

**A GODLIKE
OVERVIEW
OF DEATH, DISEASE,
AND DECAY**

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– What's the real meaning of all the death, disease, and decay in our world? – Did God create or ultimately produce a cruel and defective world?

– Why does God sustain a world of such pain and misery?

*** From God's omniscient viewpoint,
**THERE ARE VALID REASONS FOR THE
PRESENT EXISTENCE OF DISEASES
AND PHYSICAL DEATH. . . AND EVEN
WHEN THESE SERVE AS PRESENT-
DAY TEMPTATIONS AND ASSAULTS
OF SATAN, THEY HAVE A VALID AND
USEFUL FUNCTION.**

1. GOD HAS DESIGNED PHYSICAL DEATH TO SERVE A VALID AND QUITE USEFUL FUNCTION IN HIS LENGTHY DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM FOR EARTH.

1) God has designed physical death **TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF WICKEDNESS** in human society.

*Physical death terminates the earthly activities of evil human beings. Death works as **AN INSTRUMENT OF RESTRAINT AND RESTRICTION** that puts a cap on the amount of damage that one wicked human being can do while on Earth.*

Without death, there would be unbridled wickedness on Earth. Death is used by God to terminate the evil careers of dictators, criminals, crooked businessmen, cruel bosses, etc -- to limit the injuries and the contamination caused by their life-long activities.

2) God uses physical death TO LIMIT THE DEGREE OF SELF-DEGRADATION and SELF-ABASEMENT of the person who rejects God and God's moral code.

Without the existence of God's restraints (diseases, a short lifespan, etc), human beings would tend to become totally depraved with the passage of time. God knows

*that only a certain amount of time is needed for a human being to make the critical life-choices. After a certain point, a person has had **ENOUGH TIME** to either accept or reject God's training and God's offer of reconciliation. For a reprobate to have **TOO MUCH** time on Earth would be unhealthy -- for himself, and for others.*

3) God uses death **TO PUT A PROTECTIVE SEAL ON LIFETIME ACCOMPLISHMENTS** of the faithful person who has chosen to accept God and God's offer of reconciliation.

God in this way guards the faithful person from any further harassment or testing at the hands of Satan. The faithful martyrs of God are among those sealed in this fashion.

4) God also uses physical death **TO FUNCTION AS A DEVELOPMENTAL TOOL** that promotes His own major goal, as part of a prolonged transformational program for the world — a long Salvage Operation for Earth.

*Death is also **AN INSTRUMENT USED BY GOD TO IMPLEMENT A MAJOR RESTRUCTURING OF THE EARTH** through a lengthy, millennia-consuming process of **DIVINE SELECTION**. God is continuously **TESTING, SELECTING, AND REJECTING** as He harvests the Earth.*

2. GOD HAS DESIGNED DISEASE AND DECAY TO SERVE A VALID AND USEFUL FUNCTION IN HIS DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAM FOR EARTH.

1) Both disease and decay are designed **TO BE CLEAR SIGNS OF DEGENERATION** in the Earth.

*The present Earth has been **DEGENERATING** from its original pristine state ever since God's original Creation became corrupted with sin. As a result of sin entering the initially perfect Creation of God, the Earth has been cursed with diseases, decay, famines, natural disasters, etc.*

2) Both diseases and decay are designed **TO BE A CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT THIS PRESENT EARTH IS CORRUPTED AND CONDEMNED** by God.

3) Both diseases and decay are designed by God **TO TEACH ALL THE EARTH'S INHABITANTS THAT THIS PRESENT WORLD IS NOT WHAT GOD INTENDED FOR HUMANITY.**

*Instead, this present Earth is just a testing-ground, just one stage in a transformational process that will lead to God's New Earth. The Earth's ailments, like its earthquakes, continue to increase with ever-greater distress and ever-greater frequency, as the present Earth completes its last days and approaches the birthing of **God's New Earth.***

3. GOD HAS DESIGNED DEATH AND DISEASE TO BE A SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL PROTECTION FOR HUMAN BEINGS.

1) A very long life-span **TENDS TO PROMOTE WICKEDNESS AND NOT RIGHTEOUSNESS** in the life of an individual or a society.

Evidence of this fact is found in the book of Genesis, which informs us of the extremely long life-spans of the earliest peoples on Earth. Wickedness quickly overcame those cultures, and by the time of Noah, God decided to eradicate them from the Earth. A short life-span, however, tends to safeguard a righteous life, and so God has often been seen to remove a good and faithful human from Earthly life at a very early age. A wicked human being is often given a long life-span so that he has had every possible opportunity to repent.

2) An absence of suffering often **TENDS TO PROMOTE WICKEDNESS AND NOT RIGHTEOUSNESS** in the life of an individual or a society.

*Mourning for the dead and enduring painful diseases causes humans to experience great suffering, but our suffering is **USED BY GOD TO DIRECT US TOWARD MORALITY AND RIGHT BEHAVIOR.** A person trying to cope with poverty and health problems must depend on God and may be less likely to waste his time on wicked behavior. The healthy, wealthy, and comfortable human being is often inclined to waste much time on pleasures and evil pursuits. (Thus we have the sayings, "Idle hands are the Devil's playthings" and "Busy hands are happy hands.") Likewise, an affluent culture tends to become morally bankrupt and sees a prospering of wickedness in its later years.*

3) God uses death and disease **TO RESTRAIN HUMAN BEINGS FROM EVIL ACTIONS THAT WE WOULD BE MORE INCLINED TO PERPETRATE WITHOUT THEIR EXISTENCE.**

Death and disease may also be used by God as a punishment for our earthly sins, and this knowledge may dissuade some human beings from continuing to practice evil. (For ex: Capital punishment for wickedness is a strong deterrent that was designed by God for the people of ancient Israel and even earlier peoples. The threat of getting a sexual disease may discourage some people from reckless and immoral sexual depravity.)

4) Physical death is designed by God **TO TERMINATE THE DISTRESS OF HUMAN LIFE AND MAKE OUR PERIOD OF SUFFERING ON EARTH RELATIVELY BRIEF.**

The Earthly life-span of the human body is extremely brief when seen from the omniscient perspective of God -- especially in comparison to the eternity that lies ahead for the human soul. Unrepentant humans, if they reject God's offer of forgiveness and reconciliation, may only anticipate an eternity of pain, remorse, and mental anguish in a Penalty Zone called Hell, where they are forever separated from God's glory and His New Earth.

God's faithful on Earth die knowing that they should anticipate God's forgiveness, and that God will bless them with an eternity spent first in a glorious Heaven, and later

on a glorious New Earth that God has re-created – an Earth that is reconstructed and restructured, and ruled by God Himself.

4. GOD CREATED PHYSICAL DEATH SO THAT HUMAN BEINGS MIGHT HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING RESCUED FROM SPIRITUAL DEATH.

1) WITHOUT GOD'S RESTRAINING INFLUENCE, all human beings would be totally depraved and PRACTICE ONLY WICKEDNESS.

Even when limited by God's environmental restraints, we are so wicked that we can by no means get close to a God of Perfect Righteousness.

2) **A SINFUL HUMAN NATURE** is *common to all persons on Earth* and makes all unconverted adults "spiritually dead" to God. *We have all been "born dead" to God, so to speak, in that we are born spiritually defective.*

3) By **A PERSONAL REVELATION OF GOD AND THE RECOGNITION OF GOD'S SON** Jesus Christ, we can **KNOW THE TRUE NATURE OF GOD, AND CAN EVEN EXPERIENCE THE BLESSING OF GOD'S LEADERSHIP** -- and we will then have **THE RESTRAINING INFLUENCE** of God's own Holy Spirit working in our lives.

We can gain God's forgiveness and His fellowship in only one way. There is a critical life-choice that must be made some time before the occurrence of your physical death. God requires that you recognize His own chosen Messenger, Jesus Christ, and choose to accept His offer of reconciliation.

You can be reconciled with God only through the act of merciful self-sacrifice by which He died on a wooden cross for the sins of this world. God's offer of rescue and reconciliation through Jesus Christ is the only means by which God is able to salvage your life from the pitiful consequences of sin.

GOD'S SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEM OF DEATH . . .

Are you a person of **boundless energy**, still thinking that **you'll never expire . . . ?** Or are you one tired of the hardships of life, wishing only to die soon and have **release from the toil and distress** of life . . . ?

Either way, it's possible that you may expect your case will be one of **star-stuff** to **broom-stuff**... you may think you start out as **stellar-energy** and wind up being swept away as merely **burnt dust in a black sky**.

By the **cremation** route, you could end up being carried away in a small **container** as **dust for the wind**. Or you might prefer to be **buried in the ground**, so that your corpse will **turn to soil** and you **help feed the grass**. Is that really all you're good for? Well, don't treat yourself like **dirt** -- there's a better road to travel. You can end up as more than merely **food for worms** or **dust afloat in space**.

In the brilliant light of Jesus Christ you can find an **"internal guidance system"** for your heart, and *this fiery light will provide orderly direction for the "planetary system" of your personal worldview.*

When you put Jesus on a throne in your heart, He provides **a warm "sun"** for that great void in your internal universe. The light of Christ burns **eternally** to dispel all the darkness/coldness that could otherwise consume and destroy you. *After that illumination, you will have a logical "solar system" for all the interactive elements of your life.*

You can do this by placing Jesus Christ,

Trinity of God created our Universe,
upon a throne at the center of your heart! *He deserves that position and that kind of respect.*
He was first **God The Son**, but when born in human flesh He became the only sinless and righteous person who ever lived. Yet He sacrificed Himself on a cross for your sake, taking all guilt and sins upon Himself, in order that you and I — that all people — **that whoever wishes for salvation might be rescued from the due punishment of sins.**

If you choose to make **Jesus Christ the new center of your "spiritual solar system,"** God will no longer remember the sinful misdeeds of your past life. Instead, God will see in you **only the reflected light of His Son Jesus Christ.** God has an awesome Master Plan for our vast Universe — a plan by which He will suspend death and decay for all the persons who recognize His Light and choose to follow Him!

With the light of Jesus Christ inside you, you will have **a new comprehension of the design and purpose** of this vast Universe in which we live, and you will even be able to **provide illumination** for others who are still living in a state of **ignorance and in spiritual darkness.**

All it really takes is a simple but sincere little prayer — one that you should make up in your own words. The prayer for deliverance and for God's leadership should come from your own heart!

Some important elements that you might include are:

- 1) your desire to turn away from the wrongness or evil of your past life, and your remorse over the sins of your previous life,
- 2) your desire for God's forgiveness and mercy through the act of sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son (Jesus Christ),
- 3) your desire to know God's leadership in your life,
- 4) your desire to learn more of God's truth through Bible study,
- 5) your desire to find fellowship with genuine believers.

By doing this, you will gain a new contentment and peace as you accept **God's organizational plan for the Universe** because you'll be letting **God be the Ruler of All Things in this world** and in your own life.

God wants to bless you for all your long efforts to understand this very confusing and difficult universe in which we live -- so let him reward your search with the grace of forgiveness and enlightenment!

Jesus spoke of the people of God as being like a seed that is growing secretly, saying, "As for the Kingdom of God, it is as if a person should cast seed into the ground; and then he sleeps, and he rises up night and day to see that the seed is springing forth and always growing up, although he knows not exactly how. The Earth is bringing forth fruit from itself; first the blade, then the ears of corn, and after that the fullness of the ears of corn. And when all the **fruit of the Earth** has come forth, immediately God will use the sickle to reap the fields, because the **harvest-time** has come."

Excerpt from the book of Mark [4:26-29].

Jesus said of the people of God that

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a **net** that God has cast into the sea, and it gathers of every kind: When it is full, it will be pulled up on the shore, where they will sit down to sort the catch, and they will **collect the good fish in baskets, but the bad things will be thrown away. This is the way it will be at the end of the world: The angels shall come forth, and they will separate the unrighteous persons from among those justified by God. . .**"

Excerpt from the book of Matthew, who was a constant companion of Jesus and his devoted disciple [13:47-50].

THIS GUIDE WAS WRITTEN FOR YOU BY . . .
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WHY SUCH AFFLICTION?

*What is God's purpose in sustaining
a cruelly defective world full of death,
decay, and horrible sickness ? . . . It's
God's awesome program for Earth !*