

Understanding Human Trafficking How Long, O Lord?

I. How Long, O Lord?

Habakkuk 1:2
How long, O LORD, must I call for help?
But you do not listen!
“Violence is everywhere!” I cry,
but you do not come to save.

2 outstanding books:

- Carson, D. A. (2006). *How Long, O Lord?* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker
- Piper, John & Taylor, Justin (eds.) (2006). *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books

II. Slavery.

Psalm 94:3
How long will the wicked, O Lord, how long will the wicked be jubilant?

The goal of traffickers is to exploit victims for some type of profit.

“Evil is evil because it is rebellion against God. Evil is the failure to do what God demands or the performance of what God forbids. The Bible vehemently insists on the evil of evil. Evil is to be abhorred (Rom. 12:9), yet it suffuses all of us. “There is no one righteous, not even one.., there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away...” (Rom. 3:10ff). Not to love God with heart and soul and mind and strength is a great evil, for God has demanded it; not to love our neighbor as ourself is a great evil, for the same reason. The dimensions of evil are thus established by the dimensions of God; the ugliness of evil is established by the beauty of God; the filth of evil is established by the purity of God; the selfishness of evil is established by the love of God.”¹

Prayer:

Thank God

- That he causes light to shine out of darkness.
- That he is sovereign over Satan.
- That he has provided a Redeemer to rescue us from the evil with us.

2 Corinthians 4:4 & 6

¹ Carson, D. A. (2006). *How Long, O Lord?* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, p. 42.

III. Markets.

Psalm 73:7
 From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
 the evil conceits of their minds know no limits.

Number of victims?

Markets in which victims are trafficked.

Prayer:

Bring before the Lord those who are victims and ask him to reach down and rescue them.

Psalm 10:12

IV. Vulnerable populations.

Psalm 109:22
 For I am poor and needy,
 and my heart is wounded within me.

Vulnerable:

Prayer:

Cry out to God on behalf of the poor and needy. Express confidence in his power to deliver and save.

Psalm 10:14

V. Methods to recruit victims.

Isaiah 32:7
 The scoundrel's methods are wicked,
 he makes up evil schemes
 to destroy the poor with lies,
 even when the plea of the needy is just.

Traffickers look for _____

Perhaps the most common method used by traffickers to recruit victims is

_____.

“The pain of suffering is both dark and deep. This is crucial to see, for when we minimize the pain we fail to love others and we fail to honor God. When we minimize the pain of suffering we can no longer understand the apostle Paul, who said, “For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison” (2 Cor. 4:17). There is nothing astounding about such a statement if Paul is speaking about hangnails, stubbed toes, and his favorite shirt getting stained.”²

“So it is good for us to delve into the depths of our pain in suffering for in so doing we will be teaching ourselves the far greater value of the eternal weight of glory.”³

Prayer:

- Ask God to protect potential victims from lying lips.
- Ask God to help us not minimize the pain of suffering and thereby fail to love others and honor God.
- Ask God to help us better understand the far greater value of the eternal weight of glory.
- Ask God to help us love those around us with great compassion – not just human trafficking victims but the grumpy neighbor and the difficult co-worker.

Psalm 10:17-18

VI. Methods of maintaining control over victims.

Psalm 10:10

His victims are crushed, they collapse;
they fall under his strength.

- A. _____
- B. _____ of documents like passports or visas.
- C. _____
- D. Imprisonment or confinement or physical restraint.
- E. Denial of _____
- F. Control of victim's _____
- G. Forced usage of _____.

² Piper, John & Taylor, Justin (eds.) (2006). *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books (Dustin Shramek, p. 175).

³ Piper, John & Taylor, Justin (eds.) (2006). *Suffering and the Sovereignty of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books (Dustin Shramek, p. 176).

H. Creation of emotional dependence.

I. _____

J. _____

Prayer:

- Pray that God would foil the plans of the wicked.
- Pray that you would take refuge in God and that as you take refuge in him the feelings of oppressiveness you may be drawn to will be redirected toward the mercy and beauty of our Savior.

Psalm 73:16-17

VII. Additional obstacles to freedom.

- No place to go.
- No skills to be able to get work.
- In a foreign country.
- Fear.
- Reluctance to cooperate.
- Loss of sense of community that developed among enslaved group.
- Significant health issues.
- Sense of the unknown.

VIII. After effects

- Fear.
- Horrible memories.
- Lack of trust.
- Shame.
- Reaction of others.
- Job and life skills.

- Friendship/relational skills.
- Addictions and dependencies.
- Health.
- Anger.
- Need legal advocacy.
- May have become envious of the wicked.
- Stoicism.
- Tempted to return to prostitution.
- Vulnerable to revictimization.

Prayer:

- Pray that we would be people who bring good news to the poor.
- Pray that we would do this with the same gentleness, compassion and tenderness that our Lord does.

Isaiah 61:1-3

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