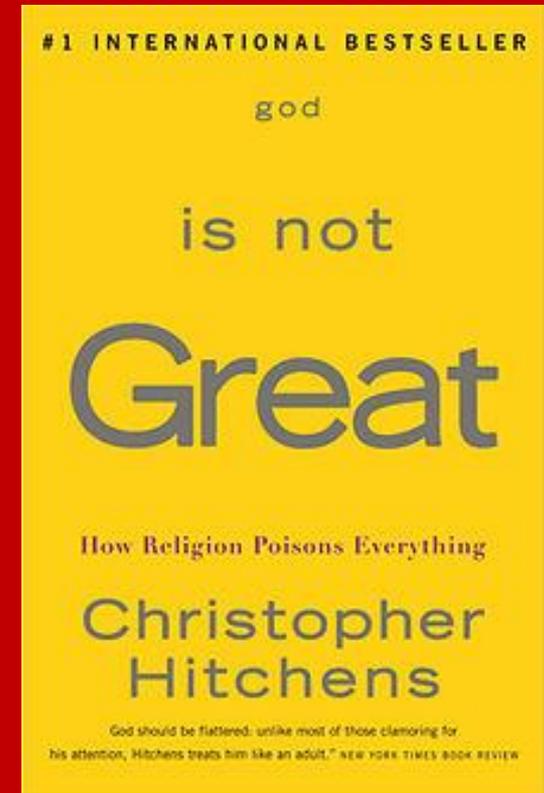
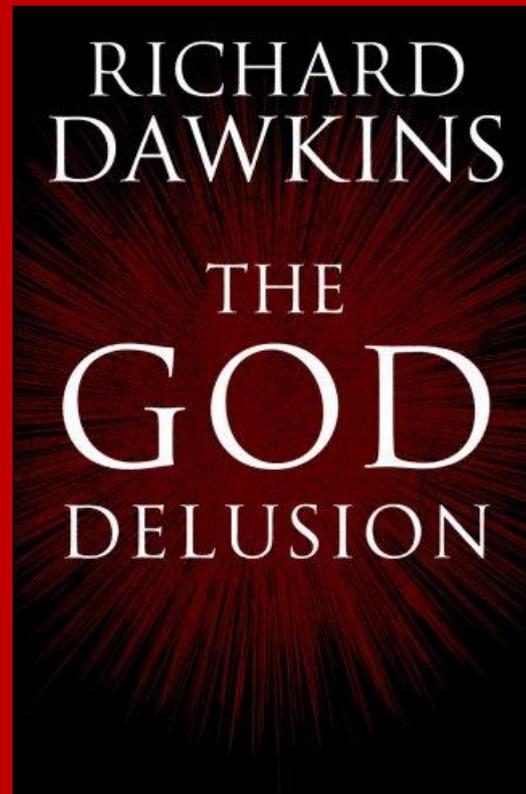
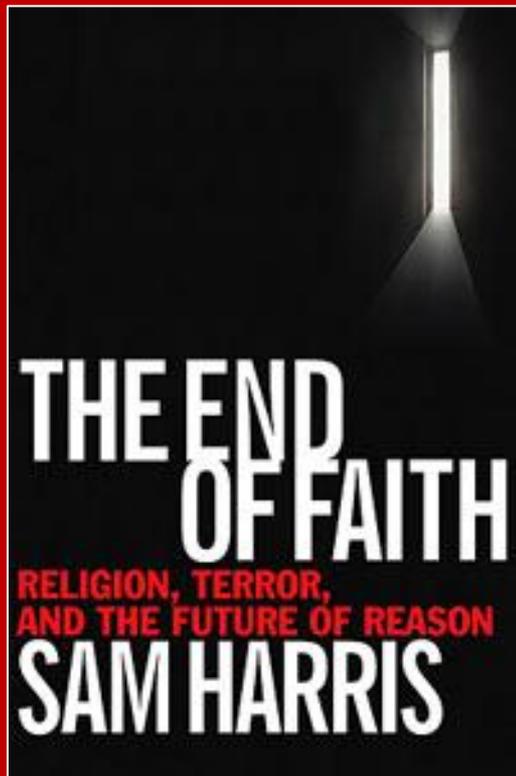


What is the “New Atheism?”

“A social and political movement that began in 2004 in favor of *atheism* and *secularism* whose advocates promote the view that religion should not simply be tolerated, but should be countered, criticized, and exposed by rational argument wherever its influence arises.”

The “New Atheism”



"A triumphant tour de force." — Eric Metaxas, author of *Bonhoeffer*

GOD FORSAKEN

BAD THINGS HAPPEN.

Is there a God who cares?

YES. Here's proof.

DINESH D'SOUZA

New York Times Bestselling Author of *What's So Great about Christianity*

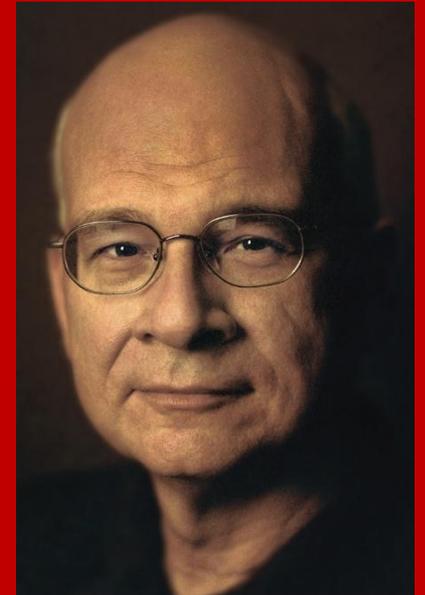


NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

TIMOTHY KELLER

The
REASON
for
GOD

*Belief in an Age
of Skepticism*



WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF
**EVIL AND
SUFFERING?**

**Theodicy = “The defense of
God’s goodness and
omnipotence in view of
the existence of evil.”**



WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF
EVIL AND
SUFFERING?

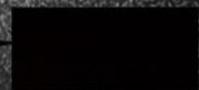


WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF
**EVIL AND
SUFFERING?**

- **Thesis:**

1. Present the *atheist's argument*.
2. Explore various *attempts* to answer.
3. Expose the *logical fallacies*.
4. Provide the *Biblical solutions/answers*.

Fulfill Phil 1:17 & I Peter 3:15.



WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF
EVIL AND
SUFFERING?





The Atheist's Strongest Case



Premise 1: God is *omnipotent*, so He has the power to eliminate suffering.

Premise 2: God is *good*, so He has the desire to eliminate suffering.

Premise 3: The World = suffering!

Con: An omnipotent, good God does not exist!

What is the Answer?

- “If the premises are true, the conclusion is definitely true.
- Therefore, belief in an omnipotent, good God is **“positively irrational.”**



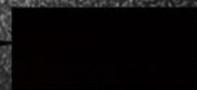
J.L. Mackie

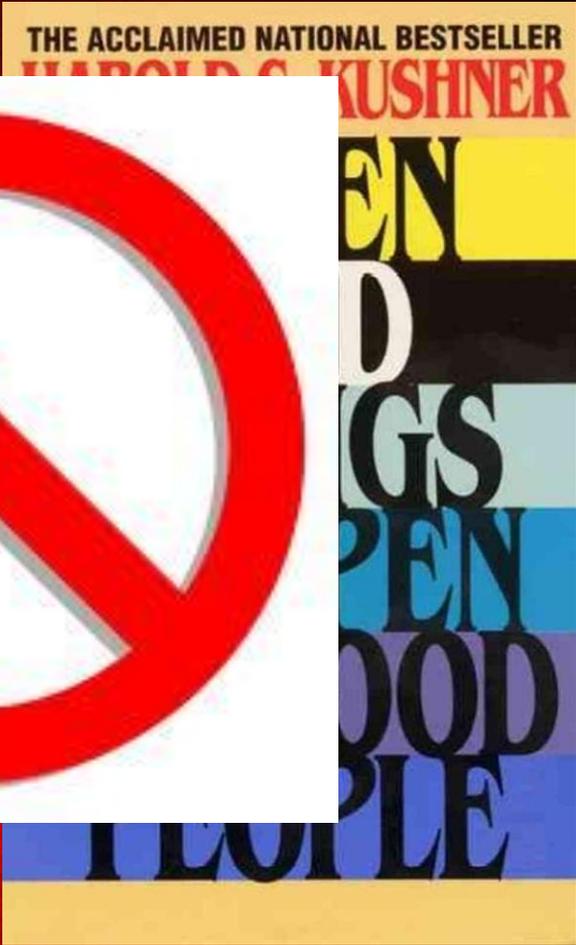
WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF

EVIL AND SUFFERING?

HOW DOES ONE ANSWER THIS?

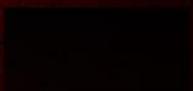
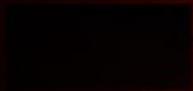
- One easy way is to deny that God is good. 
- Another is to deny God is omnipotent.





Rabbi Kushner

1978

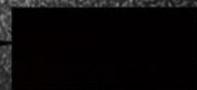


WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF

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- One easy way is to deny that God is good. 
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The Atheist's Strongest Case



Premise 1: God is *omnipotent*, so He has the power to eliminate suffering.

- Yes, He does!
- But He may have a *morally good reason* why He does not intervene.





The Atheist's Strongest Case



Premise 2: God is *good*, so He has the desire to eliminate suffering.

- Yes, that is the reason for the *garden of Eden* and *heaven*.
- God intends to produce a greater good that requires Him to permit evil and suffering.



The Atheist's Strongest Case



Premise 3: The World = suffering!

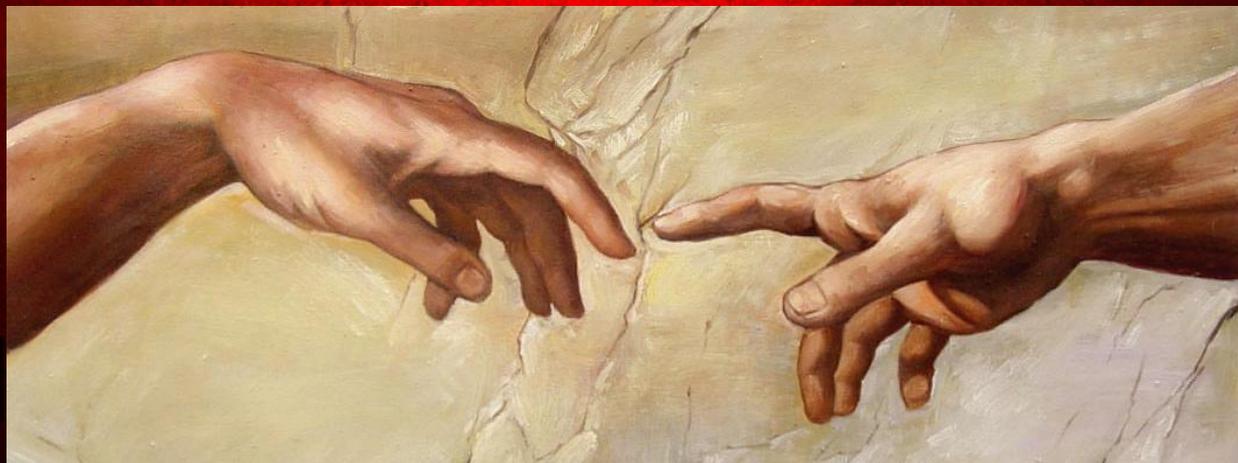
- True, but some of it is *necessary*.
- Most is caused by sin and not by God.

Con: An omnipotent, good God does not exist?

- This conclusion no longer follows!

Gen 1:27-28

“God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” NASU



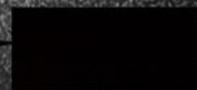
Genesis 1:27-28

A part of God's image = **Free will.**



WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF
**EVIL AND
SUFFERING?**

It is free will, not God, that makes possible all the moral evil in the world (Ecc 7:29)!



Why is Free Will so important?

- Humans are a special creation (Ps 8:5).
- It is necessary for a love relationship.
- It is necessary for human development and learning.
- It is a *necessary prerequisite* for virtue.
- Free will is what makes us human!



The Atheist's Strongest Case

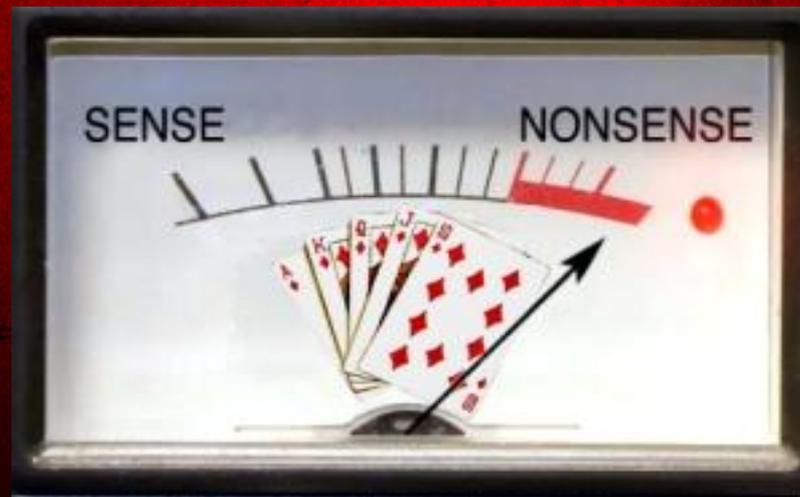


Premise 1: God is *omnipotent*, so He has the power to eliminate suffering.

- Yes, but He may have a *morally good reason* why He does not intervene.
- *To create a world without the possibility of moral evil would take away free will.*

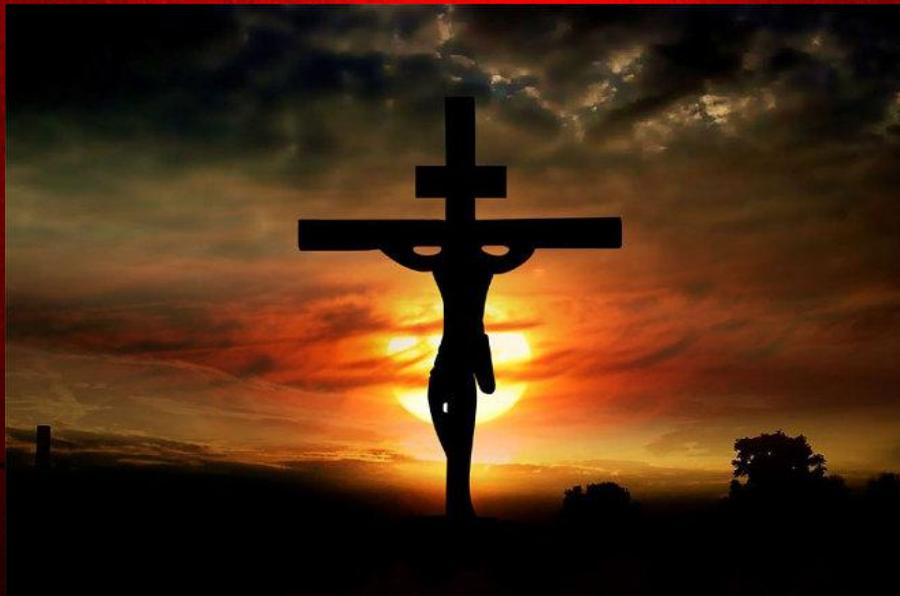
The Meaning of Omnipotence

- Omnipotence means “all powerful” ...
but that does not mean the power to do anything.
- Somethings are *nonsensical* and a contradiction of terms.



The Meaning of Omnipotence

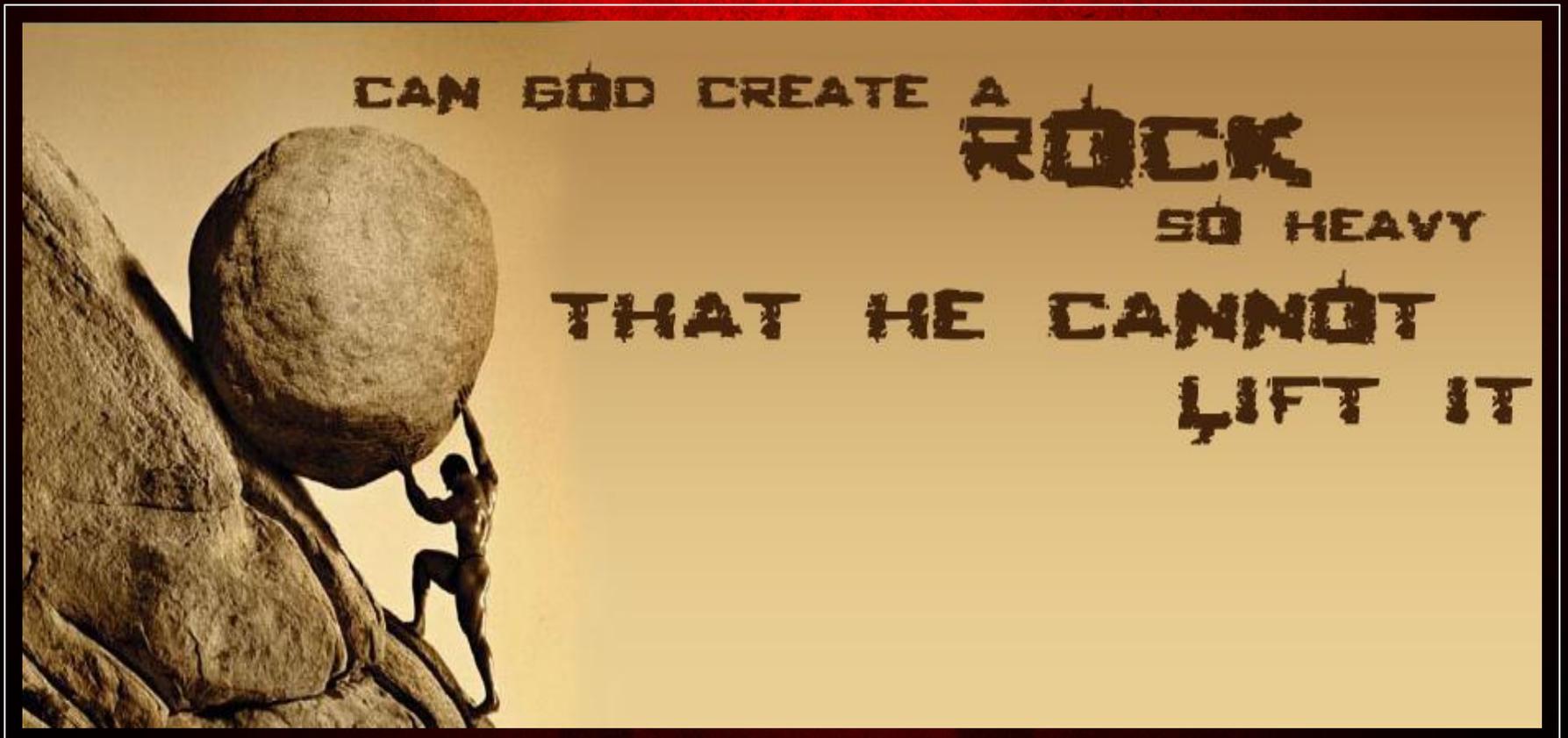
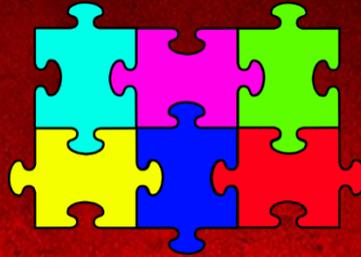
- Somethings are against God's nature (Heb 6:18).
- Was there a way to save man from sin without Jesus having to suffer and die?



Things God can't do. God can't:

- Get *tired* or grow *weary* (Isaiah 40:28).
- Take on a job He *can't handle* (Jer 32:17).
- Be *unholy* (Isa 6:3).
- Be *prejudiced* (Acts 10: 34-35).
- *Break a promise* (Ps 89: 34).
- *Abandon you* (Deut 31:6).
- *Stop thinking about you* (Ps 139: 17-18).
- *Stop loving you* (Jer 31:3).

A Classic Puzzle



A Classic Puzzle

- THE ANSWER IS NO.
 - God has *unlimited power*, so there is no stone He can't lift, therefore it is *impossible* to make one He could not lift.
 - This is not a refutation of His omnipotence; it is the result of His omnipotence.

The Ultimate question...

- Could an *omnipotent* God create a world with free will but no evil?
 - NO!
 - *“God can create free creatures, but He cannot cause or force them to do only what is right. For if He does so then they are not free.”*

WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE POSSIBILITY OF
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