

EVIL, SUFFERING, DEATH: WHY?

[Or, "How to Find JOY in Such a Painful World"]

INTRODUCTION

This set of lessons is designed to be a FAITH BUILDER, especially for Christians, and to show reasons why we should continue to have confidence in God, and to persevere in the demonstration of this in our love and service to Him! The problems of evil and human suffering have always been complex, with death being the common denominator to man. We shall not propose to answer all your questions about these issues in this class, perhaps very few of them, but **we are challenged to reconcile** the "goodness and caring" of the Creator of the universe with the existence of evil, suffering and death. I believe in the providence of God, even though I admit to a great lack of understanding! I also believe in prayer, and in its effectiveness to get the Father to change things! I can't even give myself a satisfactory answer as to **how this is done**, so I certainly don't expect to convey to you any answers here!

One of the greatest, most powerful and most successful lies of Satan is that people serve God only because of the comfort He gives, the abundance He provides and the assistance toward success which He gives to His own. Satan has ingrained this lie into the very fabric of humanity. **Job 1:9-10**-*"So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? 10 "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land."* The natural tendency has become to blame God for any adversity. Even today otherwise faithful people are wondering, in their suffering and pain, where God is! For many, the \$64,000. question has become: "HOW CAN A LOVING AND COMPASSIONATE GOD, THE ALL-POWERFUL CREATOR OF EVERYTHING THAT IS, THE ONE WHO IS STILL TODAY ABLE TO CHANGE THINGS AT OUR REQUEST, ALLOW EVIL TO ABOUND, WITH ITS ATTENDANT PAIN AND SUFFERING AND DEATH ... ESPECIALLY IN THE CASES OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM AND TRUST HIM AND SERVE HIM?"