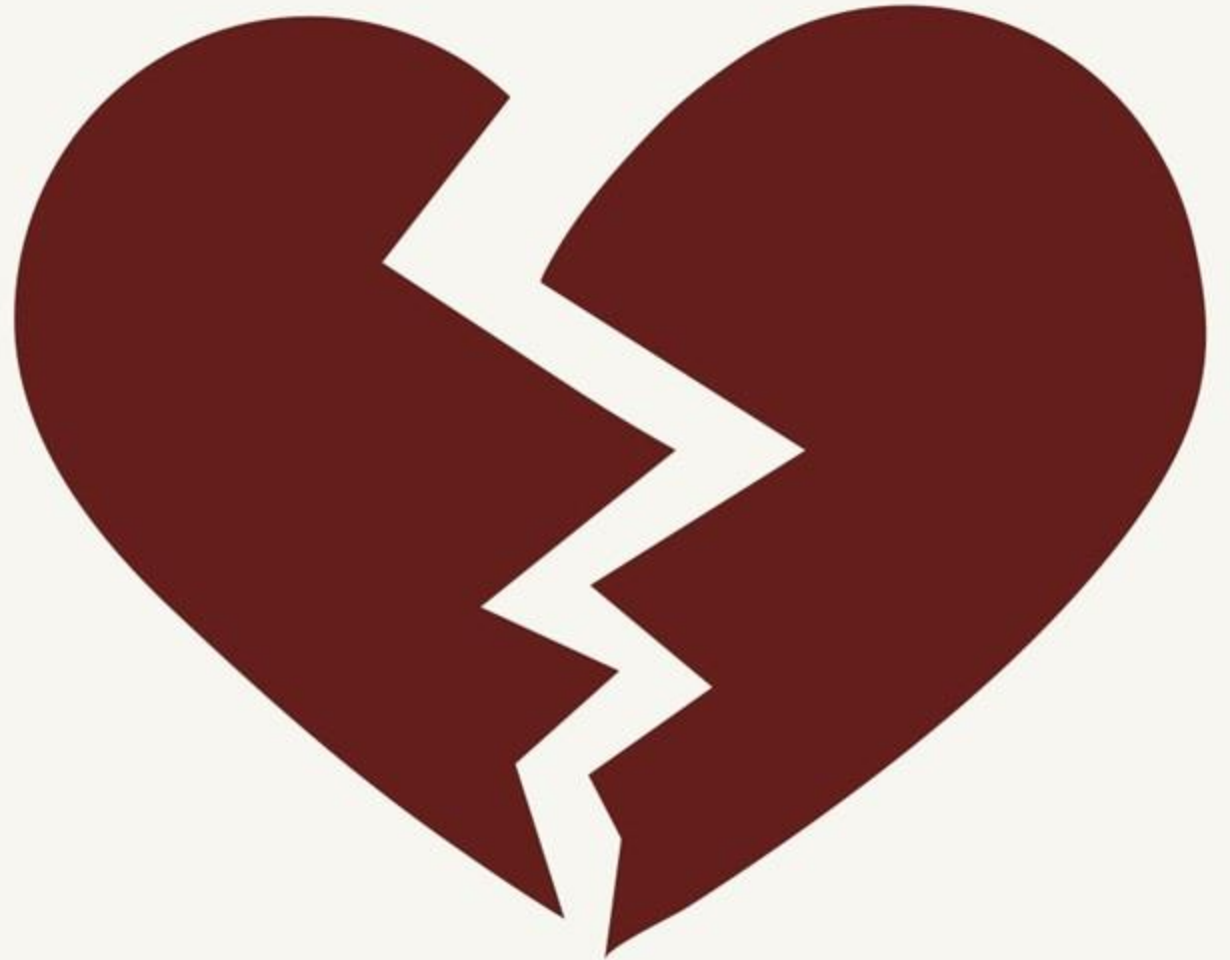


Does God
Really Care
for the
Hurting?

Exodus 3:6-8



To the dumb question, why me? The cosmos barely bothers to return the reply: “Why not.” I’m here as a product of the process of evolution, which doesn’t make very many exceptions. And which rates life relatively cheaply. I mean, most human beings who’ve ever been born would have been dead long before they reached my age. And I would think in most of the rest of the world—well, I know it—is still true. So to be relatively healthy at 62 is to be dealt a pretty good hand by the cosmos, which doesn’t know I’m here—and won’t notice when I’m gone. So that seemed the only properly stoic attitude to take.

—Christopher Hitchens

Epicurus's old questions are yet unanswered. Is he [God] willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then is he impotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then is he malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Whence then is evil?

—David Hume

Does Jesus care ... ? Oh yes, he cares; I know he cares; his heart is touched with my grief! When the days are weary, the long nights dreary, I know my Savior cares.

—Frank E. Graeff

BUT HOW DO WE KNOW THAT GOD REALLY CARES?!

6 He said also, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

DOES GOD REALLY CARE FOR THE HURTING?

Yes! He identifies himself with people.

- **HOLINESS = SEPARATION but FAITHFULNESS = CONNECTION (Exod 3:1–6; cf. 2:23–25; 6:2–8)**
- **JESUS = ASSOCIATION (Luke 1:46–55, 67–79; Heb 2:9–18; Mark 2:40–45; Luke 23:39–43)**
- **PROOF #1: IDENTITY**



7 And Yahweh said, “I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt, and I have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sufferings.”

DOES GOD REALLY CARE FOR THE HURTING?

Yes! He sees, hears, and knows their pain.

- **OMNISCIENCE = INVOLVEMENT (Exod 3:7 [infinitive + chiasm], 9; 2:24; 6:5; Gen 16:7–14; 29:31–35; 1 Sam 1:9–11)**
- **JESUS = SYMPATHY (Heb 4:14–16; Matt 9:36–38; 14:13–14; 15:32–38; John 11:30–37; Isa 53:1–12)**



- **PROOF #2: KNOWLEDGE**

8 “So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up from that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanite and the Hittite and the Amorite and the Perizzite and the Hivite and the Jebusite.”

DOES GOD REALLY CARE FOR THE HURTING?

Yes! He comes down to bring them up.

- **DESCENT = DELIVERANCE (Exod 3:8; Gen 11:1–9; 18:16–21 = “to deliver” + “to bring up”; Ezek 37:11–14)**
- **JESUS = RESURRECTION (John 11:25–27; Mark 12:24–27)**
- **PROOF #3: DELIVERANCE**



If Jesus were a mere man, his death would prove God's cruelty; the fact that he was God's Son proves instead that God fully identifies with suffering humanity. ... Thus the cross, stumbling block to some, became the cornerstone of Christian faith. Any discussion of how pain and suffering fit into God's scheme ultimately leads back to the cross.

—Philip Yancey

When pain is to be borne, a little courage helps more than much knowledge, a little human sympathy more than much courage, and the least tincture of the love of God more than all.

—C. S. Lewis