

## THE JOB PARADOX

Introduction – A paradox consists of true statements that lead to an apparent or real contradiction in logic or intuition. In Job we see the God who is actively inactive.

A. The problem of human suffering has perplexed people throughout the generations.

1. The logical problem: If God is all good and all powerful, then why does He allow unjust suffering?
2. Buddhism is a religion organized around the issue of human suffering. Its solution was to eliminate all human desire or expectations.
3. The view of atheism about human suffering is summed up well by Richard Dawkins:  
“If the universe were just electrons and selfish genes, meaningless tragedies... are exactly what we should expect, along with equally meaningless good fortune. Such a universe would be neither evil or good in intention....In a universe of blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at the bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, and no good, nothing but blind, pitiless indifference.” (River Out of Eden, pp. 131-132)
4. The karma principle is the subject of the book of Job.

B. The book of Job allows us to see the unseen realm where God reigns and angels report to him regularly.

Job 1:8-11

Job 2:9-3:1

Job 23:2-7

Job 32:1

Job 42:5-6

James 5:11

C. Philosophically, the answer to unjust suffering is found in the God's gift of freewill to humans and angels. God's direct answer is to embrace this type suffering in Christ.

1 Peter 2:19-23

Conclusion – Elie Wiesel grew up a devout Jew. He wrote in his autobiography, Night, about his journey from his home to the ghetto and then Auschwitz. He chronicles the final event that caused him to cease believing in God. He tells how the entire camp at Auschwitz was summoned to witness the execution of three thieves by hanging. One of the three was a young boy.

“Then came the march past the victims. The two men were no longer alive. Their tongues were hanging out, swollen and bluish. But the third rope was still moving; the child, too light, was still breathing....And there he remained for more than half an hour, lingering between life and death, writhing before our eyes. He was still alive when I passed him. Behind me I heard a man asking: ‘For God’s sake, where is God?’ And from within me I heard a voice answer: ‘Where is God? This is where – hanging here from the gallows.’”

Isaiah 53:4-6