

## Where is God in This Broken World? (Psalm 89:14-16)

We long for wrongs to be made right. We long for the innocent to be protected. We celebrate the orphan adopted, the sex-trafficked rescued. We applaud the efforts of those who have courage to step into dark places, willing to sacrifice comfort and safety to help others. When tragedies like war, earthquakes or a pandemic hit we may wonder, *“Where is God in this broken world? Is God indifferent, unwilling or unable to do something?”* How does Christianity answer that honest question?

### 1. We live in a broken world

The Bible presents us with an answer as to how this world got so broken.

= Believing the lie that God doesn't have our best interest at heart, that he's withholding what we would be better off having...and deciding to live out from under his loving rule. Genesis 3

### 2. The God of the Bible is just and good (Psalm 89:14-16)

The entire storyline of the Bible involves a holy and just God taking the evil and sin and injustices of this world and turning it all on its head – redeeming, restoring, renewing, rescuing, confronting, conquering, and one day removing the effects of the fall, the stain of sin and the presence of evil forever.

God's justice and love is meant to be a serious comfort to you.

Exodus 3:7-8a; Psalm 139:1-4; Hebrews 4:13

### 3. God's answer to evil and suffering (this brokenness!) is His Son Jesus

Jesus entered our sin-sick world, not only to fight evil but to remove it; not only to confront it but to destroy it. BUT how can he do this when our sin-sick hearts are the place it all began? Romans 3:21-26

The Biblical view of things is resurrection and restoration - a putting back of things the way they were originally designed to be.

“Eternal life” = “Age to come life” is experienced here and now in the present AND it will be experienced in the future (in fullness). 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Romans 8:18-25

Jesus *is* God's answer and in answering that way he has given us more than we could ever have hoped. No amount of pain or suffering can change what Jesus' rescue accomplished or what it guarantees.

**QUESTIONS** (Pray, read the passage and pick 4-5 questions to discuss. Trust the Holy Spirit to guide.)

1. What stood out to you in today's sermon? How did the Holy Spirit encourage or challenge you?
2. Why is it important not to shy away from difficult questions like “Where is God in this broken world?”
3. It's important to know *how* things ended up so broken. How does the Bible explain that? Using your own words, how might you share the story found in Genesis 3?
4. Reads Psalm 89:14-16 3x. Intentionally slow down and consider what the song (psalm) is saying about the God of the Bible, his character and ways. What are some takeaways after reading / reflecting on these verses?
5. Are you ever tempted to question God's justice in times of trouble? What helps adjust your heart in those times? Maybe you're still struggling. Allow friends to pray for you this very moment.
6. How does God remain just *and* the justify of sinners? Read Romans 3:21-26
7. The biblical view of things is resurrection and restoration, a putting back of things the way they were originally designed to be. How has this already begun? See 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 How should the truths of “new creation” inform our thoughts about our future regardless of the circumstance we face?
8. 1 Peter 2:23 it says that Jesus entrusted himself to him who judges justly. What does that mean and what might it look like to do that in your own life? With the most difficult of situations? What will it require?