



Why Does God allow Suffering?

2- The Middle



**CHRIST CHURCH
HUNTINGDON**



Why?

**“My soul is
overwhelmed with
sorrow to the point
of death”**

Jesus in Mark 14:34





**I'm hanging on by a thread
And all I'm clinging to is
prayers
And every breath is like a
battle
I feel like I ain't come
prepared
And death's knockin' on the
front door
Pain's creepin' through the
back
Fear's crawlin' through the
windows...**



**Tell God I need a whole lotta
hope keeping it together**

I'm smilin' in everyone's face

I'm cryin' whenever they

leave the room

They don't know the

battle I face

They don't understand what

I'm going through

Lecrae "I'll Find you"

Why does God allow suffering...?

- Suffering and the beginning of the Bible (Creation & Fall)
- Suffering and the middle of the Bible (Jesus & the Cross)
- Suffering and the end of the Bible (Heaven & the future)



Suffering and the cross...

- 1. We have a God who shares in our suffering**

Isa 53:3

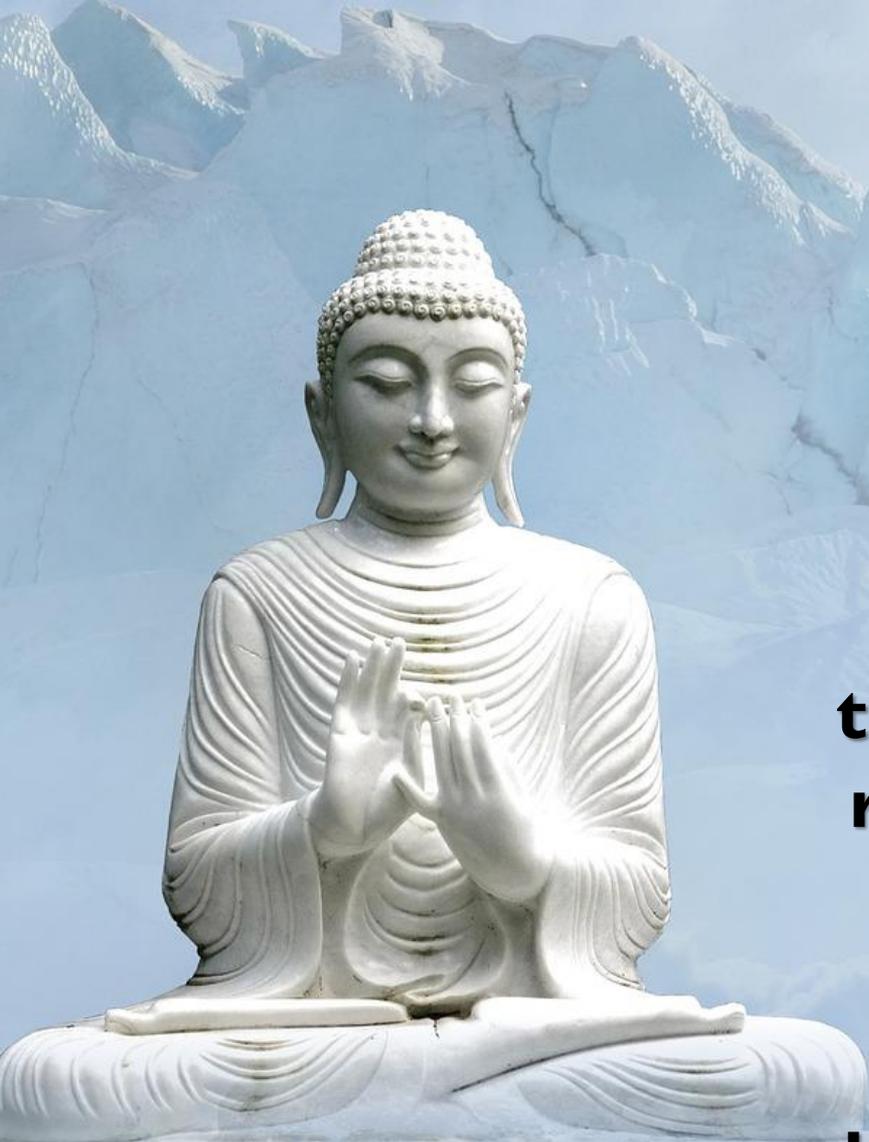
Matt 14:34

Psalm 88

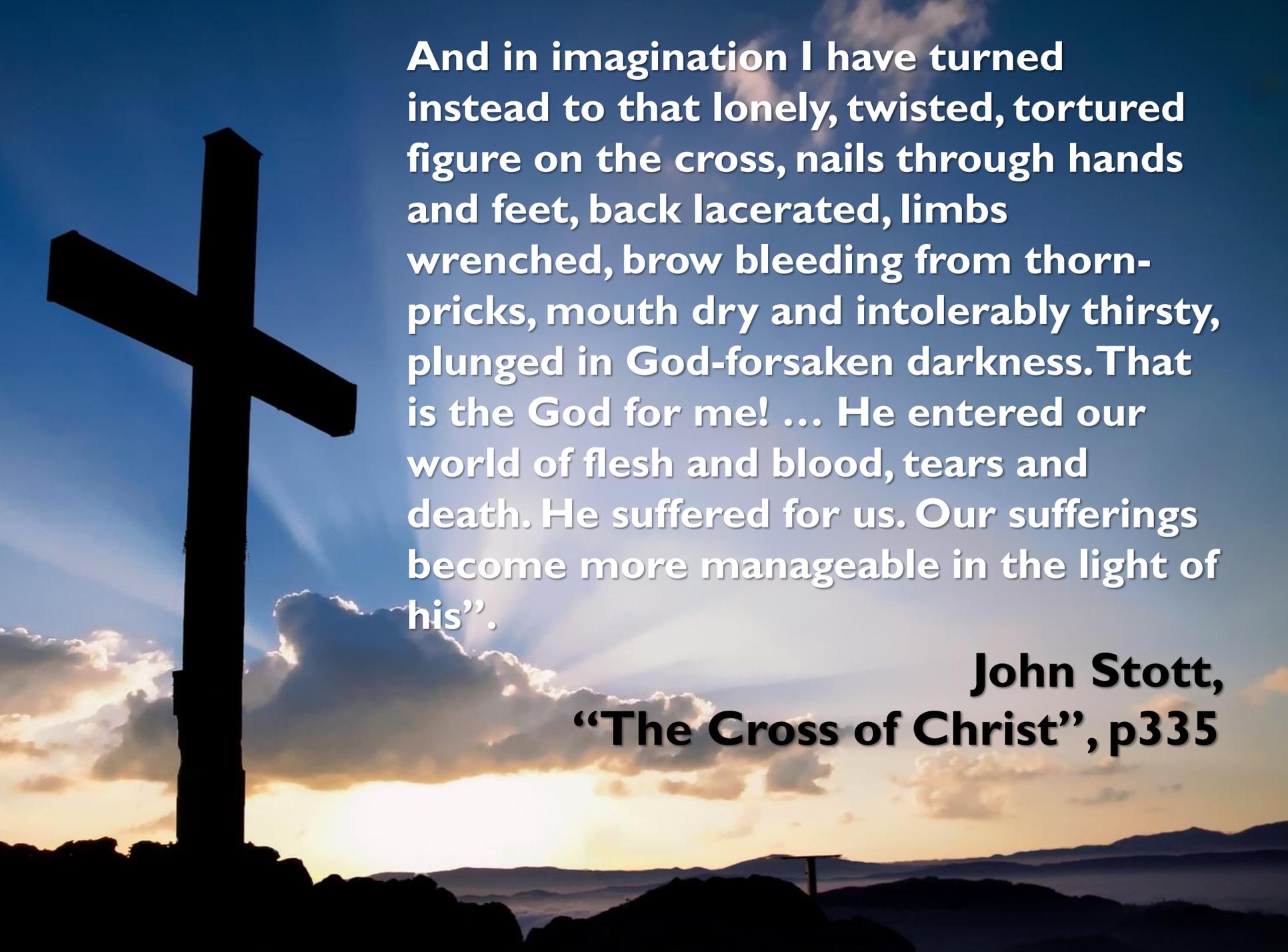




Joni Eareckson Tada



**“I have entered many
Buddhist temples in
different Asian countries
and stood respectfully
before the statue of the
Buddha, his legs crossed,
arms folded, eyes closed,
the ghost of a smile playing
round his mouth, a remote
look on his face, detached
from the agonies of the
world....
but each time after a while
I have had to turn away”.**



And in imagination I have turned instead to that lonely, twisted, tortured figure on the cross, nails through hands and feet, back lacerated, limbs wrenched, brow bleeding from thorn-pricks, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in God-forsaken darkness. That is the God for me! ... He entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us. Our sufferings become more manageable in the light of his”.

**John Stott,
“The Cross of Christ”, p335**

Suffering and the cross...

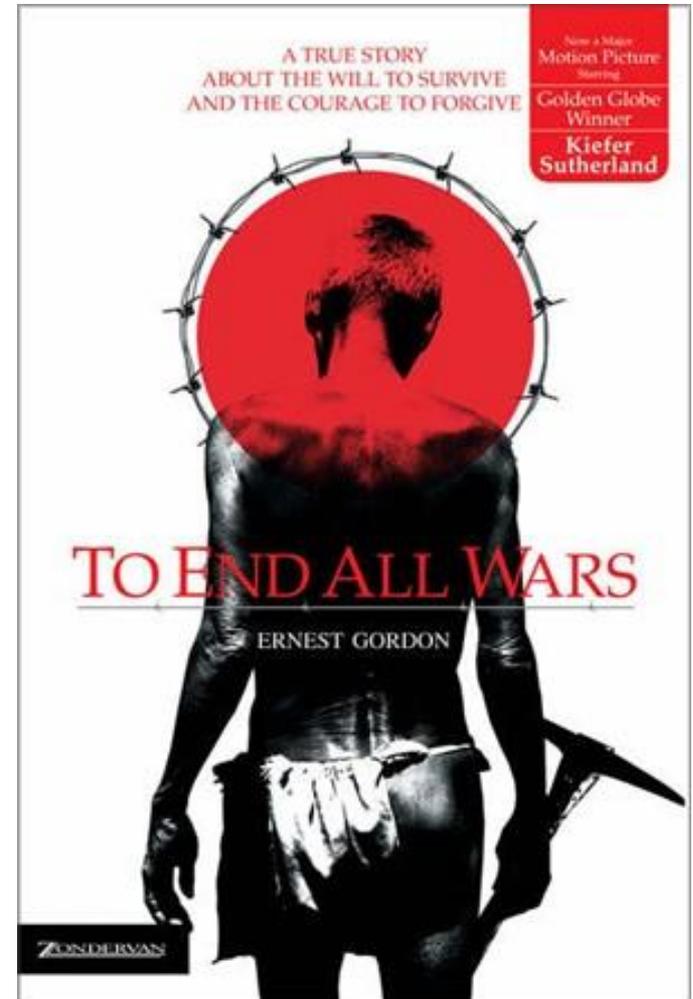
- 1. We have a God who shares in our suffering...**
- 2. We have a God who uses suffering...**
 - a) He used the suffering of the cross to bring our rescue**
 - b) He uses suffering to bring people to Jesus**

- Psalm 119: 67, 71**
- Isaiah 53: 4-5**
- Mark 2: 1-12**
- Luke 13: 4-5**



“Well” he said, “It’s all over. I wouldn’t have missed it for anything. It was rough all right. But I learned an awful lot that I couldn’t have learned at the university or anywhere else. For one, I’ve learned about the real things of life, and for another, it’s great to be still alive”. I knew exactly what had made him say this. The experiences we had passed through had deepened our understanding of life and of each other. We had looked into the heart of the Eternal and found him to be wonderfully kind.

Ernest Gordon “To end all wars”- p217.



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- Phil 1:13**



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 - b) He uses suffering to bring people to Jesus**
 - c) He uses suffering to make us more like Jesus**



- **1 Peter 1:7**
- **James 1:4**
- **Hebrews 12:11**

