WHY IS THERE SUFFERING?

Pick Your Own Theological Expedition



BETHANY N. SOLLEREDER

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

ZONDERVAN REFLECTIVE

Why Is There Suffering? Copyright © 2021 by Bethany N. Sollereder

Requests for information should be addressed to: Zondervan, 3900 Sparks Dr. SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546

Zondervan titles may be purchased in bulk for educational, business, fundraising, or sales promotional use. For information, please email SpecialMarkets@Zondervan.com.

ISBN 978-0-310-10902-0 (softcover) ISBN 978-0-310-13260-8 (audio) ISBN 978-0-310-10903-7 (ebook)

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.Zondervan.com. The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.®

Any internet addresses (websites, blogs, etc.) and telephone numbers in this book are offered as a resource. They are not intended in any way to be or imply an endorsement by Zondervan, nor does Zondervan vouch for the content of these sites and numbers for the life of this book.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

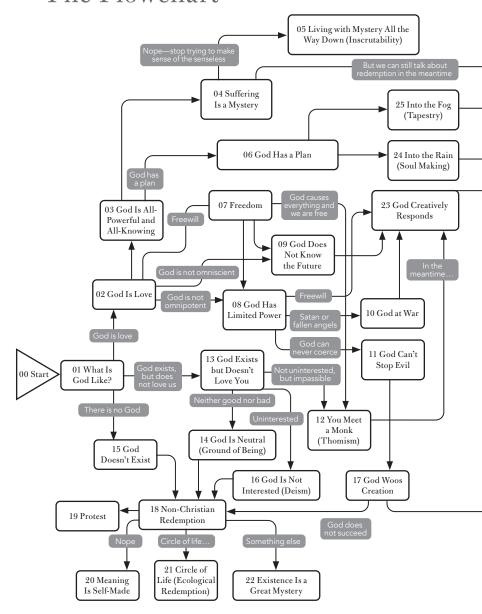
Cover design: Brock Book Design Co., Charles Brock Cover photo: © fran_kie/Shutterstock Interior design: Denise Froehlich

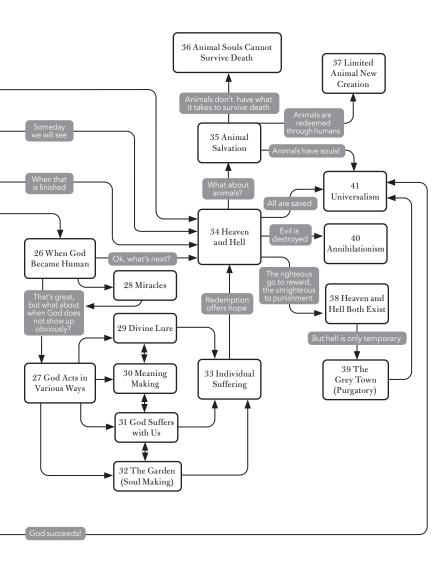
Printed in the United States of America

Is It a Duck or Rabbit?

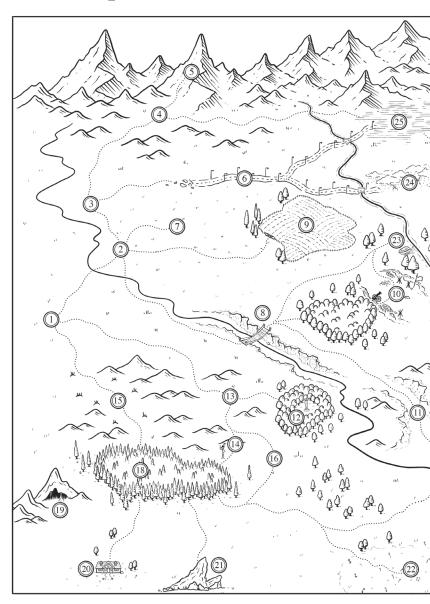


The Flowchart





The Map





Taf Richards of Arcane Atlas Cartography



Bibliography

As opposed to most bibliographies, which are listed alphabetically by author's name, I have arranged these roughly in terms of accessibility. That is, the ones nearer the top of each section are easier to read, with the heavyweight academic texts nearer the bottom of each list. If you want to know more about a topic, try the top one. If you want to jump into a dissertation on the topic, try the bottom one. A few books show up a couple of times under different headings. Please take this as my glowing recommendation of that book. The more times it shows up, the more I think you should read it.

If you want to read more about the odicy as a discipline, or about the history and defenders of each of these positions, take a look at these reference books:

Reference Books

Mark S. M. Scott. Pathways in Theodicy. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015.

Stephen T. Davis, ed. *Encountering Evil: Live Options in Theodicy*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Michael L. Peterson, ed. *The Problem of Evil: Selected Readings*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1992.

John Hick. *Evil and the God of Love*. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.

Barry L. Whitney. *Theodicy: An Annotated Bibliography on the Problem of Evil*, 1960–1990. New York: Garland, 1993.

1. What Is God Like?

- Chad Meister. *Evil: A Guide for the Perplexed*. New York: Continuum, 2012.
- Mark S. M. Scott. Pathways in Theodicy. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015.
- Michael L. Peterson. *God and Evil: An Introduction to the Issues*. London: Routledge, 2018.
- Richard Rice. Suffering and the Search for Meaning: Contemporary Responses to the Problem of Pain. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014.

2. God Is Love

- W. H. Vanstone. Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense: The Response of Being to the Love of God. Rev. ed. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2007.
- Robert Farrar Capon. The Third Peacock: The Goodness of God and the Badness of the World. New York: Doubleday, 1971.

3. God Is All-Powerful and All-Knowing

- John Hick. Evil and the God of Love. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
- David Polk. God of Empowering Love: A History and Reconception of the Theodicy Conundrum. Anoka, MN: Process Century, 2016.

4. Suffering Is a Mystery

Nicholas Wolterstorff. "On Grief, and Not Theologizing about It." Christian Century. January 10, 2019. www.christiancentury.org /article/first-person/grief-and-not-theologizing-about-it.

- Karen Kilby. "Evil and the Limits of Theodicy." *New Blackfriars* 84.983 (January 2003): 13–29.
- Michael Bergmann. "Skeptical Theism and Rowe's New Evidential Argument from Evil." *Nous* 35.2 (2001): 278–96.
- William Alston. "Some (Temporarily) Final Thoughts on Evidential Arguments from Evil." Pages 320–21 in *The Evidential Argument from Evil*. Edited by Daniel Howard-Snyder. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1996.
- Daniel Howard-Snyder. "The Argument from Inscrutable Evil." Pages 286–310 in *The Evidential Argument from Evil*. Edited by Daniel Howard-Snyder. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1996.
- Karl Rahner. "Why Does God Allow Us to Suffer?" Part 15 in Theological Investigations, vol. 19. Translated by Edward Quinn. New York: Crossway, 1961.

5. Living with Mystery All the Way Down

- C. S. Lewis. A Grief Observed. London: Faber and Faber, 1961.
- Nicholas Wolterstorff. *Lament for a Son*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.
- John Swinton. Raging with Compassion: Pastoral Responses to the Problem of Evil. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.
- Thomas G. Long. What Shall We Say? Evil, Suffering, and the Crisis of Faith. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011.
- Philip Hefner. "The Problem of Evil: Picking Up the Pieces." *Dialogue* 25 (1986): 87–92.

6. God Has a Plan

J. I. Packer. "Seeing God in the Dark." Pages 294–99 in Serving the People of God: Collected Shorter Writings of J. I. Packer. Vol 2. Carlisle, UK: Paternoster, 2008.

- David Basinger. "In What Sense Must God Be Omnibenevolent?" International Journal for Philosophy of Religion 14 (1983): 3–15.
- Keith Yandell. "The Greater Good Defense." Sophia 13.3 (1974): 1-16.
- H. Schuurman. "The Concept of a Strong Theodicy." *International Journal for Philosophy of Religion* 27 (1990): 63–85.
- Mark S. M. Scott. *Pathways in Theodicy*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2015. Pages 35–37.
- John Hick. Evil and the God of Love. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. Pages 117–26.
- John Piper and Justin Taylor, eds. Suffering and the Sovereignty of God. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2007.

7. Freedom

- John Martin Fischer, Robert Kane, Derk Pereboom, and Manuel Vargas. *Four Views on Free Will*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2007.
- Alvin Plantinga. God, Freedom, and Evil. New York: Harper & Row, 1974.
- Robert Merrihew Adams. "Middle Knowledge and the Problem of Evil." *American Philosophical Quarterly* 14 (1977): 109–17.

8. God Has Limited Power

- Thomas Jay Oord. God Can't: How to Believe in God and Love after Tragedy, Abuse, and Other Evils. Grasmere, ID: SacraSage, 2019.
- Harold Kushner. When Bad Things Happen to Good People. New York: Schocken, 1981.
- Alasdair MacIntyre. *Difficulties in Christian Belief*. London: SCM, 1959.
- J. L. Mackie. "Evil and Omnipotence." *Mind* 64.254 (April 1955): 200–212.

9. God Does Not Know the Future

- John Sanders. *The God Who Risks*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2007.
- Clark H. Pinnock, Richard Rice, John Sanders, William Hasker, and David Basinger. *The Openness of God: A Biblical Challenge* to the Traditional Understanding of God. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994.
- William Hasker. The Triumph of God over Evil: Theodicy for a World of Suffering. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008.
- Clark Pinnock. "God Limits His Knowledge." Pages 141–62 in Predestination and Free Will: Four Views of Divine Sovereignty and Human Freedom. Edited by Randall Basinger and David Basinger. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1986.
- Brian Hebblethwaite. "Some Reflections on Predestination, Providence and Divine Foreknowledge." *Religious Studies* 15 (1979): 433–48.

10. God at War

- Nicola Hoggard Creegan. *Animal Suffering and the Problem of Evil*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.
- Gregory Boyd. Satan and the Problem of Evil: Constructing a Trinitarian Warfare Theodicy. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2001.
- David Bentley Hart. *The Doors of the Sea*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

11. God Can't Stop Evil

David Polk. God of Empowering Love: A History and Reconception of the Theodicy Conundrum. Anoka, MN: Process Century, 2016.

- Charles Hartshorne. Omnipotence and Other Theological Mistakes.
 Albany: State University of New York, 1984.
- Bruce G. Epperly. *Process Theology: A Guide for the Perplexed*. New York: T&T Clark, 2011.
- David R. Griffin, Joseph Deegan, and Dan Bryant. *How Are God and Evil Related?* Claremont, CA: Center for Process Studies, 1988.
- David Ray Griffin. *God*, *Power*, *and Evil: A Process Theodicy*. 3rd ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 2004.
- C. Robert Mesle. Process Theology: A Basic Introduction. St. Louis: Chalice, 1993.
- Paul Fiddes. "Process Theology." Pages 472–76 in *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Modern Christian Thought*. Edited by Alister McGrath. Oxford: Blackwell, 1993.

12. You Meet a Monk

- Herbert McCabe. *God Matters*. London: T&T Clark, 1987. Pages 25–39.
- Brian Davies. *Thomas Aquinas on God and Evil*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. Chapter 10.
- Herbert McCabe. God and Evil in the Theology of St Thomas Aquinas. Edited by Brian Davies. New York: Continuum, 2010.
- Eleonore Stump. Wandering in Darkness. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

13. God Exists but Doesn't Love You

Wesley J. Wildman. "Incongruous Goodness, Perilous Beauty,
Disconcerting Truth: Ultimate Reality and Suffering in Nature."
Pages 267–94 in *Physics and Cosmology: Scientific Perspectives on the Problem of Natural Evil*. Vol. 1. Edited by Nancey Murphy,

Robert Russell, and William R. Stoeger. Vatican City and Berkeley, CA: Vatican Observatory Foundation, 2007.

14. God Is Neutral

- Wesley J. Wildman. God Is...: Meditations on the Mystery of Life, the Purity of Grace, the Bliss of Surrender, and the God beyond God. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2019.
- Wesley J. Wildman. "Incongruous Goodness, Perilous Beauty,
 Disconcerting Truth: Ultimate Reality and Suffering in Nature."
 Pages 267–94 in *Physics and Cosmology: Scientific Perspectives on the Problem of Natural Evil*. Vol. 1. Edited by Nancey Murphy,
 Robert Russell, and William R. Stoeger. Vatican City and Berkeley,
 CA: Vatican Observatory Foundation, 2007.
- Paul Tillich. Systematic Theology. 3 vols. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951, 1957, 1963.

15. God Doesn't Exist

- Alex Rosenberg. *The Atheist's Guide to Reality*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2012.
- William Rowe. "The Problem of Evil and Some Varieties of Atheism." American Philosophical Quarterly 16.4 (Oct 1979): 335–41.
- Sam Harris. The Moral Landscape. London: Transworld, 2010.
- J. L. Mackie. "Evil and Omnipotence." *Mind* 64.254 (April 1955): 200–212.

16. God Is Not Interested

Daniel Castelo. *Theological Theodicy*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2012. Pages 33–37.

Matthew Tindal. *Christianity as Old as the Creation*. Public domain, 1730. Chapter 12.

John Toland. *Christianity Not Mysterious*. Public domain, 1696. Charles Blount. *The Oracles of Reason*. Public domain, 1693.

17. God Woos Creation

- Robert Farrar Capon. The Third Peacock: The Goodness of God and the Badness of the World. New York: Doubleday, 1971.
- W. H. Vanstone. The Stature of Waiting. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 1982.

Ruth Page. God and the Web of Creation. London: SCM, 1996.

18. Non-Christian Redemption

- Sam Harris. Waking Up: A Guide to Spirituality without Religion. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2014.
- Anthony Pinn. Why, Lord? Suffering and Evil in Black Theology. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 1999.

19. Protest

- Fyodor Dostoyevsky. "Rebellion." Book 5, chapter 4 in *The Brothers Karamazov*. Translated by Ignat Avsey. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.
- Ursula Le Guin. *The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas: A Story*. New York: HarperCollins, 2017.
- William James. "The Moral Philosopher and the Moral Life." *International Journal of Ethics* 1 (1891): 330–54.

20. Meaning Is Self-Made

- David P. Barash. *Through a Glass Brightly*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018. Pages 25–32.
- Alex Rosenberg. *The Atheist's Guide to Reality*. New York: W. W. Norton, 2012. Pages 2–20.

21. Circle of Life

- Ursula Goodenough. *The Sacred Depths of Nature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Thomas Berry. *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*. New York: Bell Tower, 1999.
- Loyal D. Rue. Religion Is Not about God: How Spiritual Traditions Nurture Our Biological Nature and What to Expect When They Fail. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2004.

22. Existence Is a Great Mystery

- Linda Mercadante. *Belief without Borders*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Ronald Dworkin. *Religion without God*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2013.
- Ravi V. Durvasula and D. V. Subba Rao. *Extremophiles: From Biology to Biotechnology*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC, 2019.

23. God Creatively Responds

W. H. Vanstone. Love's Endeavour, Love's Expense: The Response of Being to the Love of God. Rev. ed. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2007.

- Denis Edwards. How God Acts: Creation, Redemption, and Special Divine Action. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2010.
- Paul Fiddes. The Creative Suffering of God. Oxford: Clarendon, 1992.

24. Into the Rain

- Sharon Dirckx. Why?: Looking at God, Evil and Personal Suffering. Nottingham: Inter-Varsity Press, 2013.
- Sheldon Vanauken. A Severe Mercy. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1977.
- Timothy Keller. Walking with God through Pain and Suffering. New York: Penguin, 2013.
- John Hick. *Evil and the God of Love*. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. Pages 253–61.

25. Into the Fog

- Robert Mackenzie. *The Loom of Providence*. New York: Fleming Revell, 1904.
- Jean Pierre de Caussade. *Abandonment to Divine Providence*. Mineola, NY: Courier, 2014. Page 98.
- Leslie Dixon Weatherhead. *Pain and Providence*. London: Epworth, 1935. Page 13.

26. When God Became Human

- Paul Brand and Philip Yancey. *The Gift of Pain*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- Amy Orr-Ewing. Where Is God in All the Suffering? Epsom, UK: Good Book, 2020.

- Jürgen Moltmann. The Crucified God: The Cross of Christ as the Foundation and Criticism of Christian Theology. Translated by R. A. Wilson and John Bowden. Minneapolis: Fortress, 1993.
- Lewis S. Ford. "The Power of God and the Christ." *Religious Experience and Process Theology*. Edited by Harry James Cargas and Bernard Lee. New York: Paulist, 1976. Pages 79–92.

27. God Acts in Various Ways

- Bethany N. Sollereder. *God, Evolution, and Animal Suffering: Theodicy without a Fall.* London: Routledge, 2019. Chapter 5.
- George Mavrodes. "Is There Anything Which God Does Not Do?" *Christian Scholar's Review* 16 (1987): 383–93.

28. Miracles

- David Hume. "Of Miracles." Section 10 in An Enquiry concerning Human Understanding. 1748.
- C. S. Lewis. Miracles. London: Fontana, 1960.
- Craig Keener. Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2012.

29. Divine Lure

Robert Farrar Capon. The Third Peacock: The Goodness of God and the Badness of the World. New York: Doubleday, 1971.

Ruth Page. God and the Web of Creation. London: SCM, 1996.

Elie Pritz. Peace Heroes. Available online: https://globalpeaceheroes.org/.

David Griffin. "Philosophical Theology and Pastoral Ministry." Encounter 33 (1972): 230–44.

Bernard Loomer. "Two Conceptions of Power." *Process Studies* 6 (1976): 3–32.

Lewis Ford. The Lure of God: A Biblical Background for Process Theism. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1978.

30. Meaning Making

- Kenneth Kramer. "The Daoist Farmer." Page 118 in World Scriptures: An Introduction to Comparative Religions. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 1986.
- Marilyn McCord Adams. *Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1999.

31. God Suffers with Us

- Robert Farrar Capon. The Third Peacock: The Goodness of God and the Badness of the World. New York: Doubleday, 1971.
- Thomas Jay Oord. The Uncontrolling Love of God: An Open and Relational Account of Providence. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015.
- Paul Thelakat. "God Suffers Evil." *Louvain Studies* 14 (1989): 16–25. Paul Fiddes. *The Creative Suffering of God*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1992.

32. The Garden

- John Hick. *Evil and the God of Love*. 2nd ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007. Pages 253–61.
- Richard Swinburne. *Providence and the Problem of Evil*. Oxford: Clarendon, 1998.

33. Individual Suffering

Eleonore Stump. Wandering in Darkness. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Marilyn McCord Adams. *Horrendous Evils and the Goodness of God.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1999.

34. Heaven and Hell

Denny Burk, John G. Stackhouse, Robin A. Parry, and Jerry L. Walls. Four Views on Hell. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.

35. Animal Salvation

- Jay McDaniel. Of God and Pelicans: A Theology of Reverence for Life. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1989.
- Paul Griffiths. *Decreation: The Last Things of All Creatures*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2014.
- Christopher Southgate. *The Groaning of Creation: God, Evolution, and the Problem of Evil*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2008.
- Trent Dougherty. *The Problem of Animal Pain*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.
- Bethany N. Sollereder. God, Evolution, and Animal Suffering: Theodicy without a Fall. London: Routledge, 2019.

36. Animal Souls Cannot Survive Death

See bibliography for chapter 20.

37. Limited Animal New Creation

- John Polkinghorne. *The God of Hope and the End of the World*. London: SPCK, 2002. Pages 122–23.
- Denis Alexander. *Creation or Evolution: Do We Have to Choose?* Oxford: Monarch, 2008. Pages 279–81.

38. Heaven and Hell Both Exist

- Denny Burk, John G. Stackhouse, Robin A. Parry, and Jerry L. Walls. Four Views on Hell. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. Pages 17–60, 145–90.
- Benjamin McCraw and Robert Arp, eds. *The Concept of Hell*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.
- Oliver Crisp. "Divine Retribution: A Defence." *Sophia* 42 (2003): 35–52.

39. The Grey Town

- C. S. Lewis. The Great Divorce. London: Geoffrey Bles/Centenary, 1945.
- Denny Burk, John G. Stackhouse, Robin A. Parry, and Jerry L. Walls. Four Views on Hell. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. Pages 145–90.

40. Annihilationism

- Denny Burk, John G. Stackhouse, Robin A. Parry, and Jerry L. Walls. Four Views on Hell. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. Pages 61–100.
- Edward Fudge. The Fire That Consumes: A Biblical and Historical Study of the Doctrine of Final Punishment. Houston: Providential, 1982.

41. Universalism

- Rob Bell. Love Wins. London: Collins, 2012.
- Gregory MacDonald. The Evangelical Universalist. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2006.

- Denny Burk, John G. Stackhouse, Robin A. Parry, and Jerry L. Walls. Four Views on Hell. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. Pages 101–44.
- Thomas Talbott. *The Inescapable Love of God*. 2nd ed. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2014.
- Brad Jersak. Her Gates Will Never Be Shut: Hope, Hell, and the New Jerusalem. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2005.
- David Bentley Hart. *That All Shall Be Saved: Heaven, Hell, and Universal Salvation*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019.
- Marjorie Suchocki. *The End of Evil: Process Eschatology in Historical Context*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1988.