

Why was I born into the United States in the 20th century, into a comfortable life, in a rich country offering all of the amenities a person could want?

Why are my greatest challenges my own sin and personal shortcomings rather than survival in a hostile environment?

Why have I never had to go without a meal?

Or walk miles for a few gallons of water from a distant well and return with this heavy load, only to have to do it again tomorrow?

Why wasn't I born 2500 years ago in a pagan country where I was forced to become a temple prostitute or someone's concubine?

A culture where women were used to produce a family or to satisfy men's sexual drives?

A society where women were mere objects, and not allowed to participate in deciding the significant issues of the day?

Why wasn't I born in a country subjected to horrendous genocide or just plain continuous war?

I could have been an Alawite in Syria (even today being massacred and persecuted) where I witnessed the destruction of everything that meant anything to me, including my own family, or have been murdered myself.

Or a Jewess in Europe in 1940, ending up in a concentration camp and sent to the showers, and then burnt in an oven.

I could have been born in Nigeria and had to watch my village attacked by terrorist Muslims, with many of my family and neighbors murdered, beheaded(!) or burned alive in a church building(!), before my eyes.

I could have been one of them. I could have been born in China,

forced to have one child only, ruled with an iron fist, and persecuted if I chose to follow Jesus the Christ.

Instead I have a warm house with a loving doggie and a supportive family.

In our house is running water, both hot and cold. Flushing toilets.

A microwave, a dishwasher, a washing machine and dryer. Plenty of food.

Dependable electricity. A wood stove and a furnace.

A "smart" TV! A soft bed with plenty of blankets.

WHY??? Have I already had my reward on this earth?

Will I be accepted into Your kingdom alongside the persecuted, those who actually suffered, in places like Pakistan or Iran or just about any Muslim country and who came to believe in You, having to sneak around to worship You, possibly ending up in torture and jail?

What have I had to suffer for You? As we live our cushy, rich, and spoiled lives, we watch as the western world (U.S., Europe, etc.) abandons faith in You or worse, distorts Your message,

creating false Christs and sucking

people into deception. It seems that those who are

persecuted or who live in poverty, and who have come to believe in You. have a cleaner and purer faith in You.

Why do you seemingly stand idly by as Hamas, and then the Syrian terrorists masquerading as a legitimate government, commit atrocities and massacre people by the thousands?

Why do we have to watch the U.S. swirl around and around the drain before emptying into the septic tank where our modern culture belongs?

Why is it so hard to BELIEVE the stories of the Old Testament?

Do You really expect us to believe the story of the parting of the Red Sea or a talking donkey, given how steeped we are in skepticism and cynicism?

Will You allow us into Your Kingdom in spite of some unbelief? Why does it seem that Satan has such

easy access to us, to hassle us and to challenge our faith?

When are you going to end this mess? Jesus Himself and Paul and John thought the End would

be right away. It wasn't. Why? Why have You delayed Your return? Will You return?? So what is going on? HOW LONG, O LORD?

Psalm 42 & 43, excerpts Why Are You Cast Down, O My Soul? To the choirmaster.

A Maskil of the Sons of Korah. As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God,

for the living God.

When shall I come and appear before God? . . . Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God....

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me! For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? Send out your light and your truth;

let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Linda Gommel

Mark your SWAP MEET Sat. June 7 8am to 3pm

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

If Planned Parenthood was killing puppies instead of babies, America would have shut them down by now.

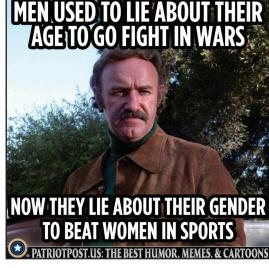


The left is going around tagging cars with their party's logo...



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