

Dualism is not an option, since Satan is a created being and not eternal.

And Aaron Jastrow's solution (or Herman Wouk's) of finding injustice in God is also not a way open to those who are controlled by the authority of Scripture, since God is consistently represented in the Bible as righteous in all his ways and just in all His judgments.

What then is the ultimate cause of suffering? What are the root causes of all the varied forms of human suffering?

B. A Biblical View of the Causes of Suffering

From an examination of the biblical materials, it would appear that there are five root causes of suffering among human beings.

First, there is the curse on human beings resulting from the Fall, in terms of spiritual guilt, death, and depravity; and physical disorder, corruption, and death. Scriptural evidence of this curse may be found in the following places:

Genesis 2:16-17 – "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.'"

Psalms 51:5 – "Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me." (Note that David says that he was a sinner, not only at birth but at conception)

Romans 5:17-19 – "For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men; even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous." (Note that through one man's sin (Adam's) all men became sinners, died spiritually, began to die physically, and were condemned)