

Labor of Love

intro:

Rohm blog - why must we suffer

God is all loving and all powerful and yet we suffer - how could this be? this is the problem of pain - video

Problem:

Behold the problem of Pain

Ps 13 (doesn't God love us?)

2 Tim 3:12-13 (Isn't He all powerful?)

enter free will - God is all powerful and all loving but He does not want to go against our freedom - He is thus powerful and loving but passive in pain - in other words its our fault and thats the end of it...

Genesis 29 shows us that the problem of pain is more complicated than this however...

Main Idea:

Behold the providence of pain - Gen 29:1-14

Behold the purpose of pain - Gen 29:15-30

Implication:

Behold the privilege of pain

Heb 12:5-11

Application:

Heb 12:12, 29

End:

our God is a consuming fire (video)

Articles for further study:

<http://www.barabbas.com/why-must-we-suffer/>

www.desiringgod.org/articles/why-i-do-not-say-god-did-not-cause-the-calamity-but-he-can-use-it-for-good

Labor of Love

Text:

Behold the problem of pain

Ps 13; 2 Tim 3:12-13

Behold the providence of pain

Gen. 29:1 ¶ Then Jacob went on his journey (lifted up his feet) and came to the land of the people of the east.

Gen. 29:2 **As he looked, he saw a well** in the field, and behold, three flocks of sheep lying beside it, for out of that well the flocks were watered. The stone on the well's mouth was large,

Gen. 29:3 and when all the flocks were gathered there, the shepherds would roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place over the mouth of the well.

Gen. 29:4 ¶ Jacob said to them, "My brothers, where do you come from?" They said, "We are from Haran."

Gen. 29:5 He said to them, "Do you know Laban the son of Nahor?" They said, "We know him."

Gen. 29:6 He said to them, "Is it well with him?" They said, "It is well; and see, Rachel his daughter is coming with the sheep!"

Gen. 29:7 He said, "Behold, it is still high day; it is not time for the livestock to be gathered together. Water the sheep and go, pasture them."

Gen. 29:8 But they said, "We cannot until all the flocks are gathered together and the stone is rolled from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep."

Gen. 29:9 ¶ While he was still speaking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherdess.

Gen. 29:10 Now as soon as Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, **Jacob came near and rolled the stone from the well's mouth and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.**

Gen. 29:11 Then **Jacob kissed Rachel** and wept aloud.

Gen. 29:12 And Jacob told Rachel that he was her father's kinsman, and that he was Rebekah's son, and she ran and told her father.

Gen. 29:13 ¶ As soon as **Laban** heard the news about Jacob, his sister's son, he ran to meet him and embraced him and **kissed him** and brought him to his house. Jacob told Laban all these things,

Gen. 29:14 and Laban said to him, "Surely you are my bone and my flesh!" And he stayed with him a month.

- Gen 28:10-22 (God genuinely loved Jacob actively guiding him)

- Gen 31:7, 41 (towards pain)

- Job 4:7-8; 1:6-12 (Jacob deserved to suffer - but its more complicated than that - Job didn't yet still he suffered)

- Jn 9:1-3 (The problem of pain is not solved by our free will)

- Isaiah 45:1-7 (God is active in calamity- Behold the providence of pain)

Behold the purpose of pain

Gen. 29:15 ¶ Then Laban said to Jacob, "Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?"

Gen. 29:16 Now Laban had two daughters. The name of the older was Leah (wild cow), and the name of the younger was Rachel (female sheep).

Gen. 29:17 Leah's eyes were weak (soft), but Rachel was beautiful in form and appearance.

Gen. 29:18 Jacob loved Rachel. And he said, "I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."

Gen. 29:19 Laban said, "It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me."

Gen. 29:20 So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her.

Gen. 29:21 ¶ Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed."

Gen. 29:22 So Laban gathered together all the people of the place and made a feast.

Gen. 29:23 But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and he went in to her.

Gen. 29:24 (Laban gave his female servant Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her servant.)

Gen. 29:25 And in the morning, behold, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? **Why then have you deceived me?**"

Gen. 29:26 Laban said, "It is not so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn.

Gen. 29:27 Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years."

Gen. 29:28 Jacob did so, and completed her week. Then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

Gen. 29:29 (Laban gave his female servant Bilhah to his daughter Rachel to be her servant.)

Gen. 29:30 So Jacob went in to Rachel also, and he loved Rachel more than Leah, and served Laban for another seven years.

- Gen 27:30-36a (Jacob got a taste of his own medicine - enrolled in the school of Laban)

- Gal 6:7 (its about more than cosmic karma - God is training Jacob by allowing him to meet his sins in someone else)

- Lk 22:32-33 (there is a purpose in pain)

- 1 Pet 4:12-13 (Peter learned through pain to truly see the glory of God)

- 1 Pet 4:19 (in the providence of pain - Jacob in Heaven learned that through Leah came Christ)

Behold the privilege of pain

- James 1:2-4 (can you see the privilege of pain?)

- Rom 5:1-5 (God's love- When we want to be something other than the thing God wants us to be, we must be wanting what, in fact, will not make us happy.)

- Heb 12:5-11 (behold the privilege of pain)

- Heb 12:12, 29 (behold the terrifying reality of love)