

Deep Theology:
A Reflection on Suffering Informed by Contemporary Science

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Theologians' efforts to reflect on God's activity in relation to the world informed by contemporary scientific findings can be brought constructively into the realm of health care to mitigate suffering that faith-filled patients and care-givers experience. Key to this effort is understanding God's relationship to the world, particularly God's power and control over the world. Recognizing that biblical writers and theologians reflected on God's power from their understanding of the world, thinking today about this divine attribute requires informing theological discourse with at least broad current scientific findings so it is relevant, helpful, and meaningful for people who are suffering. Toward this end, criteria for constructing models of the God-world relationship are identified, some helpful models are explored, and the benefits of adopting them to explain human suffering are proffered.