1. Genesis 3:16-19 tells us of the entrance of sin and suffering into the human condition:

GEN 3:16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall bring forth children; Yet your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

GEN 3:17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. GEN 3:18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you shall eat the plants of the field;

GEN 3:19 By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."

We also learn from Romans 5:12-19 that sin and suffering spread to all mankind. Human mortality, deterioration, susceptibility to sickness, weakness, and death all originated at this time; and as we read the unfolding history of fallen humanity, we clearly see these results in the lives of Adam's descendants.

- 2. With regard to the <u>end</u> of human suffering, the Bible gives a mixed answer, depending on the spiritual condition of the persons concerned at the moment of death.
 - a. Revelation 14:9-11 and 20:11-15 tell us of the destiny of those who have died in their sins: they are to suffer endlessly.

REV 14:9 And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand,

REV 14:10 he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

REV 14:11 "And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."

REV 20:11 And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.