

Thoughts from John 16:1-15

**A new way of looking at things. Two beginnings of our world.**

The Holy Spirit seeks to convince people that God is good. If he is not good, there is no hope in the world. It's our fault there is trouble in this present world.

• **A good God and bad things in the world He created.** People ask.. Why

911? Why do loved ones end up in a grave?

Why the suffering of innocent children? Why starvation of so many? Why hurricanes and earthquakes, and exploding volcanoes?

• **The Answer—God did not create a world with sharp teeth.**

• The first beginning, when God created the world in six days, was a paradise. All the creatures of the earth were vegetarians. Animals did not bite and devour each other's flesh. And people did not bite and devour one another in relationships. God said it was good.

• *And God said, 'Look! I have given you the seed-bearing plants throughout the earth and all the fruit trees for your food. I have given all the grasses and other green plants to the animals and birds for their food. And so it was. Then God looked over all that he had made, and he saw that it was excellent (good) in every way. This happened on the sixth day.'* Genesis 1:29-31

• **There were two beginnings of this world?** A second beginning of the world happened after the fall - when mankind decided to play god. They not only were cast out of the garden - the creation endured a holocaust worse than any nuclear holocaust. The DNA of every creature was damaged. Sharp teeth appeared. Death came. One son of the first people killed his brother. The earth itself became dangerous - storms and earthquakes.

• *"Against its will, everything on earth was subjected to God's curse. All creation anticipates the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay."* Romans 8:20-22

• **The issue - a God we can trust is good.** Unless we say there were two beginnings. Then God is responsible for the miseries and death of this creation—he built it in. If we say that the world of sharp teeth came into being after the FALL, then it's our fault. And we have a God we can trust.

• **A third beginning. The new earth.**

*"Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will give us later."* Romans 8:18f