

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

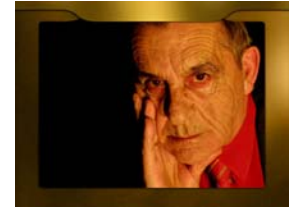
(Appeal song, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand")

- Topic tonight is **"Why So Much Suffering?"**
- Have you ever wondered, if God is so good...
 - why—so much suffering—war—sickness



1 D-04-001.jpg

- Around—world as we meet here tonight
 - many who **deny—God exists.**
 - If you asked them why, they would give you
 - variety of reasons.
 - But **one reason they reject God—religion** is—they know—if they accept that God exists, they would need—worship—obey Him.
 - And they **don't want—submit** to
 - sovereign God—Creator of—universe.
 - They far **prefer—do as they please.**



2 D-04-002.jpg

- For this reason, many parts of—world
 - becoming more—**more secular—atheistic.**
 - But despite this trend, millions
 - every part of—world tonight
 - also believe not only in God

but in **heavenly beings called angels.**

- In 2001—major **news organization surveyed** Americans—find out what—thought of angels.
 - Even though—country
 - like so many others around—world
 - grows more secular**
 - with every passing year



3 D-04-003.jpg

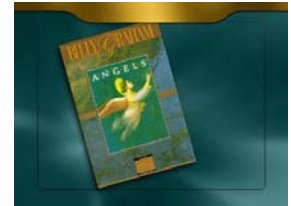
04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- amazing **77 percent**–polled
said they **believe angels exist**
- and **one–every five** said
–had **personally seen–angel**
or knew someone who had.



4 D-04-004.jpg

- Interest in angels–clearly growing rapidly.
Dr. Billy Graham–just one Christian author
–has written–**best selling book**
about angels.



5 D-04-005.jpg

- How about you? **Do you believe in angels?**
–Do you think that maybe you’ve personally
seen–angel in human form sometime in
your life?
–What–you **know** about angels?
–Do you think–**important–know** about angels?



6 D-04-006.jpg

- Angels are **in vogue** today
–Vocabulary–“angel food cake”–“angel hair pasta”
–angels on Christmas trees



7 D-04-007.jpg

- There are angel **figurines–angel emblems**
–Interest in angels–evident–**much of the world**
–Mankind–caught up–**search for supernatural**

- What does the Bible teach about angels?**
–Bible mentions angels many times
–In Genesis–32 different appearances of angels
- 1st - Angels are **real, not make-believe** figures



8 D-04-008.jpg

- Bible says–Psalm 103:20, 21: **“Bless the Lord, you His angels, Who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word.”**



9 D-04-009.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

Bless the Lord, all you his hosts [or angels], You ministers [the angels] of His, who do His pleasure.

- 2nd - Angels were created –to worship–praise–God
- 3rd - to experience joy in worship
- 4th - beings of dazzling brightness–excel in strength



10 D-04-010.jpg

- Bible describes–**good/evil angels**–2 Cor. 11:14:
“And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.”



11 D-04-011.jpg

- the **Battle for the Throne**–of heaven
–battle between good and evil

- Bible describes–**battle in the universe**
–**The battle for the throne of God**



13 D-04-013.jpg

- Come with me–into–center of the universe
 - to the dawning of this battle
 - come past the moon–sun - stars
 - past the galaxies
 - to deep space
 - to a placed called heaven
 - Did God create demons and devils?
 - Did he create unholy, unrighteous angels?
 - No. Bible teaches–God did not create evil angels



14 D-04-014.jpg

- Bible describes–origin–angel–named **Lucifer**
 - Name *Lucifer* means “light bearer”
 - From Latin words–**lux** & **fero** (“light” & “bearer”)
 - Lucifer–Heaven’s light bearer



15 D-04-015.jpg

- About Lucifer, Bible says–Ezekiel 28:12-14, RSV:

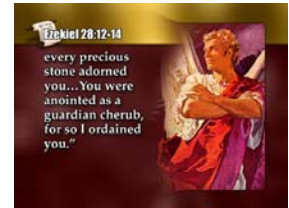
04-D Why So Much Suffering?

“You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God;...”



16 D-04-016.jpg

“...every precious stone adorned you... You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you.”



17 D-04-017.jpg

- **God created a perfect angel**
 - dazzling beauty–perfection–angelic leader
- This being of majestic glory...
 - coveted–prominence–independence from God
 - coveted–**authority** that he did not have



18 D-04-018.jpg

- This is–**The saga of a fallen angel**
 - more amazing–any movie–drama of the ages
 - cosmic conflict between good and evil**
- Bible describes Lucifer (Isa. 14:13, 14):



19 D-04-019.jpg

“For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;...”

“...I will be like the most High.””



20 D-04-020.jpg

- God created–**being of dazzling brightness**
 - but he placed his **eyes on God’s throne**
 - rejected God’s authority** and God’s law
 - wanted to be his **own God**
 - placed his opinion above God’s sovereign will

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- Lucifer's sin wasn't breaking some obscure "rule"
 - Rebelled against–Majesty of heaven–Creator
 - made his **choices–apart from God's will**
 - set his **opinion above God's authority...**
 - effectively proclaimed himself–**another God**
- **battle for the throne** of the universe–**inevitable**



21 D-04-021.jpg

- The reason
 - wars on earth–because–first a war in Heaven
 - battle for empires on earth
 - first a battle for the empire in Heaven
- **Sin on earth–the same as it was in heaven.** Like Lucifer...
 - we sin when we **live apart from God's will.**
 - we sin when we place **our opinions**
–our wills–above God's will

- The stakes are high–Universe is at risk
 - **cosmic struggle for the control of the universe**
- **Why** would God create a being, like Lucifer,
 - with the capacity to choose to rebel?
 - **Why didn't God program Lucifer–never rebel?**
 - Never would have had problems–now have
- If you **take away the power of choice**
 - you **take away the ability to love.**
 - **Love can never be forced**
–it must be chosen
- If you take away the ability to love
 - you take away opportunity to be happy
 - **Happiness is based on choice**



22 D-04-022.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- (ILL): Suppose—program—child on a computer
 - take screws out of head—put in new chip
 - Child says “Hello, I will be obedient in school.”
 - Robot child—robot arms—hugs you
 - kisses—iron lips



23 D-04-023.jpg

- How many want a child like that?
 - Prefer—spontaneity—dirty jeans—hair flying
 - running into the house
 - Don’t want child—obeys—because—forced to?
 - Neither did God!

- God created angels—models of perfection
 - One **angel—coveted God’s throne**
 - chose to **rebel against God.**
 - Bible describes—**results of that rebellion**



24 D-04-024.jpg

- Bible says in Revelation 12, verse 7:
 - “And war broke out in Heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought.”**



25 D-04-025.jpg

- There was—**battle in Heaven**
 - Some angels sided with Lucifer
 - Believed **God’s laws—too restrictive**
 - There’s a battle in Heaven

- Bible describes conflict—Revelation 12:9:
 - “So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world...”**



26 D-04-026.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

“...he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”



27 D-04-026b.jpg

● Satan—described—**serpent**—because he **deceives**,
—**dragon**—because he **destroys**



28 D-04-027.jpg

● Satan deceived **one third of the Heavenly angels**
—Bible says—**one-third—stars of Heaven—cast out**

● If one-third angels—deceived
—are you strong enough—**fight devil alone?**



29 D-04-028.jpg

● In this conflict, Jesus—cast Satan out of Heaven

● Good News—Every time **Jesus meets Satan**
—**Jesus (Michael) wins**
and **Satan (the dragon) loses**
—And ultimately, Michael will slay the dragon.

● How did **earth get involved**—cosmic conflict
—between **good and evil?**



30 D-04-029.jpg

● Bible says, (Luke 10:18)
“...I saw Satan fall like lightning from Heaven.”



31 D-04-030.jpg

● Some imagine Satan
—horns—tail—pitchfork—breathing fire
● Satan—not originate—hot spot—center of the earth
—He was—a **beautiful being—dazzling brightness**



32 D-04-031.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- Satan—the **deceiver and destroyer**
–cast out of Heaven—to this earth



33 D-04-032.jpg

- Revelation 12:12 warns us...
"Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!"



34 D-04-033.jpg

Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea!



35 D-04-034.jpg

For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time."



36 D-04-035.jpg

- Devil is cast out from Heaven—to this earth



37 D-04-036.jpg

- **Did God create earth as a dumping-off place for Satan?**

- God had problem—with Satan
- Was that the reason God created this earth?



38 D-04-037.jpg

- What does the Bible say?
–Nothing is further from the truth.



39 D-04-038.jpg

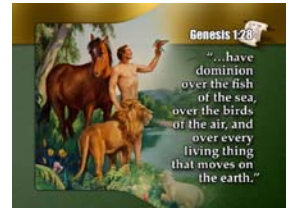
04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- Bible says—the earth created—perfect
 - air was fresh and clean—waters were pure



40 D-04-039.jpg

- Genesis 1:28 says—**Adam and Eve** would...
“...have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”



41 D-04-040.jpg

- Adam, not Satan, was given authority—over earth
 - Adam—prince of this planet
 - Satan came to garden—as the great deceiver



42 D-04-041.jpg

- Why did not God program Adam’s and Eve’s minds against the deceiver?

- Satan charged—government of God—unjust
- Said—unfair—restrictive—arbitrary.
- If God—not allowed Satan—tempt Adam/Eve
 - Satan—would have said—God is afraid
 - knows my way is better.

- A loving God—gave Adam/Eve—freedom to choose
 - God allowed Satan to come to the garden.
 - God limited Satan—one tree—whole world
 - warned Adam and Eve—stay away from tree
 - God did all he could—protect Adam and Eve

- Eve—entered Satan’s ground—there he tempted her



43 D-04-042.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- Satan said “...**Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’**” (Gen 3:1)



44 D-04-043.jpg

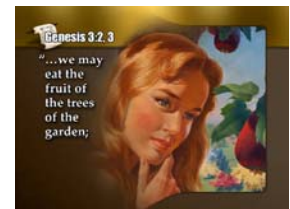
- Hasn't God given you the fruit of **every tree**?
 - Eve responded with these words (Gen. 3:2, 3):



45 D-04-044.jpg

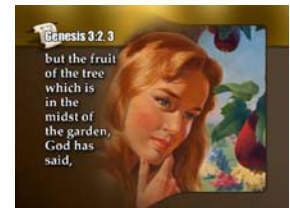
- She said, “...**We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;...**”

- God has been good—given us—abundance
- all the earth—all the trees



46 D-04-045.jpg

- Then she goes on,
 - “...**but the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said,...**”

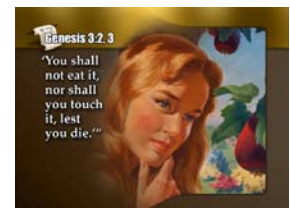


47 D-04-046.jpg

- “...**‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’**”

- simple choice—a tree in the center of the garden
- not a difficult test

- God said—freely eat of all the trees
 - But, God said—don't eat of—tree—center—Garden
 - That's mine

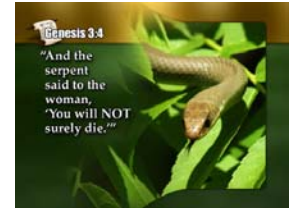


48 D-04-047.jpg

- God's selection of tree was **arbitrary**
 - No rational basis for His command
 - tree wasn't poisonous
 - God's test was—**loyalty—obedience—allegiance.**
- Eve was stunned—listened to—**serpent contradict God!**

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- Through—serpent, Satan said: (verses 4, 5):
“And the serpent said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die.’”



49 D-04-048.jpg

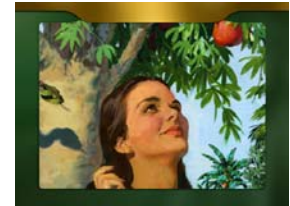
“For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”



50 D-04-049.jpg

- Lucifer wanted—be like God—to usurp God’s throne
 - to **make law**—not obey the law
 - to **command allegiance**—not be obedient.
- **Satan contradicted God**—“You will NOT surely die”
 - He said to Eve—you can **make your own rules**.
 - I’m like a god—**do what I please**
 - you can **be your own God too**
 - Do what you want
 - If you want to—eat of that tree, go ahead.

- Some think—Eve’s sin—eating forbidden fruit.
 - Oh no! It was far deeper
 - Eve’s sin—rejecting God—supreme authority**
 - Her sin—rebellion against God
 - placing **her desires—above God’s will**
 - rejected God’s authority



51 D-04-050.jpg

- **The Devil is a Deceiver**
 - He promised joy
 - Sin does not bring joy.
 - Sin brings guilt—shame—fear



52 D-04-051.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- Jesus calls Satan—father of all lying.

John 8: 44 says: **“...he is a liar and the father of it.”**

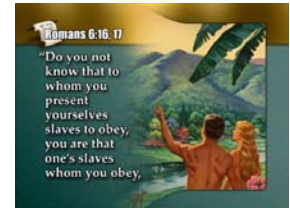
—Lied—Adam/Eve—lying to men and women now



53 D-04-052.jpg

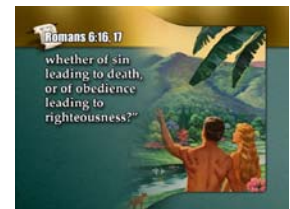
- Romans 6:16 says:

“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey,...”



54 D-04-053.jpg

“... whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness.” (Rom. 6:16)



55 D-04-054.jpg

- Before Adam/ Eve sinned

—princes—God’s Kingdom

—God had given—**dominion over the earth**

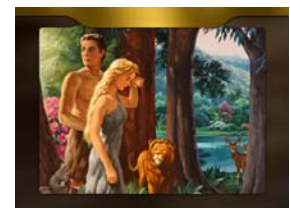


56 D-04-055.jpg

- When they sinned—became slaves

—Slaves to another master—to sin

—Results—**sin—manifest—children—our generation**



57 D-04-056.jpg

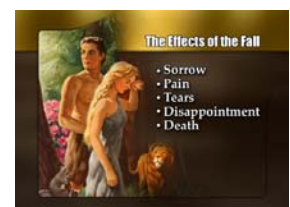
- Adam/Eve—left Garden—shamed and sorrowful.

- Adam and Eve—on planet—rebellion against God

—**And what were the effects of this fall?**

—Joy—gladness—happiness—**replaced with**

—sorrow—pain—tears—disappointment—death



58 D-04-057.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- **A magnificent world**

- that God–created perfectly holy,
- now **in deep trouble**.



59 D-04-058.jpg

- Earth was a **planet in rebellion**.

- Have you–walked–under stars at night



60 D-04-059.jpg

- cried–**Why, God?**
- If you are so good, Why–world so bad?

- Reason there is **sorrow on earth** is

- ours is–planet in rebellion.



61 D-04-060.jpg

- Reason there is **death on earth** is

- our **planet–separated from–source of life**



62 D-04-061.jpg

- Reason we **cry**

- ours–planet separated from God

- **All have sinned**–come short of the glory of God



63 D-04-062.jpg

- This planet–shows **effects of sin**

- There is famine–greed–lust
- selfishness–self indulgence
- sin–famine–heartache–sorrow–death



64 D-04-063.jpg

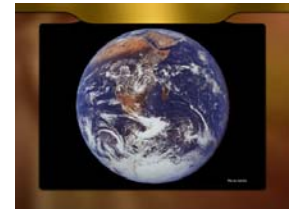
04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- We see it in **the destructive force of nature**



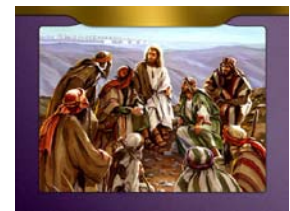
65 D-04-064.jpg

- **What did God** do—Adam and Eve sinned?
 - **walk away**—abandon this planet in rebellion?
 - No—**God's not responsible for the evil**
 - or suffering it causes!



66 D-04-065.jpg

- Jesus' disciples wondered...
 - If **God is so good**, why is the world so bad?



67 D-04-066.jpg

- Response—Jesus told—**story of sower**



68 D-04-067.jpg

- Jesus said—**sower sowed only good seed**
 - Jesus said—**tares**, or evil—sorrow—heartache
 - **sprung up** in the field



69 D-04-068.jpg

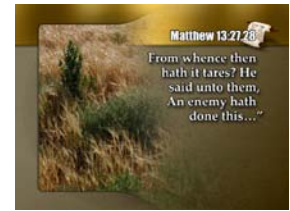
- Then Jesus added—Matthew 13:27, 28:
"So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, 'Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field?"



70 D-04-069.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

From whence then hath it tares?’ He said unto them, ‘An enemy has done this...’”



71 D-04-070.jpg

- Jesus is householder—sowed **good seed**
 - created a **perfect planet**.
- Through **Satan**
 - world—plunged—**sickness, sin, and disease**
- Adam and Eve—**passed to—descendants**
 - desire—be **independent from God**
 - to rebel against all authority**,
 - including God's.
- Suffering and **death—not God's doing**
 - result of **Satan's rebellion**—forces of evil



72 D-04-071.jpg

- Jesus taught—**Satan—responsible—all sickness**
 - One **Sabbath—Jesus healed—woman**
 - ill for eighteen years
 - Made Jewish leaders angry
 - Christ—performed miracle—on Sabbath



73 D-04-072.jpg

- In response, Jesus said (in Luke 13:16):
“So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?”



74 D-04-073.jpg

- Woman had been ill—**“bound by Satan”**—for 18 years.
 - sickness—result**—rebellion of mankind
 - separation from God
 - Disease—first mixed—laboratory of hell**
 - All of sickness, sin, suffering, heartache, death
 - had origin—**Lucifer's fall—the fall of this planet**

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- **Would God destroy this rebel planet?**

- No! God had a plan.



75 D-04-074.jpg

- Jeremiah 31:3—tells us about our God. He says:

- "...I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you."**



76 D-04-075.jpg

- Earth—wrapped—**dark shadow—death penalty**

- Wages of sin—rebellion—is death

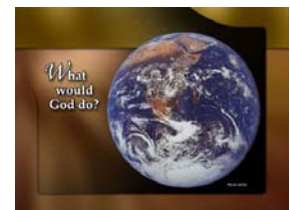


77 D-04-076.jpg

- **What would God do?**

- God said, **I have a plan**—I will win you back

- What was His plan?



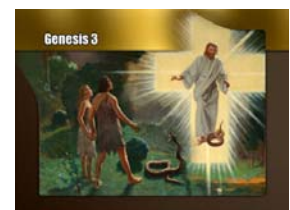
78 D-04-077.jpg

- **God said to Satan**—Genesis

- While you have **bruised the heel** of this woman

- One—her descendants—**will bruise your head**

- Promise of—messiah**—given—in Genesis 3.



79 D-04-078.jpg

- When Adam and Eve sinned

- God said—I will not abandon this planet

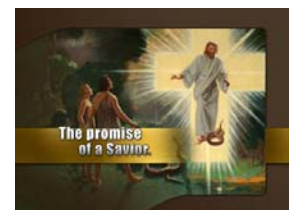
- But I will promise a Savior**

- He promised—a **way of escape**

- Jesus' **grace**—always greater than our sin

- When Adam and Eve sinned—God had a plan.

- Appointed time



80 D-04-079.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

– **Messiah would come** – born – womb of Mary



81 D-04-081.jpg

- Due to Adam's/Eve's sin
 - earth – placed under a **death penalty**
 - Christ would **reverse – death penalty**
 - give hope of new life



82 D-04-082.jpg

- God's plan – Adam/Eve – would live forever – never die
 - but when they sinned
 - death passed on human race

- Then came – promise of Messiah – a **Savior**
 - I love that word – our “Savior”
 - Angel told Mary – He – save – people from – sins

- **Jesus faced Satan's temptations head on.**
 - Jesus succeeded – where Adam failed
 - Jesus resisted – where Adam yielded
 - Jesus overcame – temptations of Satan



83 D-04-083.jpg

- Jesus reached out – **lost world – like one lost sheep**
- Remember the story Jesus told
 - Suppose – shepherd has **100 sheep – one is lost**
 - What will the shepherd do?
 - he'd find – one lost sheep



84 D-04-084.jpg

- Jesus had **“99 worlds” – loyal to Him**
 - He wouldn't destroy – one lost, rebellious world
 - Justice demanded it be destroyed
 - God's **love – redeem – one rebellious** planet



85 D-04-085.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- Luke 19:10:

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”



86 D-04-086.jpg

- Penalty of rebellion—is death

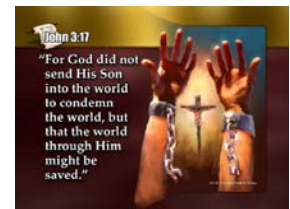
- Christ lived—perfect life—we should have lived
- He faced Satan—for you and me
- He marched—my place—hill called Calvary



87 D-04-087.jpg

- The Bible says in John 3:17:

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”



88 D-04-088.jpg

- Issue—is not—saving one or two people

- but a planet—doomed to eternal destruction

- When Jesus died—it was to redeem this planet

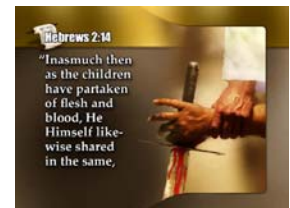
- The greatest act of love in the universe.
- Shouting—I love you too much to let you go!



89 D-04-089.jpg

- Notice, the Bible says, (Heb. 2:14):

“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same,...”



90 D-04-090.jpg

“...that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”



91 D-04-091.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- Power of death—been broken—death—Jesus Christ
 - The earth has been redeemed in Jesus Christ.
 - Devil—do anything—keep you from knowing that!
- Christ's ultimate victory—settled on the cross
 - It was sealed for eternity.
 - He offers salvation to all who come to him.



92 D-04-092.jpg

- Notice, Isaiah 49:15:

“...Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.”



93 D-04-093.jpg

- Even a **mother may forget** her child
 - I will **never forget** you.
 - Jesus says,
 - I've inscribed you on the **palms of my hands**



94 D-04-094.jpg

- We live in—world of
 - suffering—sorrow—chemotherapy—cancer...**
 - poverty, disease, war...
 - accidents—drugs—birth deformities
 - broken homes—broken hearts
- We **cry out, God, don't you care?** Jesus says...
 - I suffered pain—I hung on cross
 - I know—it's like—to suffer pain and sorrow
 - your name—is written—**palms of my hands**

- When you suffer—arthritis—I know what that is like
- When you're lonely—I know—it's like to be betrayed

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- From—cross—Jesus speaks—those who are
– **suffering—emotionally—or physically**
– Jesus says, I understand your suffering
- It was dark, dark, Friday
 - birds stopping their singing on Friday
 - flowers drooped their heads on Friday
 - earth quaked on Friday
 - thunder clapped—the rain fell—on Friday
 - Judas betrayed Him on Friday
 - Peter forsook Him on Friday
 - they hung Him—on cross—a dark, dark Friday
- Was silent on holy Saturday
 - Christ—resting peacefully in—tomb
 - Seemed God was silent
- Hallelujah, Sunday—an angel comes down!



95 D-04-095.jpg

- Matt. 28:2, 3, 6 describes the resurrection
“...an angel of the Lord descended from heaven,...His countenance was like lightning,...”



96 D-04-096.jpg

- “...and his clothing as white as snow.”**
“...The angel answered...”



97 D-04-097.jpg

- “... ‘Do not be afraid...He is not here; for He is risen.’”**

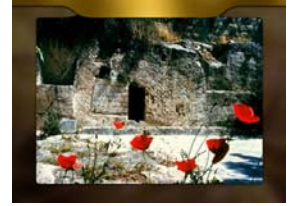
- Glorious **angel—came down—spoke**
– women at the tomb!



98 D-04-098.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- Angel said—don't be afraid...
 - He made a comeback from death
 - Do not be afraid—He is not here—He is risen!



99 D-04-099.jpg

- If Christ can make a comeback from death



100 D-04-100.jpg

- You can make a comeback
- from the devastation of a divorce—cancer
- from financial difficulty—heartache—sorrow
- from serious illness, hardships, unemployment
- from drugs—alcoholism
- from the complete lack of spirituality.



101 D-04-101.jpg

- Resurrected Christ—does more than understand
 - He says—I want to change your life
 - Jesus understands and imparts strength to meet our needs.**



102 D-04-102.jpg

- The Bible says, Ephesians 6:12:

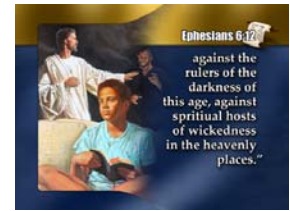
“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,



103 D-04-103.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

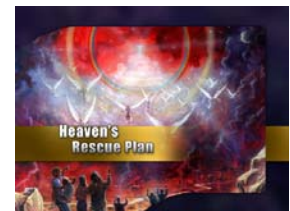
against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual wickedness in the heavenly places.”



104 D-04-104.jpg

- There is a battle waging in the universe
 - between good and evil
 - battle–waging over your mind
- Christianity is not just a “good idea.”
 - Christianity is–life of Christ–changing your life.
- One day, this Christ–put–end–this war
 - will end conflict between good and evil.

- Christ will fulfill **Heaven’s Rescue Plan**
 - He returns–to finally destroy Satan
 - to redeem the planet He rescued



105 D-04-105.jpg

- Revelation 19:11, 14, 16 says:

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war...”



106 D-04-106.jpg

“... And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him...”



107 D-04-107.jpg

“...And He has on his robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.”



108 D-04-108.jpg

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

- Finally, Jesus, with 10,000 times 10,000 angels
 - the righteous angels–dazzling glory
 - streams down from the sky
- Satan is defeated–Earth is made new
 - The garden of Eden covers earth again
 - sequence of events** begin that–
 - finally, completely, totally destroys Satan



109 D-04-109.jpg

- Jesus asks you and me tonight...
 - whose side are you on?**
- Jesus invites you and me to **make that choice**



110 D-04-110.jpg

- (ILL): In the 1930s, a jazz musician–Tommy Dorsey
 - lived in a little apartment in the city of Chicago.

He wasn't making much money at the time; his wife was pregnant. And he got a telegram from St. Louis that said, "Tommy, we want to you play in a jazz band down in St. Louis. We'll pay you some money.

His wife was about ready to deliver any night. It was a cold, snowy Chicago night, and she said, "Honey, you better go. The baby may come tonight. But I'm not sure, Honey–maybe you shouldn't." And they talked about it. "But we need the money, Honey–you better go."

Tommy Dorsey got on the train, went down to St. Louis, played in that concert. That night he received his check. And as he came off the stage, he had a telegram. And the telegram said, you are the proud father of a lovely baby son. But your wife died in childbirth. He got on the train, tears flowing down his face. He felt guilty about leaving her alone that night.

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

He rushed back to Chicago. Went to the hospital only to learn that his son had also died. That precious little baby. And Tommy Dorsey went into a terrible depression and discouragement—and left his music. A week went by, two weeks went by, three weeks went by, four weeks. Depressed. Discouraged. Then he sat at the piano, began to play a little bit. Tune began to come to his mind. Began to pen some words.

**1) Precious Lord take my hand, Lead me on let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Thru the storm through the night, lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

**2) When my way grows drear, precious Lord linger near,
When my life is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I fall,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.**

●The only way to survive the battle between good and evil, between Christ and Satan, is by taking the hand of Jesus.

We do not battle against flesh and blood, but against the evil powers. The power of Satan is too strong. The power of the evil one is too great. I feel the weakness in my own heart. But where I am weak, Jesus is strong. Where Satan is strong, Jesus is far MORE strong.

●Tonight would you like to pray with me? As we bow our heads to pray, there may be somebody here that feels you're caught in the midst of a great battle between good and evil. You feel the struggle inside yourself. But tonight, you want to say, "Jesus, I want to take Your hand. I'm not strong enough to fight the battle. So just now, I'm putting all my trust in Your strength."

04-D Why So Much Suffering?

Or maybe tonight, you're discouraged. Maybe you're facing marriage, financial, or health problems. Tonight, you want to say, "Lord, take my hand. Hold me close through the storm. Give me faith and the patience to endure."

As we pray together, If you want to say, "Jesus, I'm Yours tonight. Take my hand, Lord," then would you just lift your hand to Heaven now? And by doing that, you're saying, "Jesus, take my hand." It's a simple little act of faith.

Father in Heaven, you see the hands raised. And I pray that the God who is all-wise and all-intelligent—who knows the needs of every heart—the God who loves us with an enormous love—that this God would reach down just now and minister to each one. Lift that burden, Father, just now—break those chains that shackle us. Just now, we present ourselves to You. We want to be on Your side in the controversy between good and evil. And we thank You that we can leave this place singing, knowing that our lives are on the right side. In Christ's name, Amen.