

S.O.A.P.

“Why Bad Things Happen To Good People”

11/9/08

All verses from New Living Translation unless otherwise noted.

Job 5:7 “People are born for trouble as readily as sparks fly up from a fire.”

Isaiah 55:9 “Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

MYTHS CONCERNING PAIN AND SUFFERING

1st Pain is punishment

John 9:1-3 “As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. ‘Rabbi,’ his disciples asked him, ‘why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?’ ‘It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,’ Jesus answered. ‘This happened so the power of God could be seen in him.’”

2nd Pain is nonproductive

Romans 5: 3-4 “We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”

3rd Pain is an indication of spiritual failure

2 Corinthians 11:24-26 “Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at

sea. I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas."

4th Pain is bad

"We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." Romans 8:28

5th Pain is incompatible with a God who is good and all-powerful.

Genesis 1:31 "Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was excellent in every way."