

September 10, 2017

Natural Disasters

Introduction:

Is God in control of natural disasters?

Nature itself is under the curse.

(Genesis 3:17; Romans 8:19-21)

God is in control.

(Mark 4:39; Psalm 135:6-7; Genesis 6; Numbers 16; Joshua 10; 1 Kings 17-18; Psalm 115:3)

When we fight nature, are we fighting God?

God controls nature, but nature is not God!

(Genesis 1:28; John 11)

Can we charge God with doing wrong?

(Job 37:6, 10-13)

Upheavals of nature demonstrate God's judgment.

(Romans 11:22; Luke 6:35; Lamentations 3:22-23)

God plays by different rules.

(Isaiah 55:8-9; Ephesians 1:11; Deuteronomy 28:63)

As finite beings, we cannot judge God.

(Job 38:1-2; Romans 9:20-21; Hebrews 11:6)

What is God saying to people through natural disasters?

Disasters are pictures of God's judgment.

Natural disasters are God's megaphone.

Death is inevitable.

(Hebrews 9:27)

Judgment is coming.

(Luke 13:2-5)

Future judgment is coming.

(Revelation 6:12-17; 20:11-15)

Questions for Group Discussion

1. Why do people take consider terrible weather situations to be "acts of God" but not good weather?
2. What disasters are caused in Psalm 135:6-7; Genesis 6:17 and Numbers 16:31-33 and who caused them?
3. What do natural disasters reveal about God's attributes?
4. If natural disasters are God's way of warning people, what is He saying? Is the message getting through? why or why not?
5. While it is true that natural disasters are God's megaphone to get our attention, what principle does Jesus teach us in Luke 13:2-5?
6. Why is it that final rewards and punishments are not given out in this life? What does this suggest about how we respond?
7. Read Romans 8:18-25. Will our world always be in its current condition? How are we to live in the time before our bodies (and our world) are redeemed?