

1 Peter 3:15

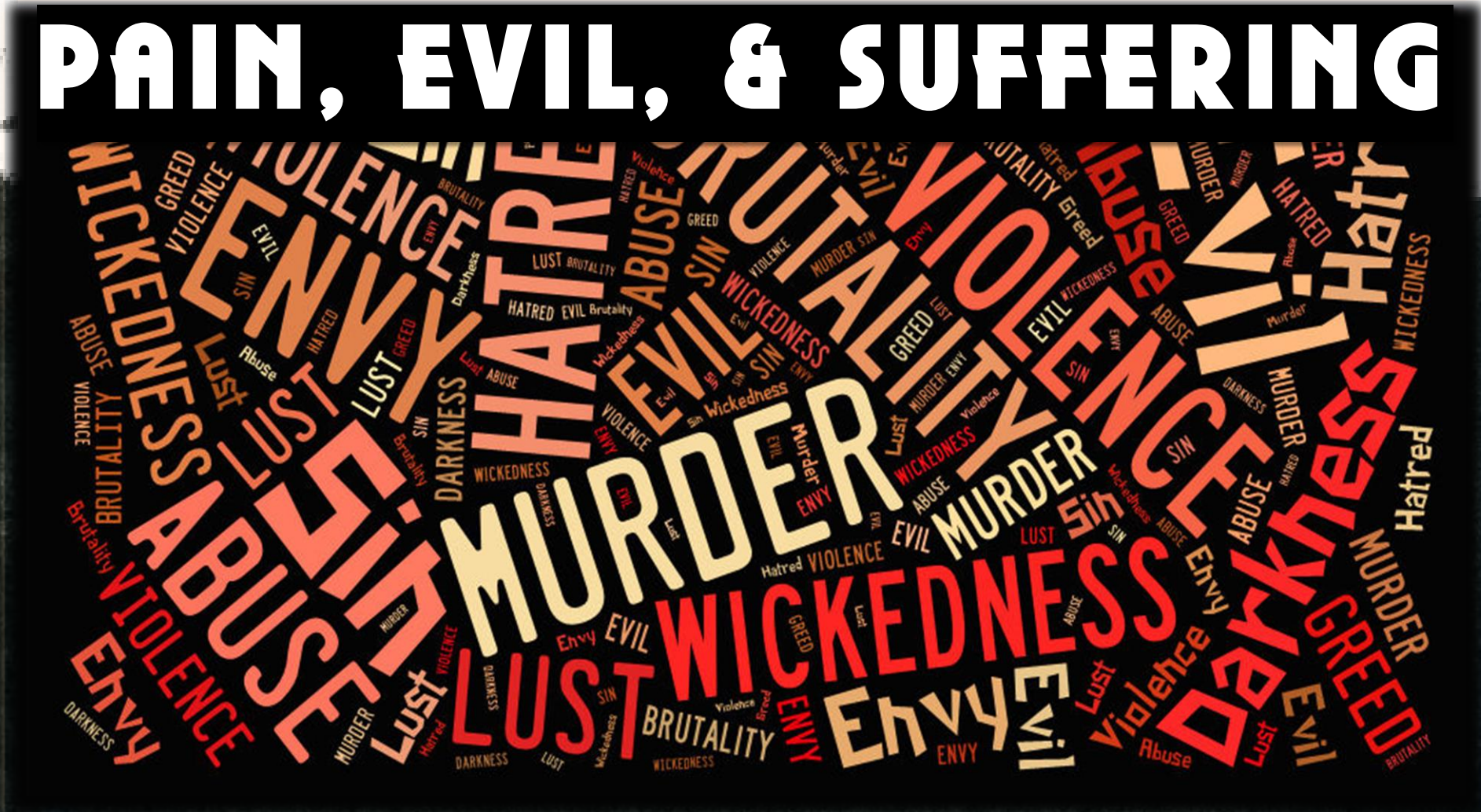
But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,
and always be ready to give a **defense** to
everyone who asks you a reason for the
hope that is in you, with meekness and
fear;

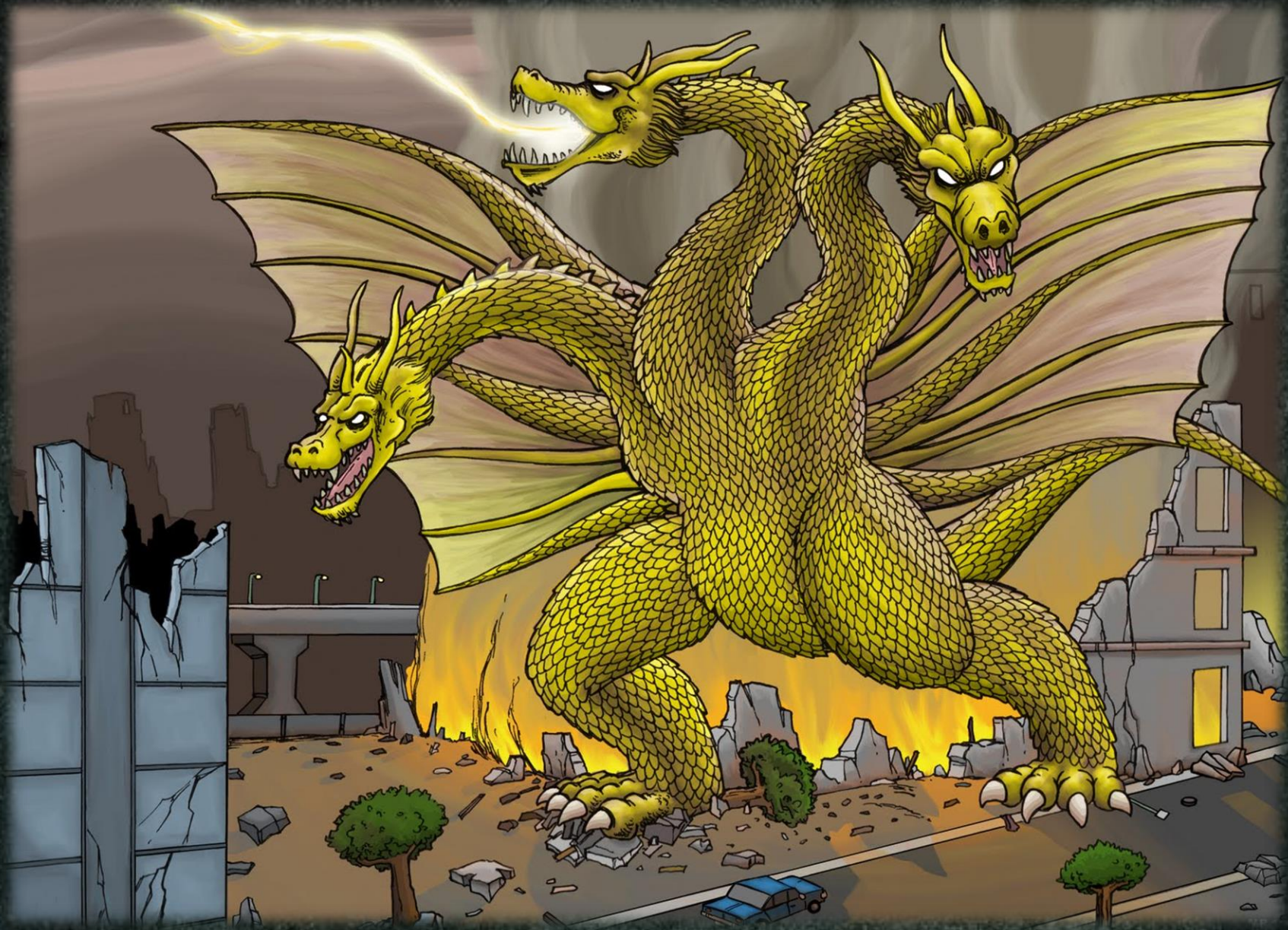
THE MYSTERY OF PAIN, EVIL, & SUFFERING

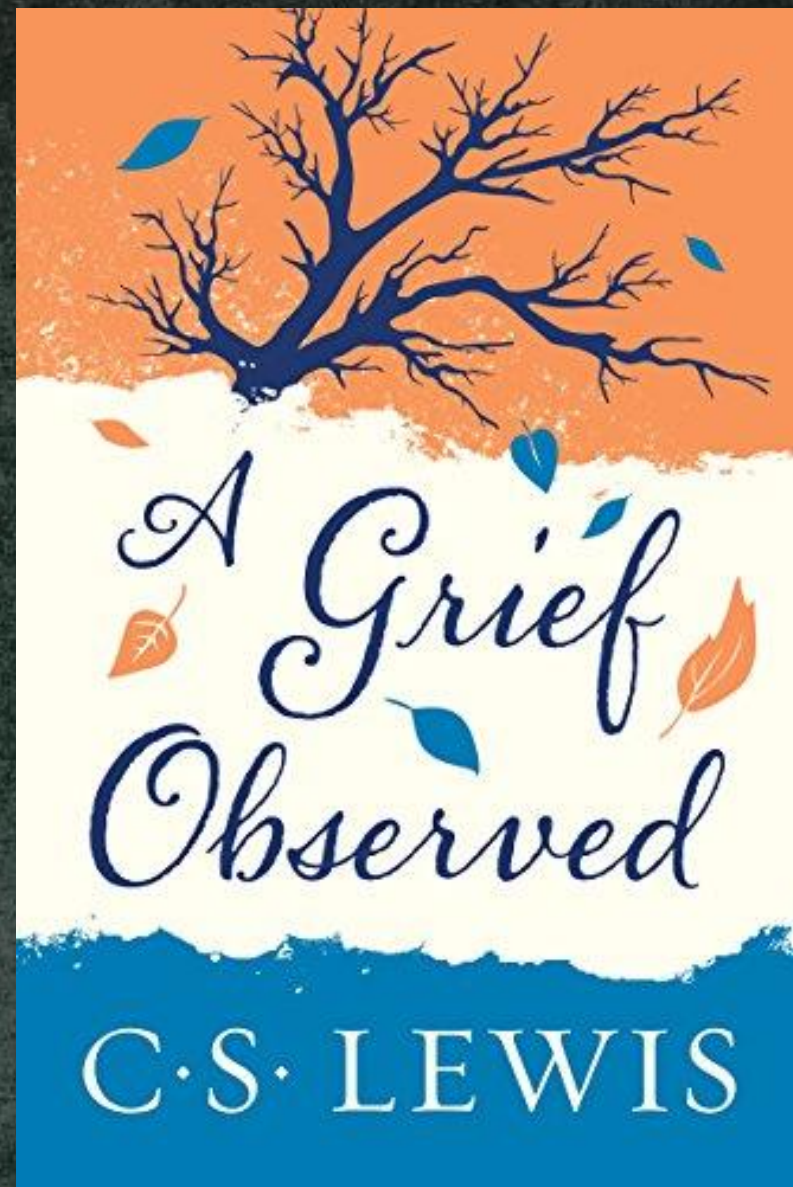
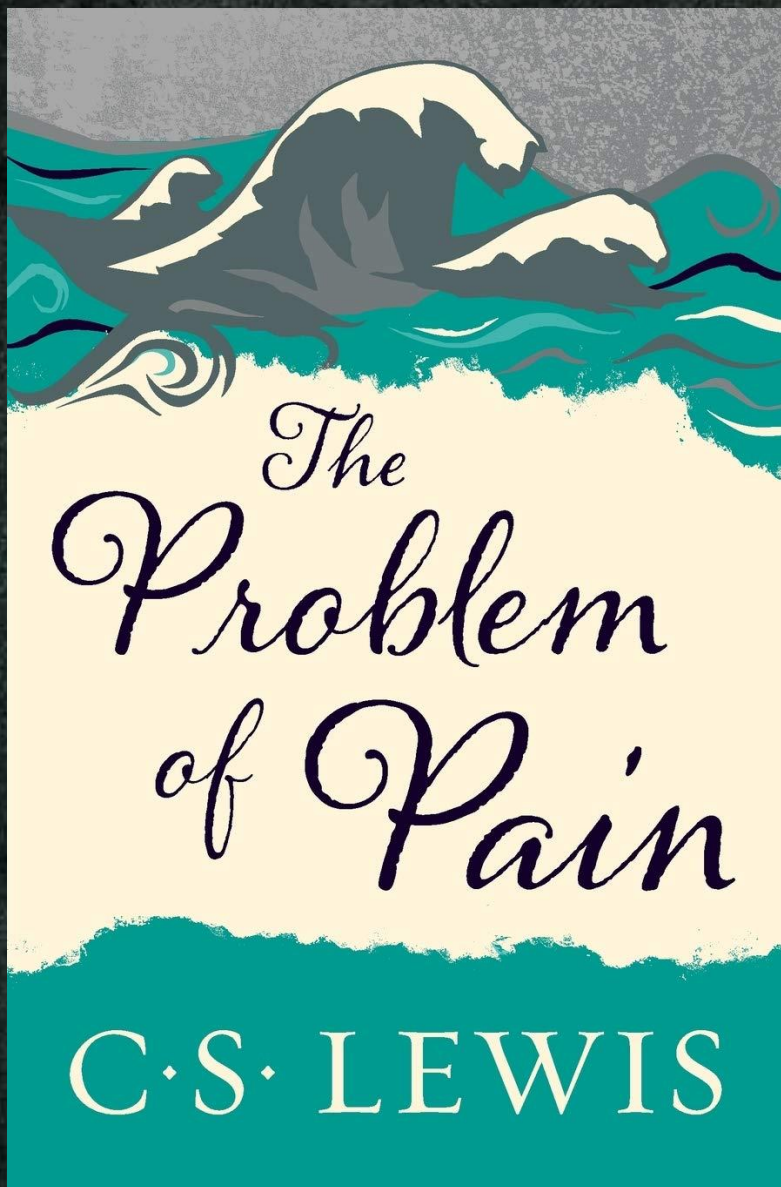




THE MYSTERY OF PAIN, EVIL, & SUFFERING







1. Why do bad things happen to good people?

1. Why do bad things happen to good people?
2. Who is to blame for the bad things of life?

1. Why do bad things happen to good people?
2. Who is to blame for the bad things of life?
3. Our world has so much pain, evil, & suffering;
doesn't that prove God does not exist?

1. Why do bad things happen to good people?
2. Who is to blame for the bad things of life?
3. Our world has so much pain, evil, & suffering; doesn't that prove God does not exist?
4. Why does God allow so much pain, evil, & suffering?

QUESTION #1

Why do bad things
happen to good people?

Luke 13:1-3

There were present at that season some who told Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.....

Luke 13:4-5

Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem?

QUESTION #2

Who is to blame for
the bad things of life?

John 9:1-4

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

QUESTION #3

Our world has so much pain, evil, & suffering; doesn't that prove God does not exist?



Logical Argument Against God

Logical Argument Against God

(1) God is all-good.

Logical Argument Against God

- (1) God is all-good.
- (2) God is all-knowing.

Logical Argument Against God

- (1) God is all-good.
- (2) God is all-knowing.
- (3) God is all-powerful.

Logical Argument Against God

- (1) God is all-good & all-loving.
- (2) God is all-powerful & all-knowing.
- (3) Pain, evil, & suffering exist.
- (4) Therefore, God does not exist.

CHRISTIAN
WORLDVIEW



**MORAL
EVIL**

The Fall
Genesis 3
Romans 8:22

**NATURAL
EVIL**

Logical Argument Against God

- (1) God is all-good & all-loving.
- (2) God is all-powerful & all-knowing.
- (3) Pain, evil, & suffering exist.
- (4) God exists.

QUESTION #4

Why does God allow
so much pain, evil, &
suffering?

THEODICY #1. The Fantasy of Simplicity

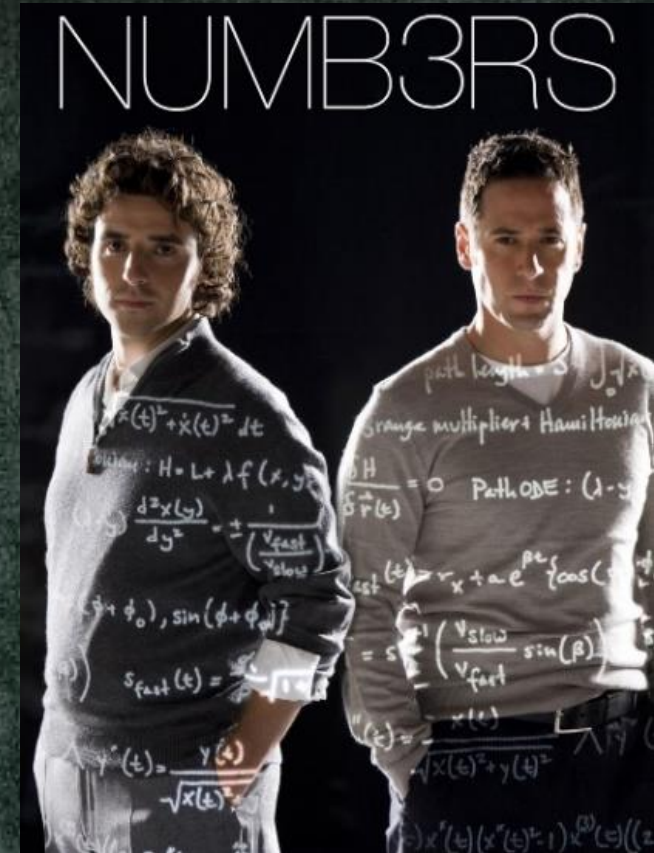


Not a simple
issue; don't
expect a simple
answer.

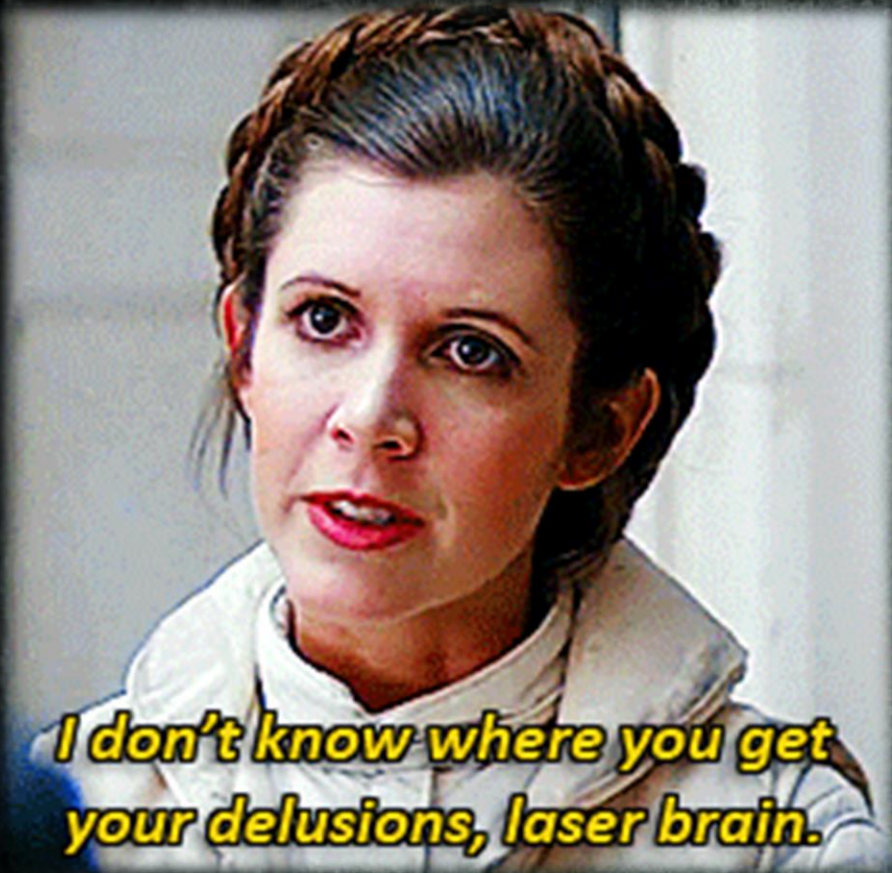
THEODICY #2. The Inherency of Complexity

Some things are
too complicated
to understand.

Job 42:1-3



THEODICY #3. IDK is OK!



*I don't know where you get
your delusions, laser brain.*

I don't proclaim
to be God or
know His mind.

Isaiah 55:7-8

THEODICY #4. No Selfies Allowed!

We may never
know the end of
the story this
side of heaven.

Matthew 7:17-20



THEODICY #5. Run Queen Run!



God can't
just
eliminate
pain, evil, &
suffering.

THEODICY #6. The Necessity of Pain

Pain has the
potential to
protect, mature,
and help us.

2 Cor 12:9



THEODICY #7. *Get Your Own Dirt!*



THEODICY #7. Get Your Own Dirt!



“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?”

- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

THEODICY #8. Freedom is Never Free

- God gave us free will.
- We can choose.
- We do choose.
- That is why there is pain, evil, suffering.



QUESTION #4

Why does God allow
so much pain, evil, &
suffering?

THEODICY #8. Freedom is Never Free

God is eternal.

God is love.

God is trinitarian.

John 17:24

“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world...”

THEODICY #8. Freedom is Never Free

- God created us because He wanted to share His love, and engage in loving relationship with His creation.
- God created us in His image.
- God created us with a free will.

THEODICY #8. Freedom is Never Free

- God was also willing to accept the ramifications of that decision.
- We might freely choose to reject Him.
- We might freely choose not to love.
- We might freely choose to do evil.

THEODICY #8. Freedom is Never Free



Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love towards us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 1:4

...just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

THEODICY #8. Freedom is Never Free



QUESTION #4

Why does God allow
so much pain, evil, &
suffering?

THEODICY #8. Freedom is Never Free

1. God is love.
2. God loves us, and wants to share that love.
3. God created us in His image with this capacity to love.
4. God gave us free will as a gift of love.
5. We can be good/loving or evil.
6. We cannot have love without the possibility of experiencing pain, evil, & suffering.

1. Why do bad things happen to good people?
2. Who is to blame for the bad things of life?
3. Our world has so much pain, evil, & suffering; doesn't that prove God does not exist?
4. Why does God allow so much pain, evil, & suffering?

QUESTION #5

What has God done or is going to do about all the pain, evil, & suffering?

1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,
and always be ready to give a **defense** to
everyone who asks you a reason for the
hope that is in you, with meekness and
fear;

