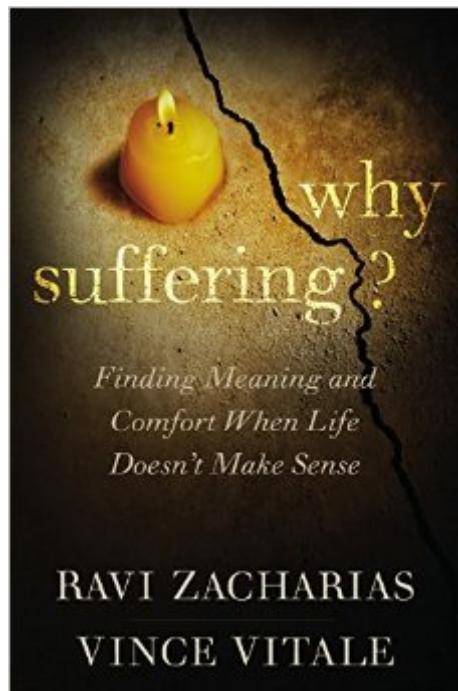


The book was found

Why Suffering?: Finding Meaning And Comfort When Life Doesn't Make Sense



Synopsis

Why would a loving and powerful God allow so much pain and suffering? In WHY SUFFERING? Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale carefully walk you through a variety of responses that considered together provide a clear, comprehensive, and convincing answer. Responses like: Where there is the possibility of love, there has to be the reality of freedom, and therefore the possibility of pain. Wishing God had made a different world is to wish yourself out of existence. In comparison with other world religions, the Christian response is highly distinctive. Here is a book written with great respect for the complexity of the issue, recognizing that some who read it will be in the trenches of deep suffering themselves and others questioning the very existence of a loving God. WHY SUFFERING? provides an answer to the problem of pain and suffering with emotional sensitivity and intellectual integrity.

Book Information

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We ask it every day. We ask it in the big things and the small things. We ask it when our world implodes around us and when we explode into our world. It is a universal question asked in every human language and guttural moan imaginable. It is asked the world over, from the richest to the poorest, from the East to the West, from ancient times to our modern days. It is a question inherent to our being, the answer to which provides the answer for our ontological longing. Why Suffering? Zacharias begins the book by elaborating on the question. What do people mean when they ask this question? How are we supposed to answer? Among other things, he develops the difference between the intellectual question and the personal question. In other words, the

beginnings of an answer lie in why the question is being asked. Is this just another intellectual exercise for a skeptic or have they recently been through a tragic loss. Zacharias suggests that while the problem of evil can be discussed philosophically, it is usually best answered pastorally. From this introduction, Zacharias and Vitale trade chapters on various responses to the problem of suffering. Space prohibits a full analysis, so suffice it to say that Zacharias writes on the responses of freedom and morality while Vitale writes about grace, the Cross, and hope. Zacharias also writes a magnificent chapter midway through that compares the Christian answer to the answers from Buddhism, Islam, and naturalism. Every chapter in the book is a goldmine. I suggest you take just over a week to read this book and focus on one chapter a day. Let the material sink in, grapple with it, think through it, and incorporate it into your own life.

I listened to the audio book and have not yet bought a print copy so my experience will be different from many reviewers. I still intend on purchasing a print copy because this book is packed full of helpful information for people from all walks of life. The approach Ravi and Vince take in this book is extremely thorough and diverse, which makes it extremely helpful and accessible. I can only go so deep when listening to a book, rather than studying the pages of a print copy, so when it comes to accessibility, I found Ravi's chapters much more difficult to keep up with the technicality and would have benefited greatly from a print copy because I know many of the things he was saying were profound. Vince's chapters on the other hand were extremely easy to follow when listening due to the poignant, and extremely entertaining illustrations. After listening to chapter 3, I listened to it again with my wife because I found the illustrations so helpful. My wife, who is not into philosophy, easily understood the points that being made and was glad I shared it with her, which is not always the case. I don't want to be misunderstood in comparing Ravi and Vince to say that Vince was not technical in his arguments. I found Vince's arguments airtight and his illustrations carefully chosen. Due to his writing style, I did not feel like I was listening to a philosopher, although by the time the chapter was over I had just learned a philosophical response almost without realizing it.

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