

GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR ALLOWING SIN AND DEATH AND SUFFERING

From the beginning of the world, God has known all His works. God knows all the free choices of man including what might or could have been. God declares the end from the beginning, the things that are not yet done. God's choosing of an individual to eternal life is in conjunction with the individual's response to Holy Spirit conviction. God knows every intricate detail of every life that will ever come into existence (the Eternal Now of God). God allows and decrees what will happen in each person's life according to His own counsel and with respect to the free responses of that life. God is infinitely great in that He can be sovereign and give man free choices simultaneously. Change occurs in creation and in man but God never changes.

Acts 15:18 Matthew 11:23 Hebrews 1:10-12 Psalm 135:6 Isaiah 46:9-11

From the beginning of the world, God has known all His works. The Father plans, the Son accomplishes, and the Spirit applies. The Father planned creation, the Son created, and the Spirit empowered. In redemption the Father sent the Son, the Son did the Father's will, and the Spirit empowered the Son's mission. John 1-3 Colossians 1 Hebrews 1

Anything which God creates must be less than what He is. Only God is perfect. If Adam had been perfect, he would have been God Himself. Adam was created in the image of God, but Adam was imperfect in that He wasn't God himself. In some mysterious way, Adam had opportunity to obey God or disobey God and God saw in His "eternal now" that Adam sinned. God's "eternal now" means that God is not bound by time.

From the beginning of the world, God saw and allowed sin to enter mankind through the disobedience of Adam. Through Adam, sin brought death into the Universe. God decreed that a Second Adam would come into the world and defeat sin, death, and Satan. At just the right time, God sent the eternal Son, Jesus, to die a sinless death, die an unjust death, condemning sin to its utter defeat. Jesus is given all power and authority to judge all things in heaven and earth. Genesis 3:15-19 Romans 5:12 Romans 8:3 John 5:19-30 Matthew 28:18

Jesus, the Second Adam, was perfect. Jesus is God. Jesus is fully man and Jesus is fully God. Colossians 2:9

From before the beginning of the world, in His "eternal now", God saw and allowed His Son to enter mankind in the flesh, live a sinless life, die a sinless death, defeat sin, death, and Satan, be resurrected, give eternal life to all those who believe in Him, remove sin from the believer through sanctification and glorification, remove sin and death from all creation, and create a new heaven and new earth.

1 Peter 1:18-25 Revelation 20:10-15; 21:1-27; 22:1-21

Sin, death, and salvation is the only avenue by which the glory and the love of God can be experienced and revealed in us. Romans 8:18 1 Corinthians 13:12

The cross of Jesus and His resurrection provide the Way by which a humble and repentant person can follow Him in death and be raised to new life in Him by believing Jesus. The sinful violence of humanity was directed at Jesus on the cross but Jesus trusted the Father completely even unto death. Dying sinless, Jesus defeated sin. Jesus freely died for all humanity. We must trust the Father completely for our death to sin and our being raised to new life in Christ. Our death to sin is

positional but also experiential in a progressive way called sanctification. We are called to a new attitude whereby we pray “Not my will but Thine be done.” Our death to sin and our new walk in Christ is experienced by our suffering and striving to be obedient. Our acknowledgment of our sin and recognition of sin in humanity allows us to perceive the glory of God as He defeats sin in us.

God has a purpose for allowing our sin, our death, and our suffering.

Romans 8:18 Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

Romans 6:4 We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:6,7 For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.

Romans 7:4 You also died... that you might bear fruit to God.