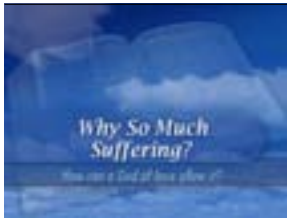


# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



1

## How Can a God of Love Allow it?



2

**Clara Anderson was a maid in San Francisco, and Clara was a very gentle woman — and very conscientious. One day after having worked for the same employer for fifteen years, she disappeared.**

**Her employer had no idea where she had gone. She seemed to have just dropped out of sight. Then miraculously, after days of searching, the city's social services department found her.**

**Clara was in the process of starving herself to death in a mountain hideout outside of San Francisco. She said, "I want to die. Leave me alone." When the reporter who ultimately found her interviewed her, Clara said,**

**"Look, nobody cares about me. I'm just a maid — just one of thousands in society doing menial tasks. My life is of no value. I have no close relatives, no family, no friends. I'm so lonely that I don't want to live.**

**There's no one I consider close to me — nobody I can talk to, nobody I can open my heart to. So just let me die, because nobody really cares."**



3

**"Nobody cares!" is the desperate cry of men and women on a lonely planet.**

**Recently in a survey regarding God, people were asked, "If you could ask God one question, what would that question be?"**

**What about you? If you could ask God one question, what would it be?**

**Here is what millions of people would ask:**

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?

**“God, do you really care for me? If you are so good, why is there so much sickness, suffering and death in our world?”**

**“Why is there so much heartache and sorrow?”**

**“Why are there famines, floods, natural disasters and war?”**



4

**We look around and are aware of an evil force in this world. Everywhere there are terrible tragedies taking place every day.**



5

**(Video 15 Sec.)Who is responsible for all of the tragedies, sorrow, and suffering in this world?**

**Many people blame God for the difficulties they experience. How often you hear them ask the question, “Why did God do this to me?”**



6

**Let's look at what the Bible says of the great battle that is going on between the powers of good and evil. You may ask, “If God does not bring all of this trouble and grief into the world, who is really responsible for all the tragedies we daily witness?”**



7

**The Bible puts the finger on the guilty party! Jesus told a story about a farmer who planted good seed in his field, but when the plants came up,**



8

**there were noxious weeds in the field.**

# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



9

(Text: Matthew 13:27)

**"So the servants of the owner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field?"**



10

**How then does it have tares?"**

**They wanted to know, "where did the weeds come from?"**



11

(Text 3 slides: Matthew 13:37-39)

**"He answered and said to them: 'He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.'"**



12

**The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom, but the tares are the sons of the wicked one."**



13

**"The enemy who sowed them is the devil."**

**Matthew 13:37-39**



14

**You see, while God is trying to show love and kindness to everyone, there is another power at work in this world bringing disaster, tragedy, death, and sickness into the lives of God's children.**



15

**The last book of the Bible, Revelation, tells us how it all began so that we might have the real truth about what happened in heaven that has caused so much trouble on Planet Earth.**

**We will discover the origin of evil. It may surprise you, but there was once war in heaven!**

6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



16

(Text 4 slides: Revelation 12:7-9)

**“And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought,**



17

**but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.**



18

**So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil, and Satan, who deceives the whole world;**



19

**he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”**

**Revelation 12:7-9.**



20

**Now, notice how this dragon, or the devil is introduced in Revelation 12:3, 4:**



21

(Text 2 slides: Revelation 12:3,4)

**“And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns,**



22

**and seven diadems on his heads.”**



23

**“His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. . .”**

# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



24

Evidently one-third of the angels of heaven followed this deceiver in his rebellion against God.  
But let's find out more about this fallen angel called Lucifer.

In the Old Testament He is described as the King of Tyre, and it says this about him:



25

(Text 4 slides: Ezekiel 28:12-14)  
"Thus says the Lord God: You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.  
Ezekiel 28:12



26

You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering . . .  
Ezekiel 28:13



27

You were the anointed cherub who covers . . . You were in the holy mountain of God;



28

you walked in the midst of fiery stones." Ezekiel 28:14



29

Lucifer was a beautiful angel, created perfect in all his ways. He was the angel who stood next to God as a covering cherub.



30

Lucifer held an exalted position in heaven. On either side of the mercy seat or throne of God were two angels-one on the right and one on the left. One of these was Lucifer.

6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



31

He was not content being next to God.  
**HE WANTED TO BE GOD!**  
Something happened to Lucifer and to his close relationship with God. God said to Lucifer,



32

(Text :Ezekiel 28:15)  
“You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.”  
Ezekiel 28:15



33

(Text :Ezekiel 28:17)  
‘Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor...’  
Ezekiel 28:17.



34

This beautiful, exalted angel became self centered.  
He coveted the glory and homage due God alone.  
He was power hungry. He had the boldness to challenge his Creator for the rulership of the universe! Listen carefully:



35

(Text 3 slides:Isaiah 14:12-14)  
“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground. . . .



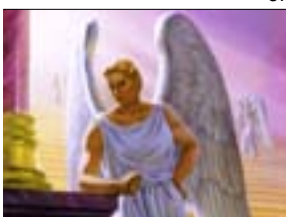
36

For you have said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God. . . .



37

...I will be like the most High.”  
Isaiah 14:12 -14



38

As these arrogant words spilled forth from Lucifer’s lips, the perfect love and harmony of heaven was shattered into a million selfish pieces.

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



39

It wasn't long before Lucifer began to spread the spirit of discontent among the other angels. Slowly but surely, he undermined God's love and justice.



40

Like rotten fruit in a box, his rebellion spread to other angels in heaven. Perhaps you are wondering why God didn't destroy Satan at that time.

God could have eliminated Lucifer and the angels who joined his revolution in one blinding flash, but had He done so, all His creatures would have served Him out of fear.



41

Let's suppose God took away our freedom of choice and made us all robots. {Ad lib} How many of you have children? That's quite a few of you.

Would you want a robot child? How would you like a child that you programmed to obey everything you said? Your child would wake up in the morning and say, "Yes, Mommy, I will eat my rice."

"Yes, Daddy, I will clean the house."  
You have a robot — a cold, steel, mechanical robot.  
You no longer have a child.  
Would you want this kind of a child? Of course not.  
And neither did God.



42

God is a God of love. He can only be happy in a love relationship with His creatures where they worship Him because they love and trust Him.



43

Satan had challenged God's laws and justice, but God did not place these laws in force to show who was boss! He made them to protect His creatures, to ensure their peace and happiness.

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



44

His laws are like stoplights and speed limit signs all planned for our safety and well-being.  
But this most honored of all the angels thought that he could run the universe better than God his Creator!



45

Satan, “the adversary of God,” made a devil out of himself!



46

(Video: 10 sec) God gives everyone the power of choice to obey or not obey.  
Out of fairness and love, God has allowed Satan to demonstrate to the universe the way he would run the world.

We don’t understand how all this happened when God was so loving and good to all.



47

The battle begun in heaven isn’t over, it has just changed places!  
Earth is the ground upon which the great controversy between good and evil would be fought,

where Satan would demonstrate his kind of government and how he would run the world.



48

But why Earth? Why did our planet have to become



49

(Text: 1 Corinthians 4:9)  
“ . . . a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men”?  
1 Corinthians 4:9.



# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



50

The earth had just come from the hand of the Creator, in all its splendor and perfection, beautiful beyond description.

Evidently Satan thought so, too, for he saw this world as a prize worth capturing.

He would attempt to seize this planet of fragile beauty – a newborn world.



51

Although Adam and Eve, the father and mother of the human race, were created perfect, they were not placed beyond the possibility of wrongdoing.

They were free to choose to love and follow God or to ignore His instructions.

But their loyalty would be tested, and that test would focus on a single tree. God warned,



52

(Text 2 slides: Genesis 2:16, 17)

“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat;



53

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”  
Genesis 2:16, 17.

That must have seemed a reasonable request. They must have felt quite secure. But man is most vulnerable when he is caught completely off guard because he feels secure.



54

That is what happened to Eve.

Satan used his supernatural power to deceive her.

Satan rarely works openly. He is very deceitful.

He uses organizations, people, or even a serpent!

# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



That is why Peter said:

55



(Text 3 slides: Ephesians 6:11-12)  
"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

56



For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,

57



against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual host of wickedness in the heavenly places."  
Ephesians 6:11,12.

58



Eve was deceived.  
She never suspected that the words from the talking snake came from Satan.  
The devil, speaking through the serpent, asked her,

59



(Text: Genesis 3:1)  
"... Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'"  
Genesis 3:1.

60



(Text 4 slides: Genesis 3:2-4)  
Eve replied, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

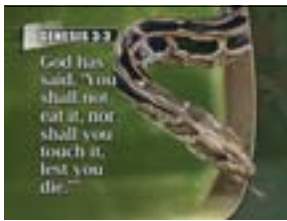
61



but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden,

62

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



63

**God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'**



64

**Then the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die.'"  
Genesis 3:2-4**



65

**As Eve listened to the serpent, it must have crossed her mind that he was saying something different than what God had told them. Perhaps sensing that she felt confused, the serpent hurriedly added,**



66

**(Text: Genesis 3:5)  
"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."  
Genesis 3:5.**



67

**The devil suggested that God was unfair, that He was holding back something good. To be like God had been Satan's consuming desire and his downfall. Now it sounded good to Eve, too, and in an impetuous moment, she sold out.**



68

**(Text 2 slides: Genesis 3:6 )  
"So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes,**



69

**and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate . . ."  
Genesis 3:6.**



70

**And Eve gave Adam the fruit, and he ate of it.**

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



71

Adam and Eve failed God's test of love and loyalty, and it was not long before they knew that something had gone wrong.



72

Satan had hijacked the newborn world! From that moment, he laid claim to the title, "Prince of this World."  
The ruler of a planet in rebellion!  
Adam and Eve had listened to the voice of the evil one.



73

As this most tragic day drew to a close, God came in the cool of the evening as usual, calling for Adam and Eve.  
Until now, this had been the happiest time of the day-a chance to walk and talk directly with the God who had created them.  
But this day they ran and hid in the bushes!



74

Finally Adam slipped slowly from behind some shrubs in the garden and confessed,



75

(Text: Genesis 3:10)  
"...I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."  
Genesis 3:10.



76

Adam had never been afraid before, but that is what sin does. It even makes a person afraid of God.



77

(Text: Genesis 3:11)  
God replied, "...Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Verse 11.  
Adam answered:



78

(Text: Genesis 3:12)  
"...The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."  
Genesis 3:12.



## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?

A few hours before, Adam had been willing to die with Eve.  
Now he blamed her and also blamed God for creating her.  
How sin shatters perfect love!



79

But Eve was no less accusing. When God asked her what she had done, she replied,



80

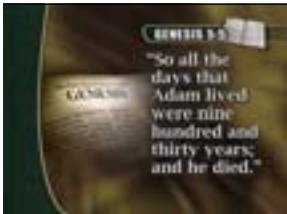
(Text: Genesis 3:13)  
“...The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”  
Genesis 3:13.

Eve put the blame on God too! In other words, she was saying,  
“It’s the serpent You made that got me into trouble.”



81

That very day Adam and Eve were doomed to die!  
To keep Adam and Eve from eating of the tree of life, God  
evicted them from their garden home.  
The devil said they wouldn’t die, but the Bible says,



82

(Text: Genesis 5:5)  
“So all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died.” Genesis 5:5.

Too late, they discovered that the devil was



83

(Text: John 8:44)  
“... a liar and the father of it.”  
John 8:44.



84

It is easy to blame God for the world’s heartbreak and devastation, but Satan is really responsible for the havoc.

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



(Video: 10 sec) He is the one who brought trouble to this planet and who has been causing sin and suffering ever since. Jesus unmasked the devil and the way he afflicts people.

85



As He was teaching in the synagogue one Sabbath, He noticed a woman bent over with a crippling deformity. Touched by her pathetic circumstances, Jesus healed her.

86



The rulers instantly criticized Him because the healing took place on Sabbath – God’s holy day of worship. But notice how He defended His actions:

87



(Text 2 slides: Luke 13:16)

“So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound ... for eighteen years,

88



be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?” Luke 13:16

89



Jesus said that Satan had bound this woman for eighteen years.  
Satan was the guilty one! In fact, Satan is the sinister force behind all disease and suffering, heartache, and death!

90



Perhaps nowhere in the Bible do we see Satan’s strategy more clearly exposed than in the first chapter of Job, in a conversation between the devil and God.

91



It was some time after the fall of Satan that the sons of God presented themselves before Him. Satan came also. Think of that! A meeting of the “sons of God,” and Satan came uninvited!

92

# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



93

(Text 2 slides: Job 1:7)

**"And the Lord said to Satan, 'From where do you come?'"**

**Job 1:7**

**In other words, who invited you? What right do you have to be here? Satan answered the Lord,**



94

**"From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."**

**Job 1:7.**

**Satan claimed dominion over Planet Earth. He had taken over Adam's position!**



95

**Adam is called a "son of God" (see Luke 3:38), just like the others who came that day for a meeting with God.**



96

**Could it be that they were the heads of other worlds, just as Adam was originally the head of our world?**

**At any rate, Satan's claim to represent Earth did not go unchallenged. The Lord said to Satan:**



97

(Text 4 slides: Job 1:8, 9, 11)

**"... 'Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth,**



98

**a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"**



99

**So Satan answered the LORD and said, 'Does Job fear God for nothing?"**



100

**But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"**

**Job 1:8, 9, 11**

6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



101

**What a challenge! Satan claimed that the only reason Job was loyal to God was because of what God did for him, not because he loved and trusted God.**



102

**(Text 2 slides: Job 1:12)**

**“And the Lord said to Satan, ‘Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.’”**



103

**So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.”**

**Job 1:12.**

**Satan left, eager to get his hands on Job’s possessions.**



104

**The blows soon began to fall:**

**First: the Sabeans stole Job’s cattle and murdered his workers.**



105

**Second: Lightning struck, killing his sheep and shepherds.**



106

**Third: the Chaldeans came and plundered Job’s camels.**



107

**Fourth (the most heartbreaking news): a tornado demolished the home of Job’s oldest son. A party was on, and all ten of Job’s children were killed!**



108

**Poor Job! He thought that the Lord had taken away his possessions and caused all the heartache.**

**He didn’t understand that the devil had done it! Although overcome with grief, Job’s loyalty to God was unchanged.**



# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



109

(Text: Job 1:21)

He said, "...The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Job 1:21

Although he could not understand the tragedies that devastated his possessions and children, Job trusted God's goodness just the same.

But Satan wasn't through.

He challenged God again, saying,



110

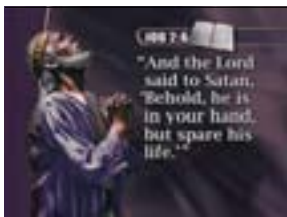
(Text 3 slides: Job 2:4-6)

"...Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life."



111

But stretch out your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face.



112

And the Lord said to Satan, Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

Job 2:4-6



113

The test was on! Would Job remain loyal to God when the going got rougher, or would he turn his back on God?



114

(Text 2 slides: Job 2:7)

"So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD,



115

and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head."

Job 2:7

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



116

If you've ever had a boil, you know how painful just one boil can be. Imagine being covered with them from head to toe!



117

Even though Satan had deprived Job of his possessions, his children, and his health, Job remained loyal to God. What a man! The Bible says,



118

**"In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong."  
Job 1:22**



119

**(Video: 12 sec) Who Hurt Job?  
Who was it that plagued Job?  
SATAN!**



120

**Who stole his livestock and killed his servants?  
SATAN!**



121

**Who brought the tornado that destroyed his sons and daughter?  
SATAN!**



122

**The Lord may allow difficulties to come to test our loyalty and love,**



123

**but SATAN is the guilty one responsible for all the evil on Planet Earth!**

# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



124

**You and I are caught in the center of a bewildering cosmic drama, a conflict between authority and lawlessness, between the Creator and Satan, the original rebel.**

**We are not spectators. We are involved, whether we want to be or not.**



125

**The idea that Satan is only a myth or an influence leaves us totally unprepared to confront the intelligent being he actually is.**



126

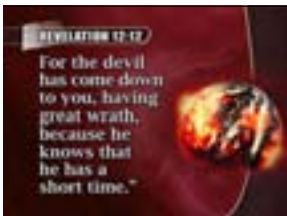
**The Book of Revelation says:**



127

**(Text 2 slides: Revelation 12:12)**

**“Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea!”**



128

**For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”**

**Revelation 12:12**

**Peter wrote this warning:**



129

**(Text 2 slides: 1 Peter 5:8)**

**“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion,**



130

**seeking whom he may devour.”**

**1 Peter 5:8**

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



131

**But even though Satan does his worst, the God of creation has a plan of re-creation that includes His Son Jesus-His precious Son who was willing to die to pay our debt so that we might have eternal life.**



132

**The Bible says Satan comes as a roaring lion.**



133

**Satan worked through King Herod to destroy the Christ child (He was defeated).**



134

**(Video: 10 sec.) Satan came to Jesus in the wilderness, masquerading as an angel from heaven with three great temptations (He was defeated).**



135

**Satan worked the crowd to destroy Jesus at Calvary (He was a defeated foe forever).**



136

**Although there was a Calvary, there was a resurrection! Praise God!  
So it was that God gave His Son; and the Son gave Himself, to reverse your fate and mine.**

**It was an hour of victory, a day to spell freedom for all the prisoners of the devil on Planet Earth.**



137

**That day Satan became a defeated foe! Christ by His death earned the right to destroy all evil and suffering.  
Paul wrote in Hebrews 2:14:**



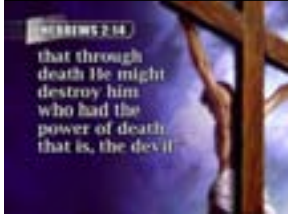
# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



138

(Text 2 slides: Hebrews 2:14)

**“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same,**



139

**that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”**



140

**Satan demonstrated before all the intelligences of the universe what kind of being he is.**

**And he is still demonstrating the way he would run the world.**

**Tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, crime, disease, heartache, and pain!**

**These we see.**



141

**But standing unseen behind them all is the supernatural working of Satan.**



142

**These tragedies are not “acts of God” - they are “acts of the devil.”**



143

**You may be wondering about sorrow, heartache, and difficulty in your own life. You may be wondering about the loss of a child or a loved one and asking “where is God?”**



144

**The Bible teaches that God is there.**

**He is in the midst of your heartache, sorrow, and difficulty.**

**And He will soon come to take care of the problem of sin and suffering.**

**6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?**

## 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?



145

The good news is that this celestial planet, hijacked by Satan, is soon to be rescued.

This knowledge should quiet the fears of nervous, anxious passengers on a planet gone wrong!

God has a plan to destroy Satan — the deceitful devil — and we will study exactly what that plan is in future meetings. Let's see what the Bible says about Satan:



146

(Text 3 slides: Ezekiel 28:16, 18)

“...I destroyed you, O covering cherub. . . .”



147

Therefore I brought fire from your midst;



148

it devoured you, and I turned you to ashes upon the earth....” Ezekiel 28:18.

Gone forever will be sin and suffering.



149

Yes, friend, Jesus is coming soon! Not as a lowly Galilean, not as one ridiculed, spat upon, and denied. Not as one hanging on a cross,



150

but as King of kings and Lord of lords with the right to reign! We must be ready to meet Him, for if we miss that, we miss everything!



151

(Video 12 Sec.) The issue today is, Whom will we believe? Whom will we follow? A loving God-or a fallen angel? The lines are being drawn;

# 6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?

the whole world is being divided into two sides. Where is your loyalty?  
Whose side are you on?



152

To every restless, lonely heart, to every aching, guilty soul, to all His children on a planet in rebellion, Jesus gives the loving invitation:



153

(Text: Matthew 11:28)

“Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”  
Matthew 11:28.



154

(Text: John 6:37)

“... The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”  
John 6:37  
Isn't that wonderful news?



155

In the midst of life's tragedies, sorrows, heartbreak and disappointment, Jesus is there.  
He understands the sorrow you may be experiencing right now.

Jesus understands what it is like to have your body ravaged by disease.  
He knows pain.  
He experienced it when cruel men drove jagged nails through His hands.

He knows loneliness.  
He experienced it when He hung alone in the darkness on the cross.  
He knows poverty.

He experienced it when He walked the dusty streets of Palestine with little to eat and nowhere to call home. Come to Him today.  
He will give you new hope and encouragement.  
Here is the best news of all.

## **6 - WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?**

**One day soon this Jesus will come again and put an end to all of life's suffering.**

**He will come again to usher in a brand new world.**

**Sin and sinners will be destroyed.**

**Satan will be finally, fully and completely defeated. Jesus longs to restore you to the family of God, to give you eternal life on a planet made new.**

**But the decision must be made — Who will be your Lord and Master?**

**Friend, this decision is a life and death matter!**

**Won't you choose right now to let Christ be your King?**

**He is waiting. His arms are wide open.**

**He says, "Come! Come! Come!"**

**Will you bow your head and say, "Yes, Jesus, I am coming," as we pray?**