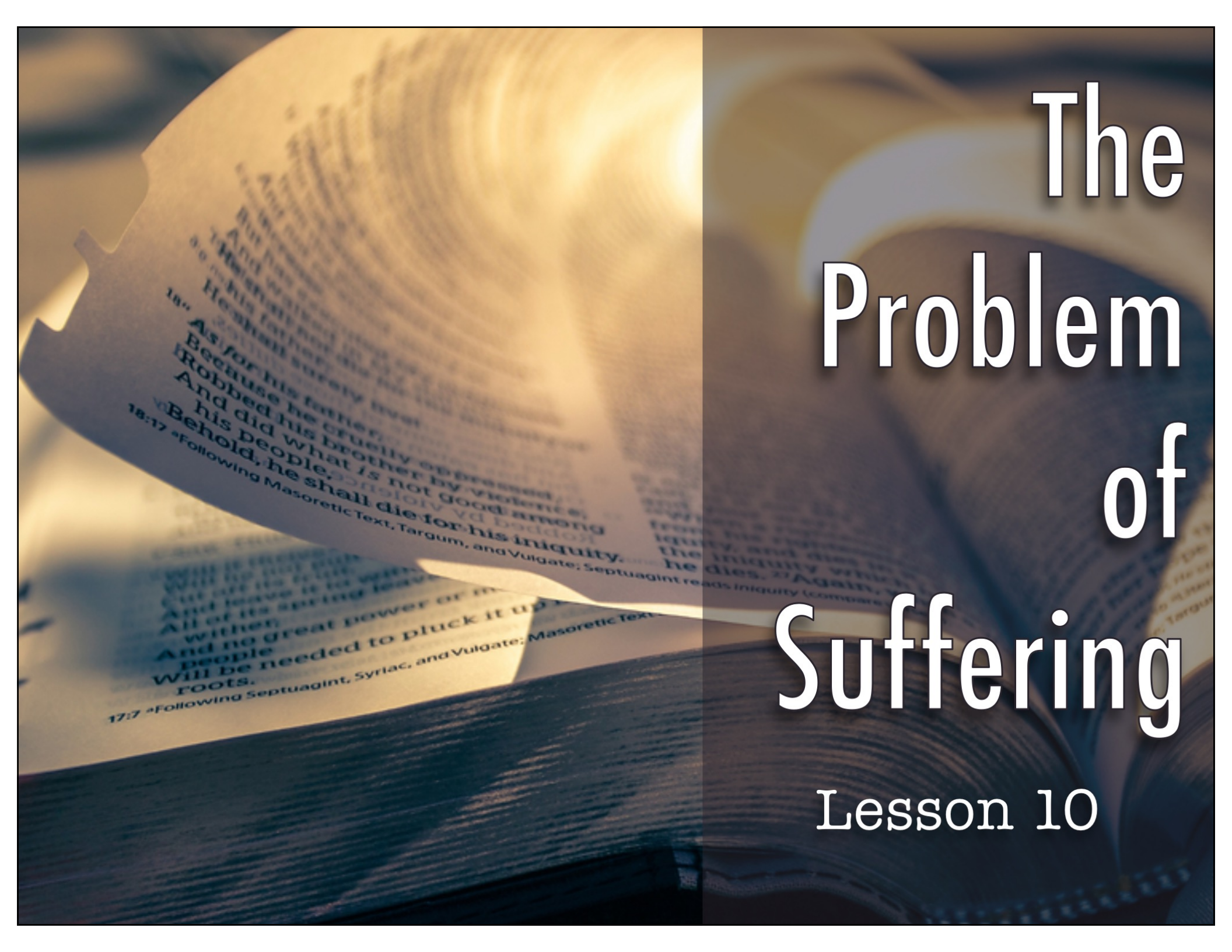




Why Should I Believe?

www.teamagee.com/believe2024

Slides, Audio, and Video of all
"Why Should I Believe" Lessons



The Problem of Suffering

Lesson 10

The Problem of Suffering

“If there is a God, why is there so much suffering in the world?”

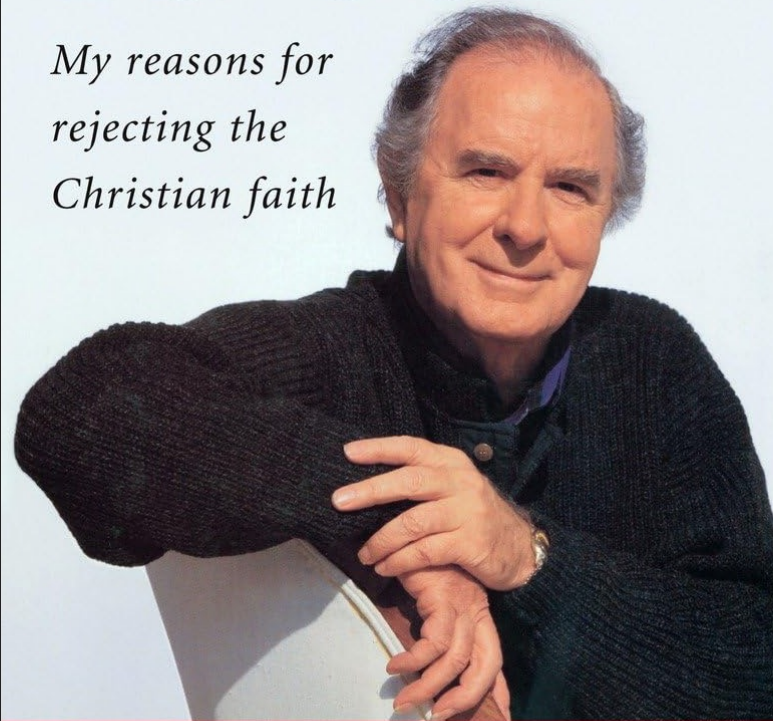
“Christians are a small minority in the world. Approximately four out of every five people on the face of the earth believe in gods other than the Christian God. The more than five billion people who live on earth revere or worship more than three hundred gods. If one includes the animist or tribal religions, the number rises to more than three thousand. Are we to believe that only Christians are right?”

-Charles Templeton

Christian Evangelist who later became an Atheist
From his book "Farewell to God"

FAREWELL TO GOD

*My reasons for
rejecting the
Christian faith*



Charles Templeton

From "The Case for Faith" by Lee Strobel

“Templeton saw a picture that ran in Life Magazine of a North African woman holding her dead baby in her arms after the region had experienced a devastating drought. Like so many, Templeton abandoned his faith because he couldn't piece together an answer to the puzzling question:

'How could a loving God allow evil like this to rule?'"

THE BOOK OF JOB

CHAPTER I

THERE was a man ^bin the land of Uz, whose name was ^aJob; and that man was ^cperfect and upright, and one that ^dfeared God, and eschewed evil.

² And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters.

³ His ^esubstance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great

^a Ps. 34. 7
Is. 5. 2

^b 1 Chr. 1. 17

^c Ps. 128. 1, 2
Prov. 10. 22

^d Ezek. 14. 14

Jas. 5. 11

^e Gen. 17. 1

¹ Or, cattle

^f Prov. 18. 6

^g ch. 2. 5
& 19. 21

² Heb. if he

curse thee not

to thy face

^h Is. 8. 21

Mal. 3. 13, 14

³ Or, cattle

⁴ Heb. hand

Gen. 18. 6

⁵ Or, husbandry
sons of

¹⁰ ^aHast not thou made thee a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? ^cthou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his ¹substance is increased in the land.

¹¹ ^bBut put forth thine hands now, and touch all that he hath, ²and he will ^acurse thee to thy face.

¹² And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy ¹power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

¹³ ^cAnd there was a day when his sons and his daughters

Job curse
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An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with its pages slightly curved. The text on the pages is mostly illegible due to a dark, semi-transparent overlay. The overlay contains the main text of the image in a large, white, bold, serif font. The background is a dark, muted blue-grey color.

**God did not
create evil and
suffering**



Free Will


18:17 *Following Mas
Behold, he
his people
And did
Robbed he
Because he
As for his father

...for his iniquity.

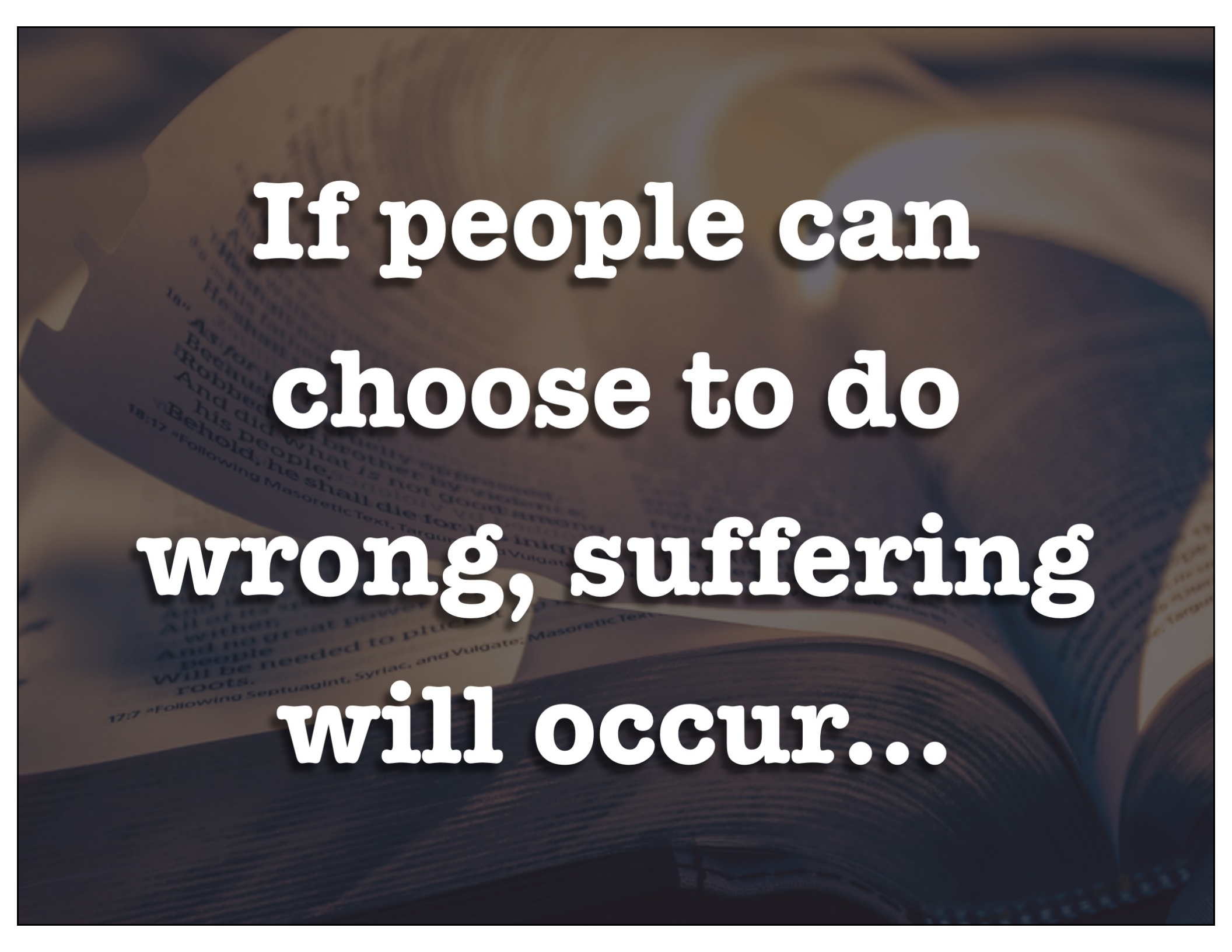
...the iniquity which
he dies. *Again, when

And no great power or
people
Will be needed to pluck it up
roots.

17:7 *Following Septuagint, Syriac, and Vulgate; Masoretic text



**Free Will =
The Potential
for Evil**

The background is a dark, blurred image of an open book. The pages are visible, with some text from the book appearing as faint, semi-transparent overlays. The main text is in a large, bold, white font with a slight drop shadow, making it stand out against the darker background. The text is arranged in four lines, centered horizontally.

**If people can
choose to do
wrong, suffering
will occur...**

Remember that Suffering and
Death came into the world
through our choices (sin):

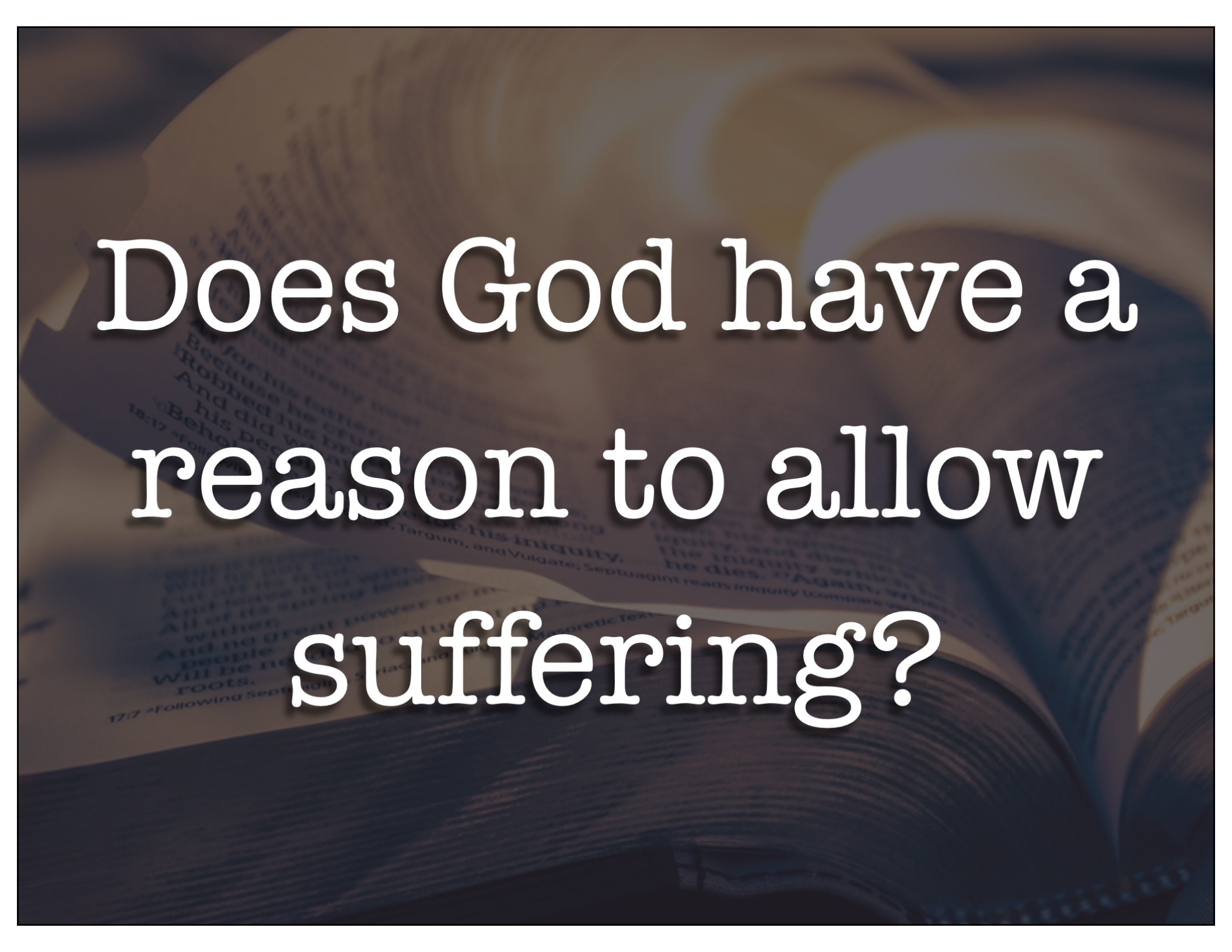
Genesis 3

Romans 5:12; 8:20-22

It follows logically that because God created beings with free will, all suffering, both from nature and from the evil doings of man can be experienced by all people whether they are **“good people”** or not.

Ecclesiastes 9:11 (ESV)

Again I saw that under the sun
the race is not to the swift, nor
the battle to the strong, nor
bread to the wise, nor riches to
the intelligent, nor favor to
those with knowledge, but **time**
and chance happen to them all.

An open book is shown from a top-down perspective, with its pages slightly curved. The text on the pages is mostly illegible due to a dark, semi-transparent overlay. The overlay is a dark blue-grey color that allows some of the text to be seen through it. The text on the pages includes phrases like "Because he crucified his father", "Robbed his father", "And did what he pleased", "Behold", "his iniquity", "the iniquity which he dies", "Again, which", "Targum, and Vulgate, Septuagint reads iniquity", "And no great number of it", "people", "Will be no roots.", "177 *Following Septuagint".

Does God have a
reason to allow
suffering?

Isaiah 40:28 (ESV)

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

Romans 11:33 (ESV)

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How **unsearchable are his judgments** and how **inscrutable his ways!**

Romans 8:28 (ESV)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

James 1:2-4 (ESV)

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Romans 5:1-5 (ESV)

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but **we rejoice in our sufferings**, knowing that **suffering produces endurance**, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (ESV)

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this **light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,** ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

An open book is shown in a dark, moody setting. The pages are slightly blurred, but some text is visible, including phrases like "Behold, he", "his father", "robbed him", "And did he", "his people", "Following Ma", "his iniquity", "the iniquity which", "he dies.", "Again, wh", "Septuagint reads iniquity (compa", "And no one", "people", "Will be nee", "roots.", "Following Septu". The main text is overlaid in large, white, bold letters.

Remember:

God Also

Suffered

Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but **emptied himself**, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming **obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross**. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Romans 8:18 (ESV)

For I consider that the **sufferings** of this present time are **not worth comparing** with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

James 1:12 (ESV)

Blessed is the man who remains **steadfast under trial**, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

*Next
Lesson...*

The Problem of Hell

Lesson 11