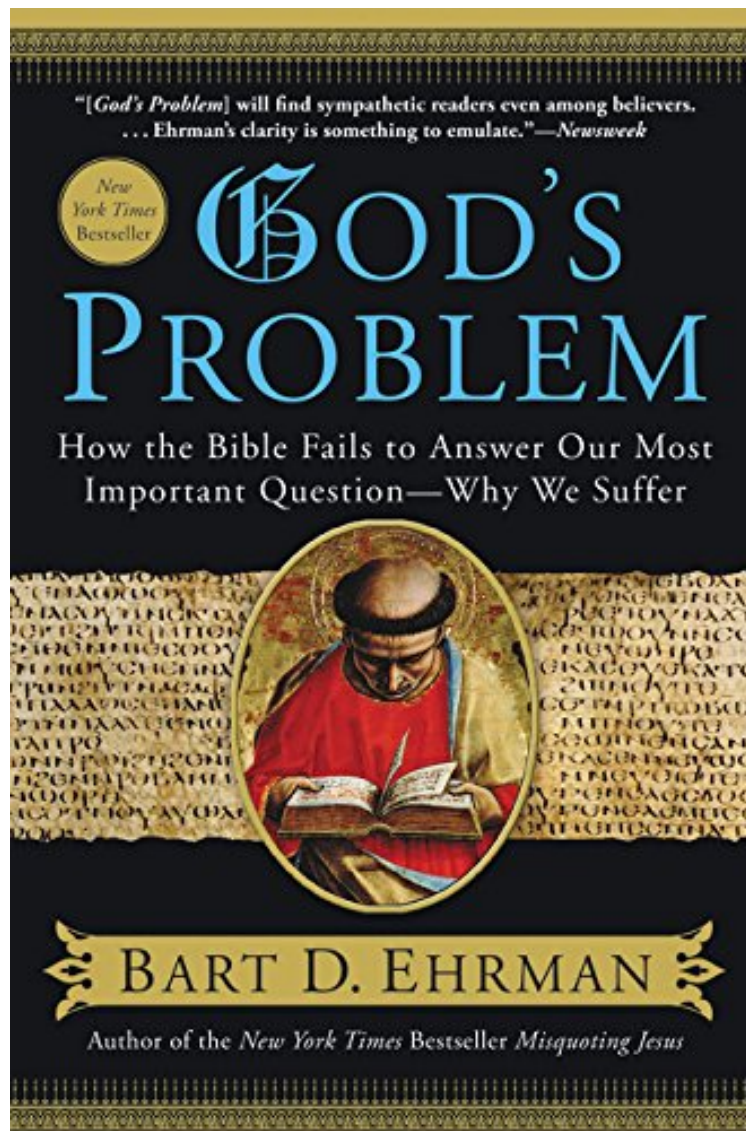


# God's Problem: How the Bible Fails to Answer Our Most Important Question--Why We Suffer

Bart D. Ehrman

ebooks / Download PDF / \*ePub / DOC / audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#93439 in Books Bart D Ehrman 2009-02-24 2009-02-24 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .68 x 5.311, .50 #File Name: 0061173924304 pages God s Problem How the Bible Fails to Answer Our Most Important Question Why We Suffer | File size: 74.Mb

**Bart D. Ehrman : God's Problem: How the Bible Fails to Answer Our Most Important Question--Why We Suffer** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised God's Problem: How the Bible Fails to Answer Our Most Important Question--Why We Suffer:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good Exploration of theme of suffering in the Bible By

CustomerOne may not agree with all of Ehrman's conclusions to the arguments he makes, but you can't deny how well he researches, explores, and explains the theme of suffering in the Bible. My biggest take away is that regardless of where one lies on the spectrum in terms of religious or political beliefs, he does encourage you to think about suffering and the causes of it in different ways. At some point he will touch on a school of thought you may be comfortable with in terms of how one views suffering, and the other views he provides will allow you to examine your perspective more thoroughly. The bibliography alone is worth the read so if you don't like his arguments, check out the sources he cites and draw your own conclusions. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent points to ponder  
By RFL  
Excellent book by Dr. Ehrman. He has the courage to use this book to explain his transition from orthodox Christianity to agnostic. While his rationale is highly dependent upon a belief system (even if it's agnostic), I respect him for laying out his belief system for all to see and evaluate. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A very insightful, well referenced book. Authors opinions ...  
By A. M. Y.  
A very insightful, well referenced book. Authors opinions are based on references in the Bible and other period documentation. This book will lead any reader to consider the factual basis of their personal beliefs, regardless of their take on the author's conclusions.

One Bible, Many Answers  
In God's Problem, the New York Times bestselling author of Misquoting Jesus challenges the contradictory biblical explanations for why an all-powerful God allows us to suffer.

From Publishers Weekly  
In this sometimes provocative, often pedantic memoir of his own attempts to answer the great theological question about the persistence of evil in the world, Ehrman, a UNC Chapel Hill religion professor, refuses to accept the standard theological answers. Through close readings of every section of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, he discovers that the Bible offers numerous answers that are often contradictory. The prophets think God sends pain and suffering as a punishment for sin and also that human beings who oppress others create such misery; the writers who tell the Jesus story and the Joseph stories think God works through suffering to achieve redemptive purposes; the writers of Job view pain as God's test; and the writers of Job and Ecclesiastes conclude that we simply cannot know why we suffer. In the end, frustrated that the Bible offers such a range of opposing answers, Ehrman gives up on his Christian faith and fashions a peculiarly utilitarian solution to suffering and evil in the world: first, make this life as pleasing to ourselves as we can and then make it pleasing to others. Although Ehrman's readings of the biblical texts are instructive, he fails to convince readers that these are indeed God's problems, and he fails to advance the conversation any further than it's already come. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.  
From Booklist  
The subtitle seems off the mark. Isn't Why are we here? our most important question? But quibble, quibble. Why is there evil? a question about the problem of pain so closely related to Why do we suffer? that evangelical Christian turned agnostic Ehrman operatively seems to prefer it is indeed one of the Bible's principal preoccupations. Ehrman rejects three biblical answers to it and approves a fourth before settling on ethical pragmatism (alleviate suffering wherever possible), with or without Christianity. The three inadequate answers are that suffering is punishment for sin, that individual suffering is necessary for the greater good, and that suffering presages the imminent triumph of good over evil (as in the perhaps most prevalent understanding of Christ's Second Coming). Ehrman rejects those positions essentially because they don't fit the concept of God as loving and omnipotent. He countenances the answer of Ecclesiastes, that suffering is inexplicable, but maintains that it negates God's omniscience and is perhaps more cogent for nonbelievers. Ehrman's clarity, simplicity, and congeniality help make this a superb introduction to its subject. --Ray Olson  
Ehrman's clarity, simplicity, and congeniality help make this a superb introduction to its subject. (Booklist)  
Ehrman, a prolific and popular author, has put his journey into words in a new book God's Problem. ...Ehrman actually ends God's Problem on an upbeat note, a kind of call to arms for people to be good--to themselves and to others... (San Diego Tribune)  
[An] entrapped invocation of a God who is not believed in, but is nonetheless despised, is what gives the book a rough power. [Ehrman] is a lucid expositor (The New Yorker)