

**“Rabbi, who  
sinned, this  
man or his  
parents, that  
he was born  
blind”**

**John 9:2**



**Is suffering always  
associated with God's  
punishment?**

**Certainly not!**

# **1. Suffering has been part of the normal life process since the Fall**

“In pain you shall bring forth children....In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life”

*Genesis 3:16-17*

## **2. In some instances, it might be a way to reveal a virtue**

“...because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, blessing I will bless you.”

*Genesis 22:16-17*

# **3. Suffering might be a shield that protects our humility**

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure”

*2 Corinthians 12:7*

# **4. It might be permitted as a stepping stone along the way to exaltation**

“Then Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, a place where the king’s prisoners were confined.”

*Genesis 39:20*

# **5. Suffering might be the expected consequence of an erroneous life style**

“But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want”

*Luke 15:14*

# **6. It also accompanies an unwise economy**

“...and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed  
by the filthy conduct of the wicked.”

*2 Peter 2:7*



# How Do We Understand Suffering?

1. It has been part of the normal life process since the Fall
2. It might be a way to reveal a virtue
3. It might be a shield that protects our humility
4. It might be permitted as a stepping stone along the way to exaltation
5. It might be the expected consequence of an erroneous life style
6. It accompanies an unwise economy