

## God and the Problem of Evil

*We live in a world in which a child dies every five seconds of starvation. Every five seconds. Every minute there are twenty-five people who die because they do not have clean water to drink. Every hour 700 people die of malaria. Where is God in all this? We live in a world in which earthquakes in the Himalayas kill 50,000 people and leave 3 million without shelter in the face of oncoming winter. We live in a world where a hurricane destroys New Orleans. Where a tsunami kills 300,000 people in one fell swoop. Where millions of children are born with horrible birth defects. And where is God? To say that he eventually will make right all that is wrong seems to me, now, to be pure wishful thinking.<sup>1</sup>*

-Dr. Bart Ehrman

### Intellectual vs. Emotional Problem

-different answers for different people

### Evil Points to God

- two kinds of words: descriptive vs. judgement
- definition of evil: strong departure from the way things are supposed to be
- three options: human minds; physical world; transcendent, spiritual mind

*In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference... DNA neither cares nor knows. DNA just is. And we dance to it's music.*

-Richard Dawkins<sup>2</sup>

### Why Does God Allow Evil?

- need for trust
- God not necessarily obligated to tell why
  
- most common answers: mystery, free will, soul making

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.beliefnet.com/columnists/blogologue/2008/04/why-suffering-is-gods-problem.html#StPocTuEyh51TI4g.99>

<sup>2</sup> Richard Dawkins, *River Out of Eden: A Darwinian View of Life*, p155 (Basic Books; Reprint edition (August 23, 1996))

-my view:

-God cannot do logically impossible

-free will in heaven? - experience evil on earth so not in heaven

-some people sin no matter, so can't go in heaven

-atheists need to be sure that no other possible reason

### Conclusion

-God does not promise easy, pain-free life

-focus on how God changing soul

-trust