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WHY THE MOSQUITO?

With a "Whiiiiiiiiiii," it lets you know it is coming. Then with a fierce bite, you know it has arrived. With a "yelp" you give it a slap. When mosquitoes are attacking us, it's easy to wonder why a loving God made pests and other things like disease, suffering and death.

To answer this question, we must go all the way back to Creation. Everything that God made was "very good." (Genesis 1:31) There were no diseases or suffering. God created Adam and Eve, our first "parents," and put them in the Garden of Eden. God told Adam that he could eat from any tree in the garden, except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If he ate of that tree, he would "surely die"! (Genesis 2:17) God gave Adam and Eve the ability to make their own choices. They were not programmed to act like robots. They could decide if they wanted to obey or disobey God. Sadly, Adam and Eve made the wrong choice.

When Adam and Eve broke the one rule God had asked them to keep, everything went wrong. Because of their sin (disobeying God), death and suffering came into the world (Romans 5:12), just as God had warned.

So, was it Adam and Eve's fault that all bad things happen? It may have started with them, but God

tells us in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "All" is you, and me, and everybody! We naturally choose not to follow God's instructions. Death and suffering is a price that we have to pay for that.

But what about innocent babies who have done no wrong - why do they sometimes suffer? There are no easy answers to this question but it is helpful to think about Jesus. He was also innocent and was without sin. (Hebrews 4:15) Yet, He suffered horribly. Sometimes innocent people suffer because those around them disobey God.

Mosquitoes add to our suffering since some can carry very dangerous diseases (like malaria, yellow fever, and West Nile virus). In fact, more humans die from mosquito bites than from any other insect.

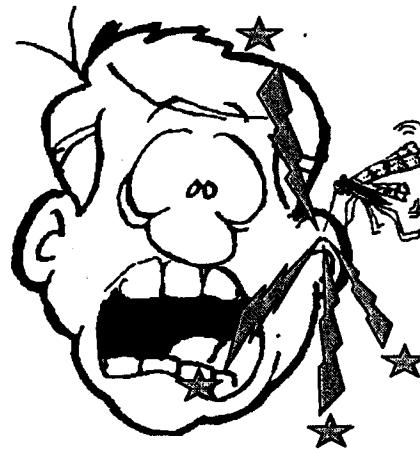
So should we blame a mosquito for the pain it causes us? Actually, a mosquito is not doing this to hurt us. She sees us as just another place to get blood. I use the word "she" because only the female mosquito bites you and eats blood. The male gets his food from the sap of plants. The female needs the hemoglobin found in blood to produce eggs. Interestingly, some plants also have hemoglobin. It might be that before man sinned,

the female got her hemoglobin from plants.

Even though mosquitoes are pesky to us, they have a place in the world that God made. Mosquitoes are a good source of food for many animals such as frogs, fish, lizards, bats, and birds. Baby mosquitoes (larvae) help to filter and clean the water they live in.

Our God, who created all things, allows the mosquito to remain even though it causes suffering. Maybe one reason He does not take away all suffering is to remind us of the results of sin. Every mosquito bite ought to remind us that the Bible is true and we should obey God!

The Bible tells us that we are only on this earth for a very short time. You see, Jesus died for our sins so that those who have faith in Him will be with Him when they die. God has prepared a place for those who put their trust in Jesus - "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:4). It will be a place where the wolves, lambs, leopards, goats, lions, calves, bears, snakes and people shall live together peacefully (Isaiah 11: 6-9). It will be a world of joy where the "Whiiiiiiiiiii" of a mosquito might be music to our ears. Are you ready for a place like this? Have you given your life to Jesus? (Read the back page to see how.)



Study these verses to see how Jesus can save you from your sin.

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) Every one is a sinner.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)

Death means separation forever from God. Eternal life comes by trusting Jesus.

"But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." ((Romans 5:8) God loves us so much that He gave His Son to die for our sins.

"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you shall be saved." (Romans 10:9) To be saved, you must believe that Jesus died for your sins and acknowledge him as Lord of your life.

"Whosoever will call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13) God promises that if you accept Jesus as Lord, He will accept you.



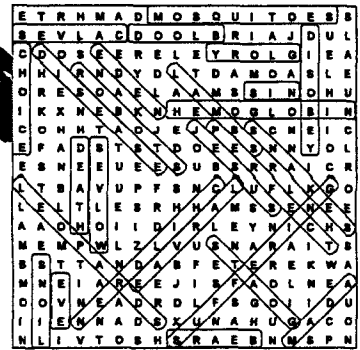
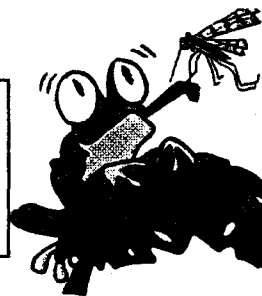
Look for the words hidden in the puzzle from the words in the WORD LIST below. The hidden words might be up, down, sideways, or slanted (not backwards).

Are you willing to receive God's gift of eternal life? Are you willing to turn from your sin and place your faith in Jesus? If you are, and you accept this with your whole heart, you need to talk to God in prayer and ask Him to forgive your sins. Here is a prayer you might use: Dear Lord Jesus...I believe You are the Son of God...and that you died to forgive me of my sins...Jesus I know I have sinned...Jesus, I ask you to forgive me...I turn from my sins and trust you as my Lord and Savior...Thank you for saving me. Amen. If you believe and pray, God will forgive you of your sins and you can know that when you die you are going to heaven to be with God forever!

For those of you who gave your life to the Lord Jesus, there are some very important things for you to do. We call them:

4 Steps To Grow As A New Christian

1. Talk to God often in prayer. (I Thessalonians 5:17)
2. Read your Bible daily. (II Timothy 2:15)
3. Attend a Bible-believing church regularly. (Acts 2:42)
4. Be baptized as a testimony of your salvation. (Acts 2:42)



WORD LIST

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| WOLVES | LAMBS |
| MOSQUITOES | LEOPARDS |
| GOATS | LIONS |
| CALVES | BEARS |
| SNAKES | CHILDREN |
| DISEASE | SUFFERING |
| DEATH | PERFECT |
| EDEN | ADAM |
| EVE | ROBOTS |
| SIN | DISOBEY |
| GLORY | BLOOD |
| HEMOGLOBIN | LARVAE |
| CHOICE | JESUS |

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