
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Why does God allow and tornados and other disasters?**

This short study applies to all types of disasters—earthquakes, famines, hurricanes, tornados, acts of terrorism, and wars. Why does God allow these things to happen?

At the time I'm writing and recording this message I live in Seminole, OK. On the date of May 11, 2022 a tornado passed through our city doing extensive damage. To my knowledge, no one died from the storms that night—for which I'm very thankful. But the storm brings up the question: ***If God is good and if He is almighty and could stop these damaging storms, then why does He allow them to occur?***

One thing seems evident from the scriptures:

- God either sent the storms
- Or God allowed the storms—though He did not specifically send these damaging winds.

(Everything that occurs, occurs because God either caused it or allowed it.)

1) God allows thing to happen.

In the Book of Job, chapters one and two, God allows Satan to destroy Job's property, his children, and his health. Satan was the immediate cause of all these disasters, but God allowed Satan to perform these tragedies in order to test Job.

- ***Satan was accusing Job of being a hireling.*** He says Job is serving God only because he's being enriched by God. This, by the way, is the only reason many people serve God—they think they are being blessed by God, but when the blessings are removed, they turn their back on God and "*curse Him to His face*" as Job 1:11 says.
- ***Satan was accusing God of bribing Job.*** He is saying the only way God can get anyone to worship Him is to bribe them with lots and lots of gifts and wealth, but if He ever stops giving out the blessings, there goes the worship and devotion.

The point of the Book of Job is that men ought to worship and serve God because it's the right thing to do. Men should serve God because He is the Creator and He's holy and He is deserving of all worship and honor and praise.

(Our modern society has lost the concept of doing what is right because it is the right thing to do.)

Serving and worshiping God is the right thing to do—even if we are not enriched or blessed in the process.

Revelation 15:4

⁴ Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?
For *You* alone *are* holy.
For all nations shall come and worship before You,
For Your judgments have been manifested."

So, God allows Satan to work disasters in our lives to test us sometimes to see: *Are we loyal to God even when all blessings have been removed? Are we serving Him simply because it's the right thing to do?*

2) God causes things to happen.

In the prophets we read that God sometimes sends storms and disasters. He does this for two reasons:

- ***Sometimes God sends disasters as a judgment for wickedness***, as in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah, but these judgments are sent as a last resort when all else has failed to bring about reform.

2 Peter 3:9

⁹ The Lord is *not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

So as a last resort, God punishes with storms and natural disasters.

- ***Sometimes God sends disasters to invoke repentance.***

Amos 4:10

¹⁰ "I sent among you a plague after the manner of Egypt; Your young men I killed with a sword, Along with your captive horses; I made the stench of your camps come up into your nostrils; Yet you have not returned to Me," Says the LORD.

This seems to be the point of the seven trumpets of Revelation 8-11. Here God sends one disaster after another, not killing everyone, but reminding men of their sinfulness and their need to repent and serve God. But like Pharaoh of Egypt, people today harden their hearts and refuse to repent and serve the God Who created them and holds their lives and their eternal destiny in His hands. After the sounding of the sixth trumpet and after the killing of a third of the population, the scripture records:

Revelation 9:21

²¹ And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts.

Here the living who survive have a chance to repent and make things right, but they refuse the gracious opportunity God has given them to repent.

This is the reason, sometimes, that God allows storms and disasters to come upon people: ***To remind people they have been put on the earth to serve and worship the One Who created them and Who holds their lives and their eternal destinies in His hand.*** Let us learn from Pharaoh not to harden our hearts and resist the almighty Creator.

Announcements

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