

**AVELEIGH'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE**  
**SUNDAY NOV. 25 2018**  
**CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**  
**WHAT ABOUT EVIL AND SUFFERING?**  
**TEXT Mark 15:25-34 p.1095 & Hebrews 12:2-3 p. 1298**

Leader: Let the trumpet blast! Let the ram's horn sound!

People: Christ the King reigns over all!

Leader: Let the earth shout and the heavens declare:

People: Christ the King reigns over all.

Leader: Let the mountains and rivers and seas proclaim:

People: Christ the King reigns over all.

Leader: Let the angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim announce the news:

People: Christ the King reigns over all.

Leader: Let the people of God join the everlasting refrain:

People: Christ the King reigns over all!

**RESPONSIVE PRAYER OF CONFESION**

**LEADER:** Oh Jesus,

**PEOPLE:** You are the King of Glory,

**LEADER:** You are the Lord of Lords, and King of Kings.

**PEOPLE:** And we pray that your Kingdom will reign forever in our hearts and in this world.

**LEADER:** Lord, we pray for your Kingdom to come here now,

**PEOPLE:** bringing a kingdom of justice, righteousness, hope, love,

**LEADER:** peace, mercy and grace for all.

**PEOPLE:** Lord, we ask that you rule in our hearts,

**LEADER:** lead in this world and govern over your kingdom.

**LEADER::**But Lord honestly,

**PEOPLE:** We often have our own plans and agendas

**LEADER:** and we want to be rulers of our world.

**PEOPLE:** Forgive us for those times.

**LEADER:** And Lord we live in a time that would rather idolize the King of Pop

**PEOPLE :**than worship you.

**LEADER:** Help us to know how to live as your Kingdom People in these times.

**PEOPLE:** And Lord there are a lot of Kings in this world who terrorize, over tax, humiliate,

**LEADER:** over exploit, and abuse those they are to lead.

**PEOPLE:** Help us to spread the good news of the different kind of King you are.

**LEADER:** Lord, thank you for being a different kind of King.

**PEOPLE:** Thank you for your goodness and kindness in our lives.

**LEADER:** Thank you for your generosity.

**PEOPLE:** Thank you for loving us.

**LEADER:** Thank you for your Kingdom that is unlike any

**PEOPLE:** Kingdom in this world.

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Mark 15:33, 34 *“And when the sixth hour had come, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour and Jesus cried out with a loud voice... ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’”* NAS

Hebrews 12: 2, 3 *“...fixing our eyes on Jesus...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross...consider Him who has endured...so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.”* NAS

### **I. THREE BIG QUESTIONS**

#### **#1: WHY IS THERE SO MUCH SUFFERING AND EVIL IN THE WORLD?**

#### **#2: IS THERE AN EVIL SPIRIT AT WORK IN THE WORLD?**

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” John 10:10*

*“Each one is tempted when he’s carried away and enticed by his own lust and when lust has conceived it gives birth to sin. And when sin is accomplished it brings forth death” James 1:14, 15*

#### **#3: WHY DOESN'T GOD PUT A FINAL STOP TO EVIL?**

2 Peter 3:9 *“God is restraining Himself on account of you, holding back the end because He doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.”*

*“Count on this. The wicked won't get off scott free and God's loyal people will triumph.”*  
*Proverbs 11:21*

*“The evil have no future. Their life will be snuffed out.” Proverbs 24:20 II Pt. 3:9*

Matthew 18:18 *“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be<sup>1</sup> bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be<sup>1</sup> loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”*

## **II. THREE BIG PRINCIPLES**

#1: WE ARE VERY INCONSISTENT ON THIS TOPIC

#2: WE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND IT ALL, EVEN IF GOD EXPLAINED IT TO US.

“My thoughts are not your thoughts. Neither are My ways your ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth so are My ways higher than your ways, My thoughts higher than your thoughts.” *Isa. 55:8, 9*

#3: WE CAN ASK WHY BUT THAT WON'T GET US THROUGH. OR WE CAN ASK, “GOD TO WHAT END WILL YOU WORK THIS?”

**Conclusion:** LOOK TO GOD'S ENDS AND YOU WILL ALWAYS SEE CHRIST IS KING  
Hebrews 12: 2, 3 “...*fixing our eyes on Jesus...who for the joy set before Him endured the cross...consider Him who has endured...so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.*” NAS

**PRAYER:** Almighty and merciful God, you break the power of evil and make all things new in your Son Jesus Christ, the King of the universe. May all in heaven and earth acclaim your glory and never cease to praise you. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, as CHRIST THE KING. AMEN.

### **Four For The Road:**

How do we make sense of our suffering? How might we be contributing to suffering?

Where is God in This Mess?

Can we learn and grow through suffering, is there's also a bigger picture to see?

Why does God allow tragedies to happen?

Explain the statement, We don't always know why bad things happen, but we do know the One who brings good from them.