

An Implication of God's Longsuffering

Since the beginning of time God has been longsuffering with man (cf. 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 3:9). He has been long tempered in His dealings with the beings whom He created in His own image, in spite of the fact that man has constantly sinned against Him. In the Biblical record, time and time again the Almighty One, the Holy One, has shown restraint in the exercise of His righteous indignation in face of continual provocation (cf. Psalm 78:38).

Genesis 3, not only reveals that man sinned - how "*through one man sin entered into the world*" (Romans 5:12); it also reveals why suffering and death exists in the midst of what God created. What our Creator made, what He did, was good (cf. Genesis 1:31). Man's free will is good. Would you want that taken away from you? Of course not. But then rebellion and disobedience, pride and greed show their ugly heads. Sin is the culprit. Sin is the catalyst of suffering and death. The more men multiply sin; the more sin spreads suffering across the continents, into all homes and throughout all generations and ages.

Every living soul has experienced the Creator's longsuffering whether they realize it or not. His longsuffering is an intricate component of the fabric of His lovingkindness (cf. Romans 2:4). Time itself is a manifestation of the presence of God's longsuffering (cf. 2 Peter 3:4, 8-9). What if He had not been longsuffering toward you and me? Would we be here? Would we still be walking and breathing after transgressing Him?

Since God is still suffering long with sinful man, thus man is still experience suffering in an evil world. The accusatory question, "Why is there suffering?" should not be directed so much against God, but rather, at mankind. Men are sinners living among sinners. As long as God continues to suffer long with man, there will be suffering in the world.