

## How could God do it?

"How could God do it?" was the question I was asked by a lady I met. "How could God inflict His judgment through famine and death?" She was reading the Old Testament parts of the Bible and could not move past them without an answer.

In current times many cannot comprehend how God can allow death and suffering such as the bombing of tourists in Bali. Around us are wars and accidents in which many people lose their lives. Is there really a God and does He really care?

To me, part of the answer lies in the way God created us. We are not obedient robots but people lovingly created for a relationship with God. Each of us has a free will that allows us to love, but also to rebel. God earnestly desires our friendship and love and was willing to risk the heartache to give us a free will.

It reminds me of when one of my daughters used to have a doll that automatically said "I love you" when it sensed movement around it. How hollow and frustrating the doll quickly became, even to my young daughter. The batteries were soon taken out!

Much of the suffering in our world is caused by the direct misuse of our free will, such as the bombings. Other aspects of suffering, like floods, are a result of the entry of sin into God's perfect creation at the time of Adam and Eve.

Does God understand our suffering? He has suffered his own deep pain of his creation rejecting him. Further he has sent his own son Jesus to die and suffer to make a restored relationship with Him possible. What kind of amazing God is He? As we remember the anniversary of Jesus' death at each Easter can you accept God's love gift of Jesus to us?

*He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.....But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:3-6 NIV*

If you would like to consider these and other issues the book "A Sneaking Suspicion" by John Dickson is easy and helpful to read.