



**How Can  
GOD  
Let THIS  
Happen ?**



**H**ow can there be a God when there is so much suffering? Thousands of people ask this question - those who have lost loved ones, others who live in constant pain, or have suffered the trauma of child abuse, violent crime or extreme poverty. Most of us have faced times when all we can do is shout "Why? How could God let this happen?"

**God gives you the answers.**

**The atheist has no answer.** In a crisis he has nowhere to turn. If there is no God... if we are just random collections of atoms in an evolutionary process where only the fittest survive, why do we grieve at the suffering and injustice in the world or in our lives?

**The atheist has no hope.** When facing death he claims we just cease to exist. Yet in our hearts we have a sense of eternity. People want answers. We all need hope. The Bible gives both. It tells us that when God made the world, it was perfect with no evil or suffering.

**God's good news gives you hope.**

**What went wrong?** Suffering and death entered the world when the first people rebelled against their Creator. The Bible says, "***The wages of sin is death***"<sup>1</sup> Adam and Eve

**Suffering came by sin.**

chose to disobey God. Since then we have all wanted to live life our own way, rather than submitting to God's good rules. The first man born on this planet murdered his

own brother. The cause of most of the suffering in the world is from evil people: terrorist attacks, rape, theft, lies, child abuse. We can't blame God for the things people do.

**So why doesn't God get rid of such people now?** We all want justice. The problem is, where would God draw the line? We all agree that people like Stalin, Hitler and Harold Shipman deserve punishment. But what about a man who walks out on his wife and children, with all the pain that follows? What about thieves? Those who tell lies? Gossipers who destroy reputations? What about the angry words you said that you wish you could take back? We have to admit that all of us have caused pain to others. All of us are therefore under God's judgement.

God is good and holy. In His sight even "small sins" will keep us from heaven and send us to hell. A chain only needs one link broken for it to be useless. For God to stop all suffering now, He would have to destroy us all. Right now, He is still giving us time to come back to Him.

**What about natural disasters and accidents?** Since Adam and Eve's fall, this world has been under a curse. That's why there is death, disease and disasters; the whole creation is out of joint. Tsunamis, earthquakes, floods, and volcanic eruptions are signs that tell us something has gone wrong. Are the people affected by such disasters any worse than the rest of us?

When Jesus was asked this question, He said ***"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."***<sup>2</sup>

**God gives you hope when you are suffering.**

**Does God care? Is there any hope?** Yes, and Yes! Two thousand years ago, God Himself came to live in this world of suffering. He was born into a poor family. He felt pain, sadness, tiredness, and frustration. Thousands of sick, hurting people were brought to Him and He healed them. Unlike us, Jesus never did anything wrong, yet He was hated and finally nailed to a cross to die, by the very people He had cared for. Jesus willingly offered His perfect life to God and suffered all of God's anger against our disobedience. God punished Jesus in the place of all those who would trust Him. As he was dying on the cross He cried out ***"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"***<sup>3</sup> so that we will never need to. He suffered hell and judgement for us, because He cared.

The Bible says, ***"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved"***<sup>4</sup>. Those who believe on Christ have their sins forgiven. God is no longer angry with them because Jesus took their punishment. He rose again to show He had defeated death. Those who trust Him will also rise from death to have eternal life in a new place where ***"there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain."***<sup>5</sup> All because of the death of Jesus on the cross!

**One day God will put an end to the world's pain and make that wonderful new world without any sorrow,** but it will be when Jesus, the one who heals the broken-hearted, returns as Judge. **"So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."**<sup>6</sup> Are you ready for that day? Have you asked Jesus Christ to save you or are you still under God's judgement? ■

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God gives us the answers on why we suffer. All the evil and hurt that we experience is due to the fall of mankind, and the curse which it brings on the world. The Lord Jesus Christ came and died as a sacrifice to pay for what our sins deserve. By trusting in Him, He gives you forgiveness, eternal life and hope. So instead of getting bitter, cast down or depressed, repent and believe on Jesus Christ, the Saviour.

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*Quotations are from the Holy Bible, Authorized (King James) Version.*

<sup>1</sup> Romans 6:23; <sup>2</sup> Luke 13:3;  
<sup>3</sup> Matthew 27:46; <sup>4</sup> Acts 16:31;  
<sup>5</sup> Revelation 21:4;  
<sup>6</sup> Romans 14:12.

*If you would like to speak to us about the spiritual matters mentioned in this pamphlet, please contact us. We would be delighted to hear from you.*

*You are invited to visit*

# PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHAPEL



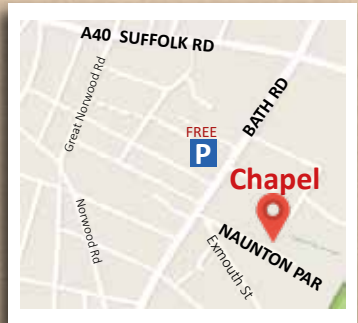
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*\* For all regular church services we can provide transport.*

*\* A room for infants/toddlers is available, if needed.*



<b>Sunday</b>	Sunday School (ages 4-16) .....	9:30 am
	Morning Service .....	11:00 am
	Evening Service .....	6:30 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Bible Study & Prayer .....	7:30 pm
<b>Friday</b>	Toddler Group .....	10:00 am
(Term Times)	Bible Club Jr (years 3-6) .....	6:30 pm
	Bible Club Sr (years 7 +) .....	8:00 pm

[www.providencebaptistchapel.org.uk](http://www.providencebaptistchapel.org.uk)