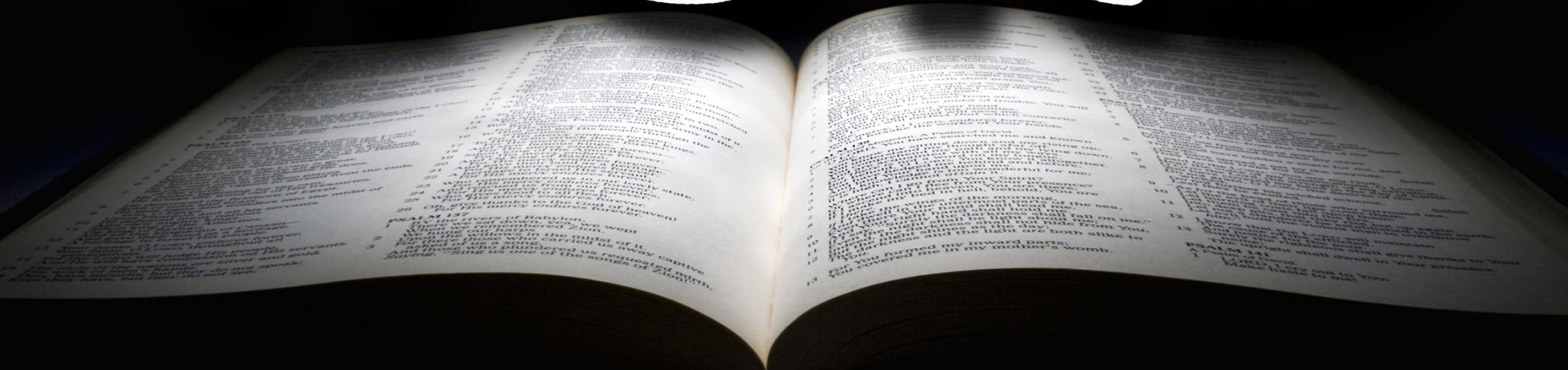


The FIRST & the last

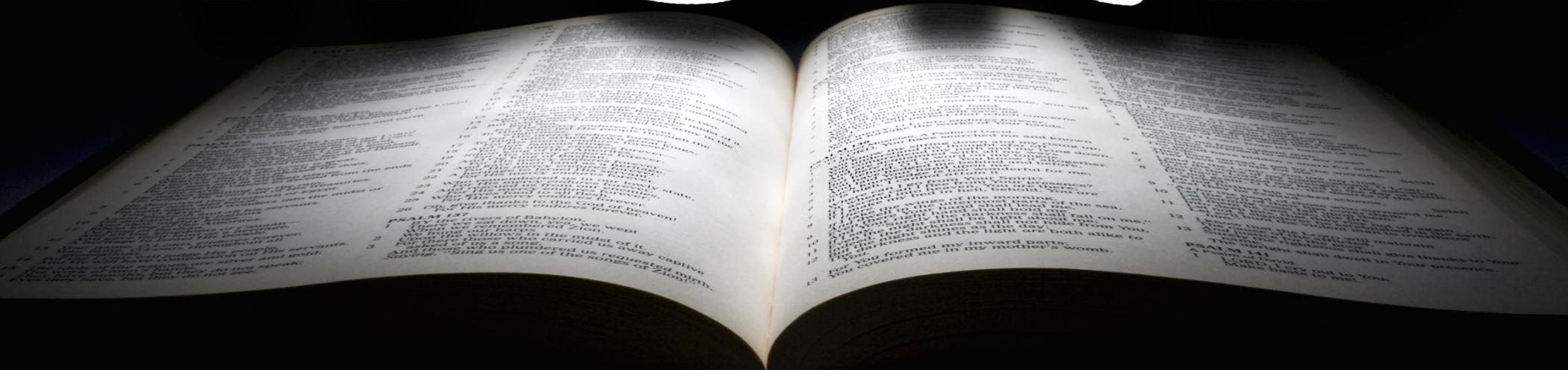
WORD



EXAMINING THE PURPOSE & POWER OF GOD'S WORD

The FIRST & the last

WORD



EXAMINING THE PURPOSE & POWER OF GOD'S WORD



Penn Jillette

“Reading the Bible is
the fast track to atheism”



Why does a good
God allow evil and
suffering?

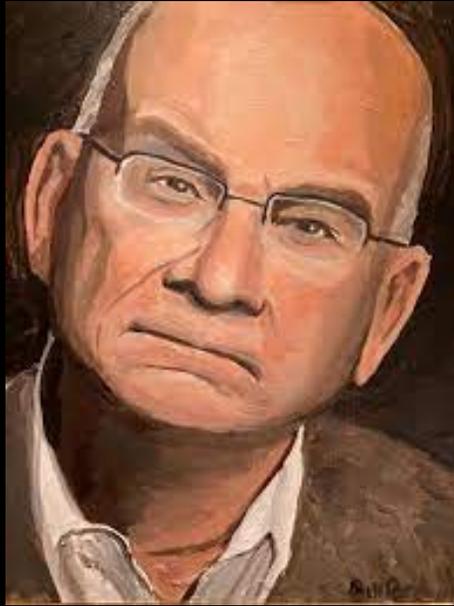
“If God allows evil and suffering to continue because he can’t stop it, then he might be good but he’s not all-powerful.”



Why does a good
God allow evil and
suffering?

“On the other hand, if God allows evil and suffering to continue because he could stop it and yet he won’t stop it, then he might be all-powerful, but he’s not all good.”





Tim Keller
Pastor/Author

“If our minds can’t plumb the depths of the universe for good reasons to suffering, well, then, there can’t be any! This is blind faith of a high order.”



Though you must endure many trials for a little while. ...your faith (if it) remains strong through many trials, will bring you much praise and glory and honor...

I Peter 1:6,7





C.S Lewis

"My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of "just" and "unjust" ...What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?"



So what does the Bible tell us about how we should approach evil and suffering in this world?





The story of the Bible culminates with
God suffering in our place!



...even though you must endure many trials for a little while. ⁷ These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold. 1 Peter 1:6,7



When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.³ For I am the Lord, your God.

Isaiah 43:1-3



(Jesus) endured the cross, disregarding its shame...³ Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. ⁴ After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

Hebrews 12:2-4



For God made Christ, who never sinned,
to be the offering for our sin...

2 Corinthians 5:21



And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! ⁵ But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

Isaiah 53:4,5





We know that in
everything God works
for the good of those
who love him.

Romans 8:28





Trusting God amidst suffering
requires a "Living Hope"



It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay.

1 Peter 3,4



Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.

I Corinthians 15:20



It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, ... those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. ⁵³ For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

I Corinthians 15:52,53





Let the "Good News"
flood your heart.



This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you.¹¹ They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when he told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward.

1 Peter 1:10,11



They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.

1 Peter 1:12

(God's) purpose was that through the church all the rulers and powers in the heavenly world will now know God's wisdom, which has so many forms. ¹¹ This agrees with the purpose God had since the beginning of time, and he carried out his plan through Christ Jesus our Lord.



In Christ we can come before God with freedom and without fear. We can do this through faith in Christ. ¹³ So I ask you not to become discouraged because of the sufferings I am having for you. My sufferings are for your glory.

Ephesians 3:10-13



For the joy that was set before
him, he endured the cross.
Hebrews 12:2



When he sees all that is accomplished
by his anguish, he will be satisfied.

Isaiah 53:11a



My righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.

Isaiah 53:11b



I want to know Christ and the power that raised him from the dead. I want to share in his sufferings and become like him in his death. ¹¹ Then I have hope that I myself will be raised from the dead.

Philippians 3:10-11



