The Shaking - Part 12 Wheat & Tares: Increase in Natural Disasters







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The Great Controversy between God and Satan is primarily over

"WORSHIP"

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And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.

Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Beetroot

Health Benefits of Beetroot (Seek Medical Advise)
Available all year round, beets are sweetest and most tender during their peak season. While varieties such as white and yellow beets make for pretty dishes, only red beets have the cancer-fighting compound betacyanin.
Roast it whole, blend it into a soup or drink it as juice — low in fat, full of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.

A 100g serving of raw beets: 36 kcals/154KJ, 7g protein, 1g fat, 6g carbs, 5g fibre, 380mg potassium, 150mcg folate.

- 1. May have anti-cancer properties betacyanin helps suppress the development of some types of cancer.
- 2. **May lower blood pressure** Nitrates relaxes the blood vessels, reducing arterial stiffness and promoting dilation.
- 3. **May improve energy levels** supports endurance and improves performance, bring more oxygen to muscle cells.
- 4. May improve digestive health rich in fibre, glutamine an amino acid essential to maintenance of our gut.
- 5. May be anti-inflammatory betalain compounds, have high anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory capabilities.
- Individuals with a history of oxalate-containing kidney stones should avoid over-consuming beetroot.

BENEFITS OF BEETROOT

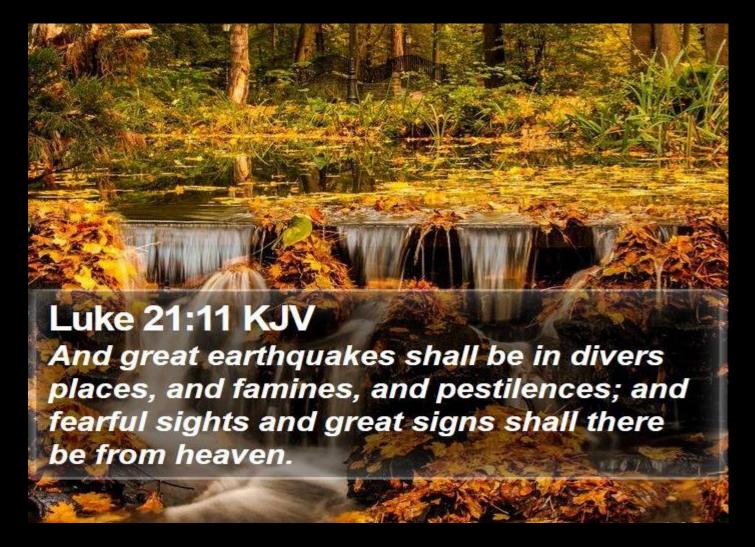
- 1. Conquers Heart Diseases
- 2. Controls the Blood Pressure
- 3. Beneficial for Bones & in Osteoporosis
- 4. Great Ant-Cancer Diet
- 5. Conquers Kidney Diseases
- 6. Enhances Wound Healing
- 7. Lowers Cholesterol
- 8. Cleanses Blood Vessels
- 9. Anti-Aging
- 10.Detoxifies Body
- 11.Pregnancy Food
- 12.Improves Immunity

Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?





Yes we Can!



The Shaking - Part 12 Wheat & Tares: Increase in Natural Disasters



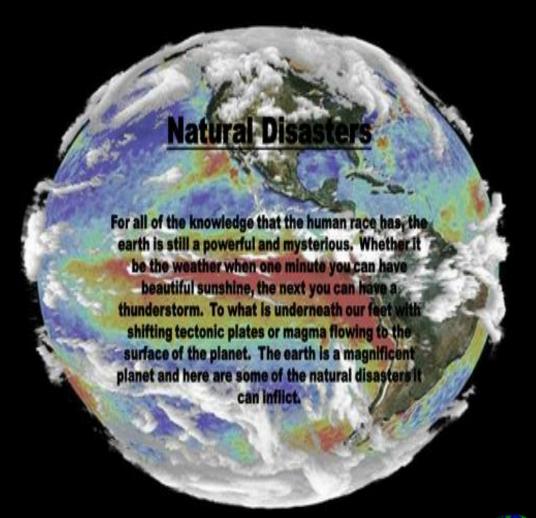




Introduction

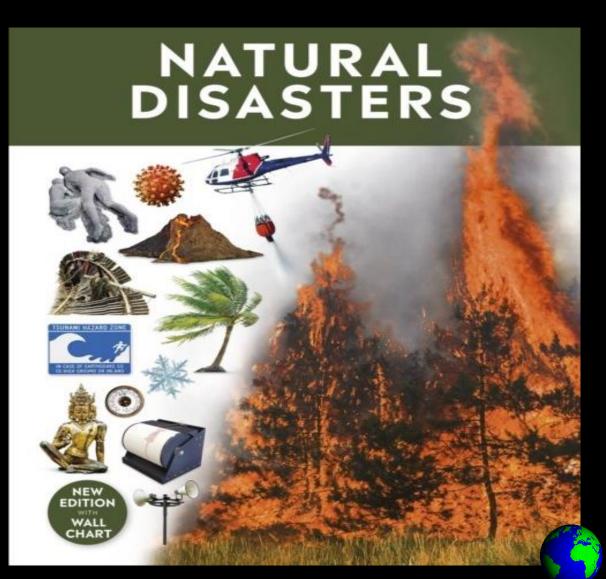
You have probably noticed that Planet Earth appears to be ripping apart at the seams these days. Almost every week we hear fresh reports of yet another earthquake, fire, flood, or tornado sweeping thousands, or tens of thousands, or even hundreds of thousands into death's icy grip — and into eternity. It's heart breaking. "International mayhem increases at every turn," moaned Tina Brown, Newsweek's Editor in Chief. "Has the world gone crazy?" she wondered.

Honestly, we cannot discover the true answer by merely watching CNN, BBC or any other News Outlets. Believe it or not, the only place we can turn to for up-to-the-minute, 100% reliable information about why such horrendous catastrophes seem to be daily increasing across the globe is an ancient book whose cryptic prophecies pinpoint our generation.



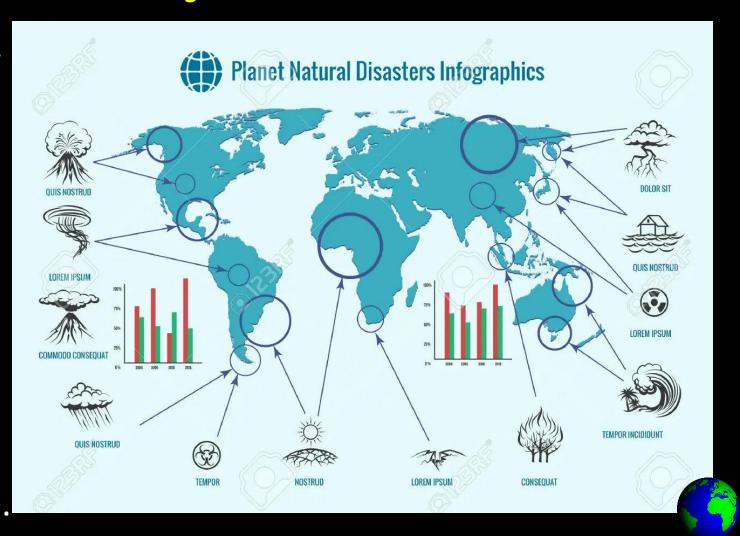
Introduction (cont'd)

During the past few years, our planet has been experiencing an increasing number of natural disasters-earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts, floods, and a devastating tsunami. Some of these crises, although less dramatic-such as global warming and the related melting of glaciers and ice capshave raised questions in many minds regarding their causes. Are these events the result of still little understood natural laws? Is their real cause the human abuse of our natural habitat? Believers of many religions have also wondered if these catastrophes are punishments of an angry deity. Bible-believing Christians have pondered about the role that God and Satan play as the ultimate actors in a cosmic drama. Are these calamities pointing toward a culminating event in human history?



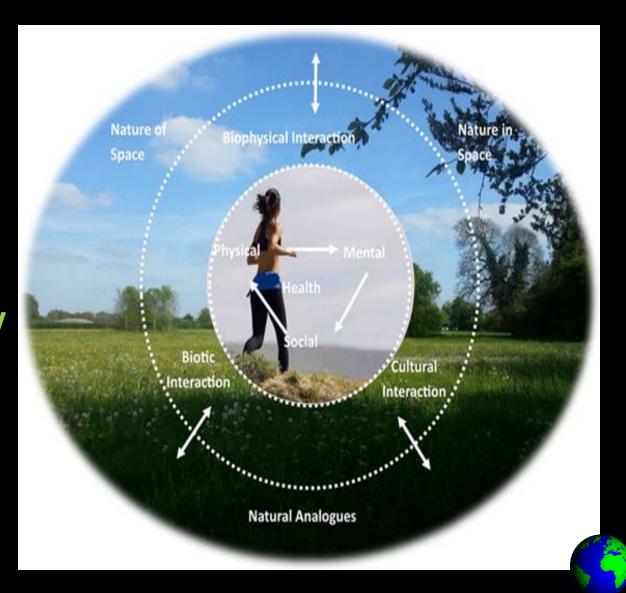
Is God using natural disasters to punish humanity?

This is a difficult question. It cannot be answered by simply quoting a Bible passage. It requires a careful study of God's nature, how He relates to the natural world, and the link between humans, sin, and nature. These are huge theological topics that always lead to differences of opinion among scholars. Here are some aspects of the topic that appear to be clearly present in the Bible.



1. The Link Between Humans and Nature:

When God made humans in His image and gave them dominion over the natural world, He set them apart from the rest of creation as unique (Genesis 1:26, 27). At that moment a close connection was established between humanity and nature. Creation was placed under the dominion of humans; creation's fate was to be determined by the choices and decisions of humanity. Humans, as God's representatives, were to rule over nature as God intended. The link between nature and humanity was so deep that upsetting the moral order of humans would upset the way the world functioned.



The Link Between Humans and Nature: (cont'd)

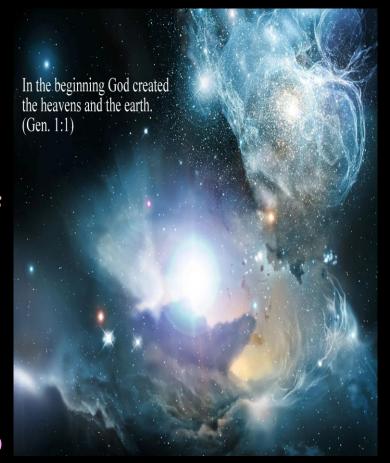
Once sin and evil entered into the world everything changed (Romans 5:12). Because of Adam's and Eve's rebellion, the rest of the natural world "was subjected to futility" (Romans 8:20). Humans and nature now both groan under the burden of evil and sin (verse 22). But the connection between humans and nature is also for good. **Humanity's redemption includes** the redemption of the natural world. Nature "will be delivered from the bondage of corruption" (Romans 8:21; cf. Isaiah 65:25).



2. God as Creator, Sustainer, and Preserver of the Natural World:

The first thing the Bible tells us about God is that He created "the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). Apart from God everything else in the universe has to be labelled "created." This establishes a wide distance and distinction between God and His creation that is salvaged only through His love and the mediation of His Son.

Creation is by nature finite; only God is infinite. Therefore, God is the one who sustains the natural world. Left to itself the natural world would break down into chaos and cease to exist. Nature does not possess life in itself, so it cannot preserve itself. God through Christ is the one who holds it together and protects it (Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:17). God not only sustains nature; He also preserves it. The existence of the natural world is threatened by the presence of evil powers within God's creation. So God fights against the forces of chaos, limiting their inroads into the natural world, promising to free it from its bondage to decay (Job 38:8-11; Psalms 107:29; Romans 8:21).

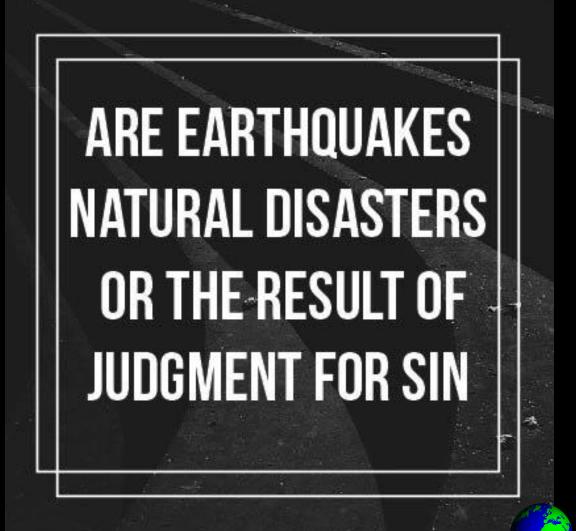




3. God, Natural Disasters, and Sin:

Natural disasters are to be expected in a world of sin and evil. They are not the exception to the rule, they are the rule. What is unusual is that there aren't more of them. The "sometimes" presence of natural disasters tells us that God is still in control, sustaining and preserving nature.

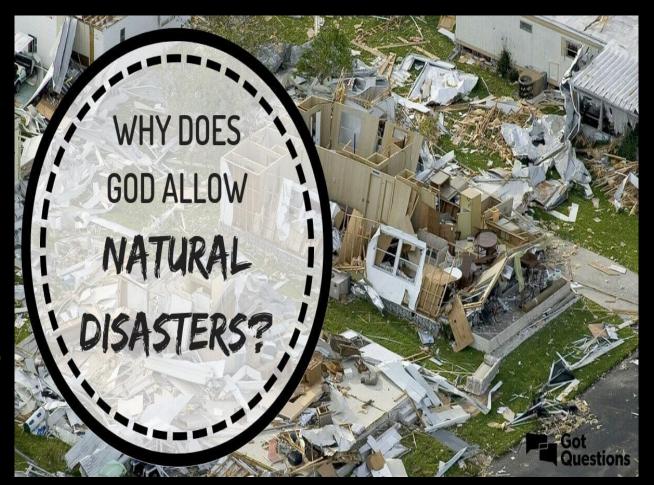
That having been said, the fact that God opposes the forces of evil in the natural world does not mean that the link between human rebellion and the natural world has been totally broken. The Bible teaches that human sin weighs heavily on the natural world, allowing for an increase of evil's invasion into it (e.g., Genesis 3:17, 18; Leviticus 18:25; Isaiah 24:3-6; Jeremiah 12:4). Humans, through rebellion and indifference toward God, can push Him out of their lives and disrupt the order He created in the natural world.



God, Natural Disasters, and Sin: (cont'd)

When that happens God's sustaining and preserving power in the natural world is significantly reduced. By distancing themselves from God humans have also strengthened sin's grip on the natural world. The result is chaos and disorder (e.g., Psalms 104:29, 30). The increase of rebellion, apostasy, and sin in the last days will result in an increase in natural disasters.

But there is another dimension of the interaction between God and natural disasters: Sometimes God uses nature to enforce His will on humanity. When that happens, He usually intends to limit human sin and open new possibilities for His creatures (e.g., Genesis 6:5-8; Amos 4:6-11). Correctly identifying those particular cases is very difficult.





The fall of man brought change in nature!

When Adam and Eve sinned it brought a natural consequence to the earth.

"And unto Adam He [God] said, "Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying, `Thou shalt not eat of it,' cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life (Genesis 3:17).

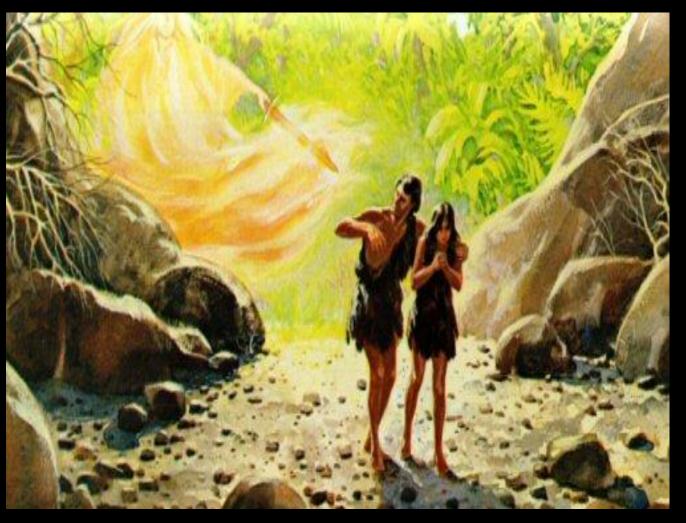
The descendants of Adam became so violent and corrupt that God allowed the world to be destroyed by a global flood (Genesis 6:5,11).

The fountains of the deep were broken up (Genesis 7:11).



The fall of man brought change in nature! (cont'd)

There was great volcanic activity. The layers of the earth's crust were formed and nature was turned out of its God-given course. The stage was set for earthquakes, and killer storms. As the consequences of sin have progressed from that day to this, the natural world is nearing its end; the results of our first parents' disobedience is becoming more and more evident as this world is wearing out. But God is still in the business of rescuing, helping, and healing. He holds out salvation and everlasting life to all who will receive Him.





The fall of man brought change in nature! (cont'd)

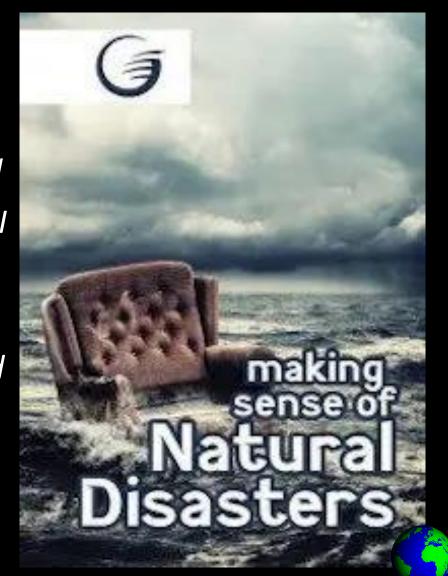
In trying to understand the role of God in natural disasters, we must avoid the trap that Satan has encouraged, namely, that last-day disasters are from an angry, insulted God. That is exactly how Satan has been painting God since Eden and even before. Millions on our planet believe this today. However, according to the Bible, we are in the midst of the last hours of the cosmic conflict, the Great Controversy that has plagued the universe since "There And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, war in heaven" (Revelation 12:7)



What on earth is going on?

It's the last book of the Bible: the book of Revelation. Notice carefully Revelation's description of how immediately preceding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ – heavenly angels are depicted as holding back global desolation: "And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." (Revelation 7:1-3).

"The four winds of the earth" represent worldwide conflict, war, and especially, natural disasters; and the "four angels" restraining these winds represent the benevolent forces of a loving Creator who is even now preventing extreme disaster from breaking loose.



A look at Bible prophecy

Why are the winds still being held? God's people have not all been "sealed" with the approval of God "written on their foreheads" (Revelation 14:1). God's seal of approval will be placed on those who can rightly represent Him in the world; on those who tell the truth about God and witness to His power—again, exactly what Satan has been resisting for a long, long time. Here are people who are now ready to stand firm through the troubles of the last days as depicted in the closing verses of Revelation 6.

And what about those winds? They are the works of Satan about to be released from the restraining hand of God. All this can best be understood in light of the Cosmic Conflict. It is the replay of the Book of Job, but on a colossal scale: fire from the sky burning up sheep and Job's servants, roaming bandits killing at will, a great wind destroying a house and killing his children. (See Job 1 - 2.) Satan is unbelievably evil! And he is still the same today as in Job's day.



Satan's role

Satan's studied strategy has always been to confuse, bewilder, deceive, and destroy the peace of this world. He has been "a murderer from the beginning" (John 8:44). Why? In order to drain all hope and trust from Earth's billions that a more powerful Person, faithful and true, runs the universe!

But where is God? God, within the purposes of the Great Controversy, permits this final barrage of deceit and distress, not only on one man called Job but now on the whole planet. All that Job finally knew about what was behind the catastrophes he and his family were enduringincluding fire raining from the sky and a devastating wind-God told Him later. But until then, it was a very dark time. Job only knew later that God had been challenged by Satan. Satan was furious that Job had been so blessed with a large family and remarkable prosperity. He accused God of playing favorites—that the reason Job was so dutiful in his worshipful obedience was because God had built a "hedge" around him to bribe him into obedience (Job 1:8-12; 2:3-7).



Satan's role (cont'd)

And then we listen to the amateur theologians who came to explain to Job why he had experienced these horrible disasters (Job 2:11-13). What we read in the following chapters of the book are the various reasons that many people today still use to explain awful calamities. Either Job is hiding deep secrets of evil habits and God is punishing Him, or God responds only to the upright and ignores those who suffer calamities because He is a just God, or God is so righteous and just that He can only vent wrath against the wicked, or that Job is receiving less punishment than he deserves.

We hear so many echoes of Job's three "friends" today, on the internet, in media articles, and from many pulpits.

The apostle Paul stated it clearly: Satan is "the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient" (Ephesians 2:2). He is more than a myth! He is God's great antagonist, doing all he can to distract, demoralize, and destroy men and women. And for reasons that God knows, He will gradually withdraw the restraining power that He has been exerting over Satan's murderous plans. — GC pp. 589, 590



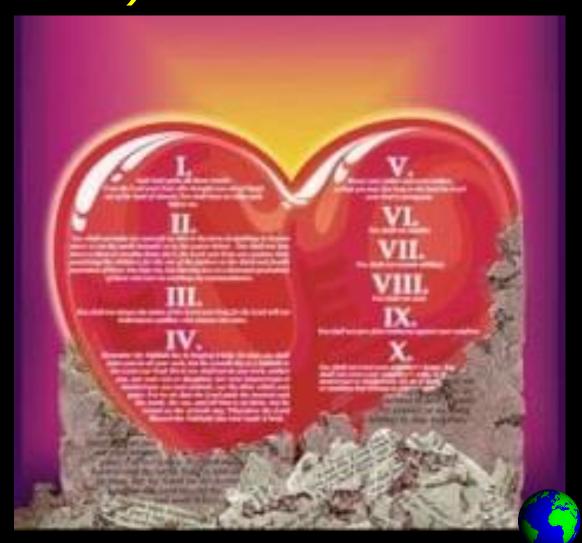
Why does God give Satan permission to destroy?

Satan deceived Eve, and through her he led Adam to sin. Because he had tempted the first humans—the head of the human race—into sin, Satan claimed that they had chosen him as the god of this world (see 2 Corinthians 4:4). He claims to be the rightful ruler of this world (see Matthew 4:8, 9). Through the ages, Satan has been fighting against God, trying to establish his claim to this world. He points to all those who have chosen to follow him as proof that he is the rightful ruler of this world. The Bible says, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).



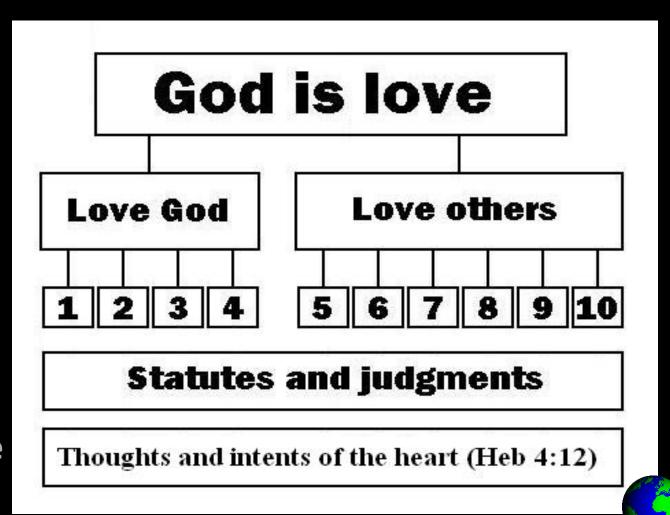
Why does God give Satan permission to destroy? (cont'd)

God has given His Ten Commandments as eternal rules for living, for determining what is right and wrong. He offers to write these laws in our hearts and minds. Many, however, choose to neglect His offer of a new life and choose to live outside God's will. By so doing they support Satan's claim against God. The Bible says that this situation will only get worse as time goes on. In the last days, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." (2 Timothy 3:13). As men and women remove themselves from God's protection, they are subject to Satan's destroying hatred.



Why does God give Satan permission to destroy? (cont'd)

God is love, and His character is perfectly unselfish, and just. Therefore, His own character prevents Him from doing anything that is unfair. He will not interfere with man's free choice. Those who choose to follow Satan are free to do so. And God will allow Satan to demonstrate to the universe what the consequences of sin really are. In the calamities and disasters that befall the earth and destroy lives, we can see what sin is like, what life is like when Satan has his own way.



Why does God give Satan permission to destroy? (cont'd)

A rebellious teen may choose to leave home because he finds the rules too restricting. He may find a cruel world waiting to teach him the harsh realities of life. But the parents do not stop loving their rebellious son or daughter. They do not want them to be hurt, but they can do little to prevent it if the child is determined to go their own way. The parents hope and pray that the difficult realities of the world will bring their child home, much like the prodigal son in the Bible (see Luke 15:18). Speaking of those who choose to follow Satan, God says, "Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us?" (Deuteronomy 31:17). This is the message that we may learn from calamities and natural disasters. They can lead us to seek the Lord.



Why did God create the devil?

Actually, God did not create the devil. God created a beautiful, perfect angel named Lucifer (see Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28). Lucifer, in turn, made a devil out of himself. Lucifer's pride caused him to rebel against God and to challenge Him for supremacy. He was thrown out of heaven and came to this earth where he tempted a perfect man and woman to sin. When they did so, they opened a floodgate of evil upon the world.



Why does God not kill the devil?

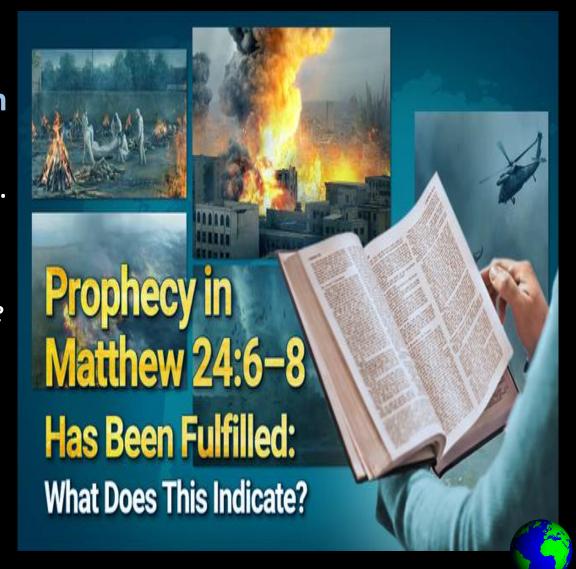
Some have wondered, "Why doesn't God stop the devil? If it is not God's will for people to die, why does He allow it to happen? Have things gone beyond God's control?"

God could have destroyed Satan when he rebelled in heaven. God could have destroyed Adam and Eve when they sinned—and started over. However, if He had done this, He would have been ruling from the standpoint of force, rather than love. The angels in heaven and human beings on Earth would serve Him from fear, not love. In order for love to flourish, it must operate on the principle of freedom of choice. Without freedom to choose, there would be no such thing as real love. We would simply be robots. God chose to preserve our freedom of choice and to rule by love. He chose to allow Satan and sin to run their course. He would allow us and the universe to see where sin would lead. He would let us see the reasons for making the choice to serve Him in love.



Jesus' view of the future

Of course, this planet has always had earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, typhoons, and famines. Some of the worst of these on record happened long years ago, with far greater damage than we have experienced in the last few years, even though we have greater populations in these same areas today. During the final days of Jesus ministry on earth, His followers asked Him about signs of the end of time and of His promised return. Among other pointers, Jesus told them: And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows." (Matthew 24:6-8).



Jesus' view of the future (cont'd)

In other words, the world will always have wars, earthquakes, pestilences, and disasters. But there are specific signs that He outlined in Matthew 24 and 25, such as the gospel going to the entire world, and then He would return (Matthew 24:14). He compared the last days of Planet Earth to the last days before Noah entered the ark (Matthew 24:37-39). He likened His delayed return to the delay in the bridegroom's appearance at his wedding (Matthew 25:5).



Detecting the difference

As we reflect on the disasters of recent years, we notice a difference with those of the past. On a graph, we would draw this upsurge in frequency and intensity as an exponential curve with an upward slope that rises sharply in contrast to a predicted increase that follows a predicted straight line up.

Can anyone deny that hurricanes, floods, famines, pestilences, bankruptcies, moral degradation, depletion of water aquifers, escalating energy consumption, and similar realities are increasing with astonishing speed? Most people live with the sense that everything is in disarray compared to the life we lived even a few decades ago. There seems to be no way to turn back the clock. The escalator, either down or up, seems to go faster every day. And everyone has the lurking feeling that they can't get off that escalator. This sense is heightened when the latest disaster is broadcast through the global media and sent to our computers. - Last Day Events p 111.





Detecting the difference (cont'd)

But as we get closer to "the great day" of God Almighty (see Revelation 6:17), these heavenly sentinels finally begin to loosen their grip over pent up — and often satanically inspired — forces of death and destruction. This is the real reason why deadly disasters are increasing daily.

"The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. Science seeks to explain all these. The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture." -Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 408.



Detecting the difference (cont'd)

This explains the facts perfectly. University-trained scientists may offer other explanations, but the truth is that increasing "disasters by sea and by land" reveal that "the restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world." But why? What is humanity doing to cause the Maker of heaven and earth to withdraw His protection from those He created, loves, and seeks to save? The answer is startling, yet simple. On every continent, in every smog-polluted city, and on every tropical island across the deep blue sea, the vast majority of earth's teeming inhabitants are now openly, recklessly, and persistently – without fear of eternal consequences - breaking the Ten Commandments, which the Bible states were originally "written with the finger of God" (Exodus 31:18) on two tablets of solid rock. "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God," wrote Paul in Ephesians 4:30. Yet today's irreligious, happy-go-lucky, party-loving multitudes are doing exactly that 24/7. This is the true reason why God is withdrawing His hand.



Where is God when all this happens?

Do not good people pray for safety? The Bible says, "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?" (Jeremiah 23:23). The Son of God did not remain aloof from suffering. He suffers with the innocent. He was the classic example of the suffering of the innocent. As a matter of fact, from the beginning, He has done only good. He accepted the consequence of our rebellion against Himself. He did not stay away. He came down to this world and suffered in our suffering. God himself experienced the most horrible pain imaginable upon the cross. He endured the pain of the hostility of a sinful human race. He took upon Himself the consequence of our sins.





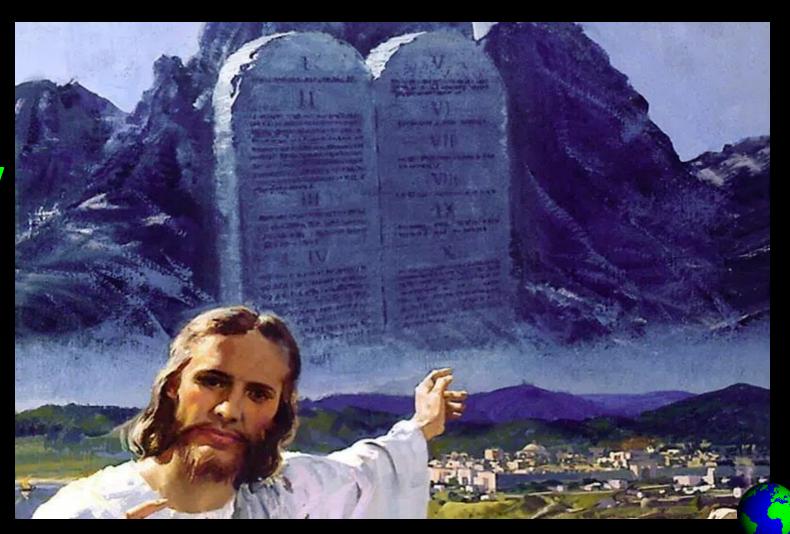
Where is God when all this happens? (cont'd)

When disasters happen, the real point is that they could happen to any of us at any time. It is only because God is love that one heartbeat follows another. He gives life and love to all. Every day, billions of people wake up to fresh air, warm sunshine, delicious food, and comfortable homes—because God is love, and Hé showers His blessings on the earth. We have no individual claim on life, however, as though we had created ourselves. We must acknowledge that we live in a world that is subject to death from a variety of sources. We need to remember, as Jesus said, that unless we repent we shall all likewise perish. Calamities serve to remind us of the fact that apart from the salvation that Jesus offers, there is no hope for the human race. We can expect more and more destruction as we come closer to the time of His return to earth. "And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awaké out of sleep: for nów is our salvation nearer than when we believed." (Romans 13:11).



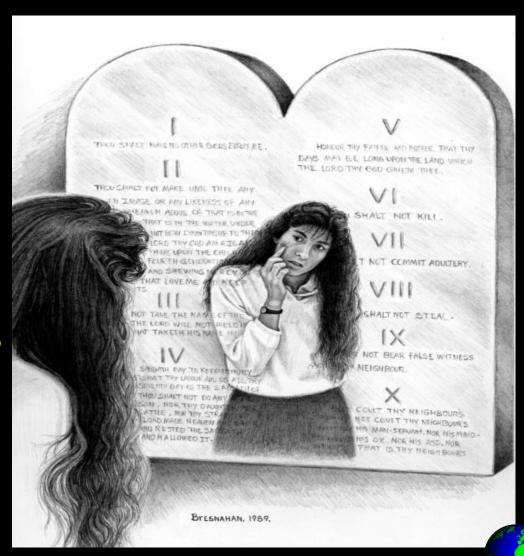
Essentially, here are God's Ten Commandments in plain language:

- 1. Put God first
- 2. Do not worship idols
- 3. Respect God's Name
- 4. Keep the seventh day holy
- 5. Honor your parents
- 6. Do not murder
- 7. Do not commit adultery
- 8. Do not steal
- 9. Do not lie
- 10. Do not covet
- Read Exodus 20:3-17



What does it all mean?

According to God's Book, breaking the Ten Commandments is sin. "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4), affirmed John. Yet "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16) to endure the full penalty of this broken law on a cruel cross in our place. "Christ died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:3) is Heaven's Good News. If we are willing to repent, confess, and have faith in Jesus as our Saviour, "He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Those who do this in these end-times – thereby manifesting their loyalty to each of the Ten Commandments – will receive "the seal of the living God ... on their foreheads" (Revelation 7:2,3). They will also be perfectly protected when "the four winds" are fully loosed and "the Devil and Satan" (see Revelation 12:9) takes full control.



Does God send calamities to kill sinners?

Some mistakenly think that God always sends calamities to punish sinners. This is not true. Jesus commented on acts of violence and natural calamities that happened in His day. The Bible says, "There were present at that season some who told Him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, "Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, nay; but unless ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen upon whom the tower of Siloam fell and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all other men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, nay; but unless ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:1-5).

These things happened because in a world of sin there are calamities and atrocities that take place that would not happen in a perfect world. It does not mean that everyone who dies in such calamities is a sinner nor does it mean that God causes the calamity. It is often the innocent that suffer the consequences of living in this world of sin.





Does God send calamities to kill sinners? (cont'd)

Some have suggested that natural disasters are perhaps the beginning of God's final judgments upon the wicked. One should not rule out the possibility that sinners are receiving the consequences of their rebellion against God, but we cannot correlate particular disasters with divine retribution against specific sinners or sins. These horrible events may well be simply the result of living in a world that has fallen so far from God's ideal. Even if these disasters might be considered early warnings of God's final judgment, none should conclude that all those who die in them are eternally lost. Jesus said that in the final judgment it would be more tolerable for some of those destroyed in Sodom, than for those who reject His invitation to salvation in cities that were not destroyed (see Luke 10:12-15).



"Christ's Coming Near"

Local disturbances in nature are permitted to take place as symbols of that which may be expected all over the world when the angels loose the four winds of the earth.— Last Day Events, p. 280.

The restraining Spirit of God is even now being withdrawn from the world. Hurricanes, storms, tempests, fire and flood, disasters by sea and land, follow each other in quick succession. . . . The signs thickening around us, telling of the near approach of the Son of God, are attributed to any other than the true cause. Men cannot discern the sentinel angels restraining the four winds that they shall not blow until the servants of God are sealed; but when God shall bid His angels loose the winds, there will be such a scene of strife as no pen can picture.— Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 408.



Satan works knowing time is short

Satan is working in the atmosphere; he is poisoning the atmosphere, and here we are dependent upon God for our lives--our present and eternal life. And being in the position that we are, we need to be wide awake, wholly devoted, wholly converted, wholly consecrated to God. But we seem to sit as though we were paralysed. God of heaven, wake us up!--Manuscript 1, 1890. 2SM 52

Terrible shocks will come upon the earth, and the lordly palaces erected at great expense will certainly become heaps of ruins. The earth's crust will be rent by the outbursts of the elements concealed in the bowels of the earth. These elements, once broken loose, will sweep away the treasures of those who for years have been adding to their wealth by securing large possessions at starvation prices from those in their employ. And the religious world, too, is to be terribly shaken; for the end of all things is at hand.—Ms 24, 1891, pp. 3, 4. (Diary, cir. Jan. 1, 1890.) 3MR 208





Is it true that the end of all things is at hand?

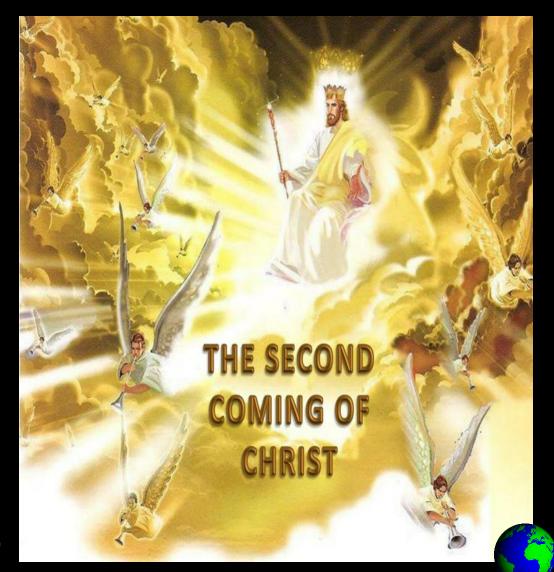
What mean the awful calamities by seavessels hurled into eternity without a moment's warning? What mean the accidents by land--fire consuming the riches that men have hoarded, much of which has been accumulated by oppression of the poor. The Lord will not interfere to protect the property of those who transgress His law, break His covenant, and trample upon His Sabbath, accepting in its place a spurious rest-day.

The plagues of God are already falling upon the earth, sweeping away the most costly structures as if by a breath of fire from heaven. Will not these judgements bring professing Christians to their senses? God permits them to come that the world may take heed, that sinners may be afraid and tremble before Him.--Ms 99, 1902. 3MR 311



Just before Jesus coming

God has a storehouse of retributive judgements, which He permits to fall upon those who have continued in sin in the face of great light. I have seen the most costly structures in buildings erected and supposed to be fireproof. And just as Sodom perished in the flames of God's vengeance, so will these proud structures become ashes. I have seen vessels which cost immense sums of money wrestling with the mighty waters, seeking to breast the angry billows. But with all their treasures of gold and silver, and with their human freight they sink into a watery grave. Man's pride will be buried with the treasures he has accumulated by fraud. God will avenge the widows and orphans who in hunger and nakedness have cried to Him for help from oppression and abuse. And the Lord keeps a record of every action for good or evil. 3MR 315



Just before Jesus coming (cont'd)

Before the Son of man appears in the clouds of heaven, everything in nature will be convulsed. Lightning from heaven uniting with the fire in the earth, will cause the mountains to burn like a furnace, and pour out their floods of lava over villages and cities. Molten masses of rock, thrown into the water by the upheaval of things hidden in the earth, will cause the water to boil and send forth rocks and earth. There will be mighty earthquakes and great destruction of human life. But as in the days of the great Deluge Noah was preserved in the ark that God had prepared for him, so in these days of destruction and calamity, God will be the refuge of His believing ones . . . [Ps. 91:9, 10; 27:5 quoted] (Letter 258, 1907). 7BC 946

We are living in the time of the end.
The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that
the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in
which we live are solemn and important.



Satan in the Last Days

Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows. When he was suffered to afflict Job, how quickly flocks and herds, servants, houses, children, were swept away, one trouble succeeding another as in a moment. It is God that shields His creatures and hedges them in from the power of the destroyer. But the Christian world have shown contempt for the law of Jehovah; and the Lord will do just what He has declared that He would--He will withdraw His blessings from the earth and remove His protecting care from those who are rebelling against His law and teaching and forcing others to do the same. Satan has control of all whom God does not especially guard. He will favour and prosper some in order to further his own designs, and he will bring trouble upon others and lead men to believe that it is God who is afflicting them. GC 589



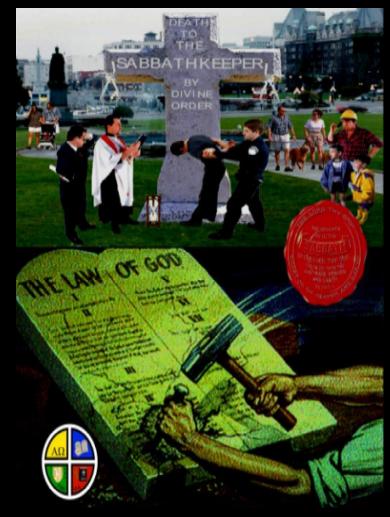
Satan in the Last Days (cont'd)

While appearing to the children of men as a great physician who can heal all their maladies, he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon both man and beast.
"The earth mourneth and fadeth away," "the haughty people . . . do languish. The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant." Isaiah 24:4, 5. GC11 589



Satan in the Last Days (cont'd)

And then the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon those whose obedience to God's commandments is a perpetual reproof to transgressors. It will be declared that men are offending God by the violation of the Sunday sabbath; that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced; and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublers of the people, preventing their restoration to divine favour and temporal prosperity. Thus the accusation urged of old against the servant of God will be repeated and upon grounds equally well established: "And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel? And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim." 1 Kings 18:17, 18. As the wrath of the people shall be excited by false charges, they will pursue a course toward God's ambassadors very similar to that which apostate Israel pursued toward Elijah.





Satan in the Last Days (cont'd)

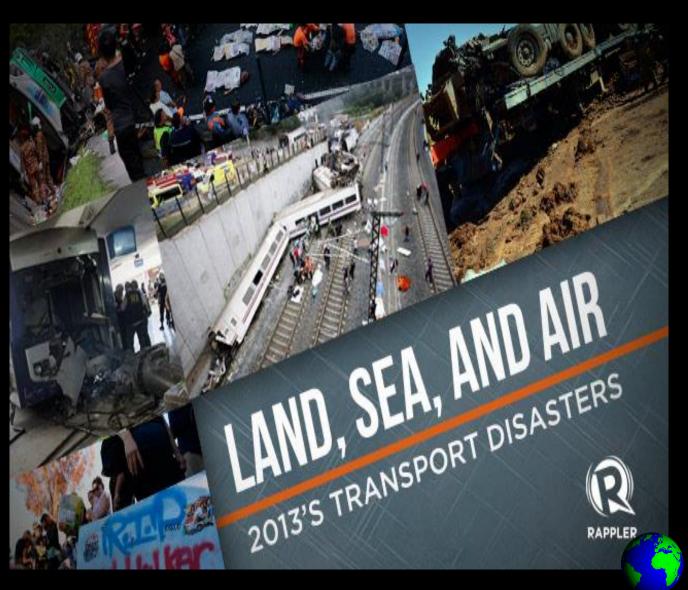
The miracle-working power manifested through spiritualism will exert its influence against those who choose to obey God rather than men. Communications from the spirits will declare that God has sent them to convince the rejecters of Sunday of their error, affirming that the laws of the land should be obeyed as the law of God. They will lament the great wickedness in the world and second the testimony of religious teachers that the degraded state of morals is caused by the desecration of Sunday. Great will be the indignation excited against all who refuse to accept their testimony. GC11 590

In the last scenes of this earth's history, war will rage. There will be pestilence, plague, and famine. The waters of the deep will overflow their boundaries. Property and life will be destroyed by fire and flood. We should be preparing for the mansions that Christ has gone to prepare for them that love Him. There is a rest from earth's conflict. MAR 174



God will withdraw His Protection

The time is at hand when there will be sorrow in the world that no human balm can heal. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn. Disasters by sea and by land follow one another in quick succession. How frequently we hear of earthquakes and tornadoes, of destruction by fire and flood, with great loss of life and property! Apparently these calamities are capricious outbreaks of disorganised, unregulated forces of nature, wholly beyond the control of man; but in them all, God's purpose may be read. They are among the agencies by which He seeks to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger. PK 277



What does it mean to us today?

The calamities and catastrophes that engulf our world serve as reminders that this world of sin, pain, hate, fear, and tragedy will not last forever. Jesus has promised that He will return to Earth to save us from our world that is falling to pieces. God has promised to make everything new again and that sin will never rise up again (see Nahum 1:9). God will live with His people, and there will be an end to death, crying, and pain.

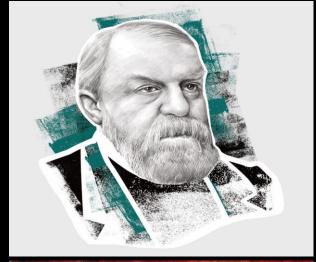
"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." (Revelation 21:3, 4).



Conclusion

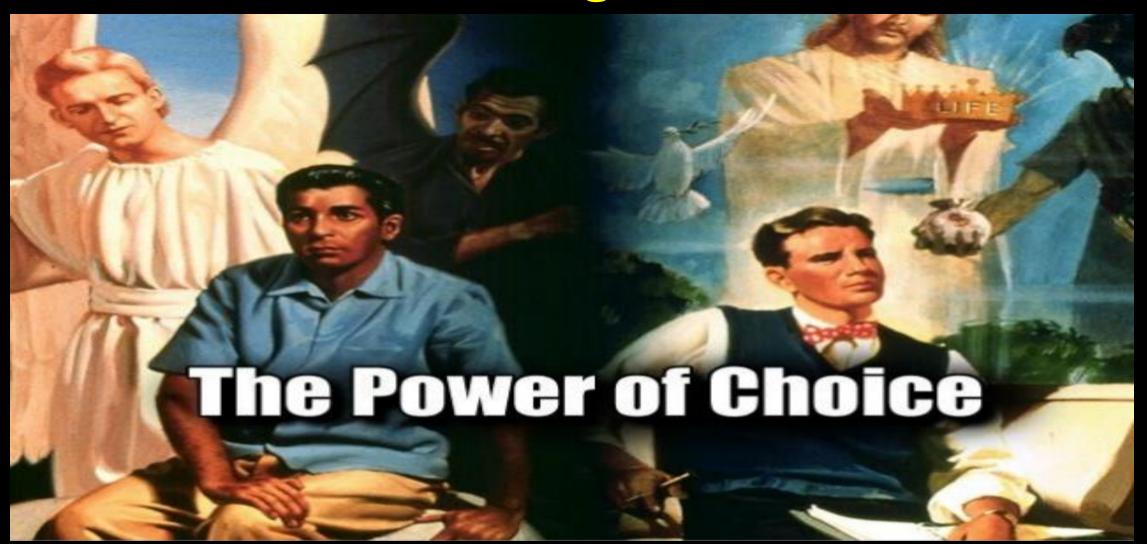
On Sunday night, October 8, 1871, the famous evangelist D.L. Moody was preaching to an immense crowd in Chicago about the importance of sinners making commitments to Jesus Christ. "Call for decisions now!" was the urgent impression of the Holy Spirit to the preacher. But Moody hesitated. Instead, he told his spellbound hearers that he would call for decisions next week. That crowd never returned. During the closing song the loud sirens of fire trucks declared that the Great Chicago Fire had begun. It blazed for two days, killing hundreds. Oh how Moody later wished he had made that appeal!

Deadly disasters can strike at any moment. Tomorrow we may be dead. Yet in the midst of heartache and loss of life, God suffers too, just like He did when His own Son died upon a cross. For our encouragement, His Word promises that someday — when the foul odour of sin vanishes away forever — there will be "no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. For the former things have passed away" (Revelation 21:4). Above all, make sure you don't miss Heaven. Choose Jesus Christ today!

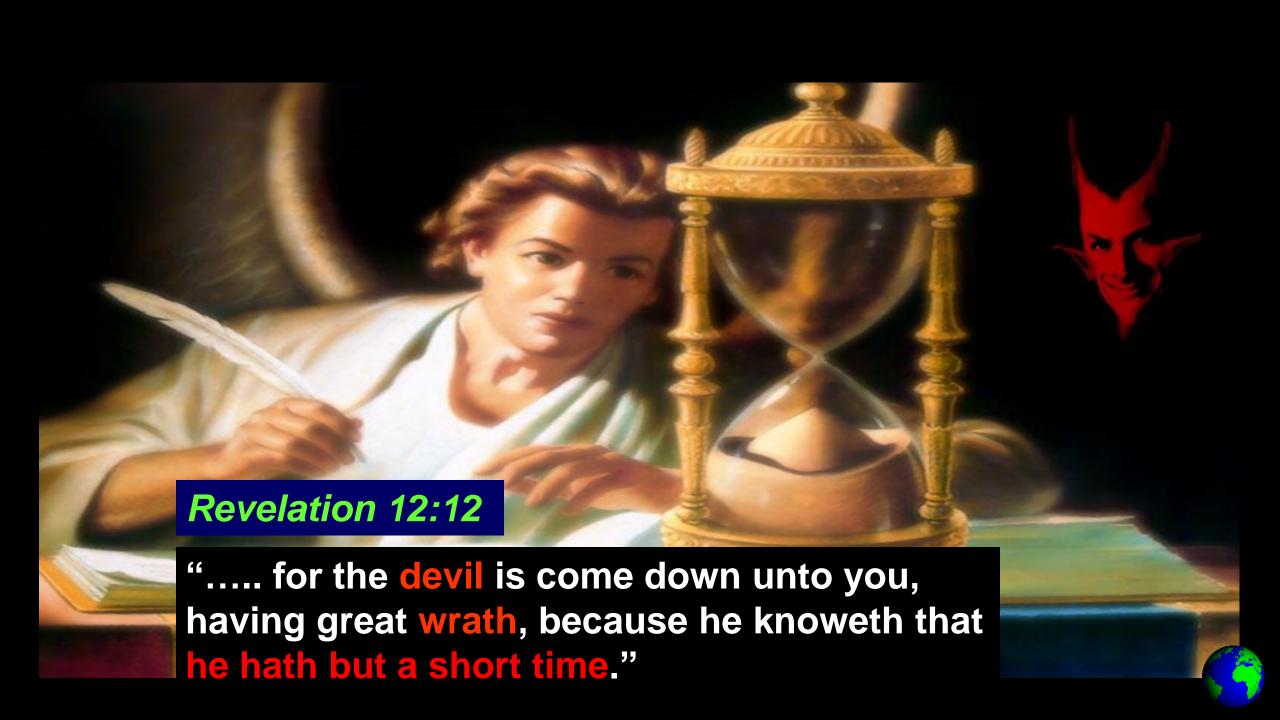




God has given all:







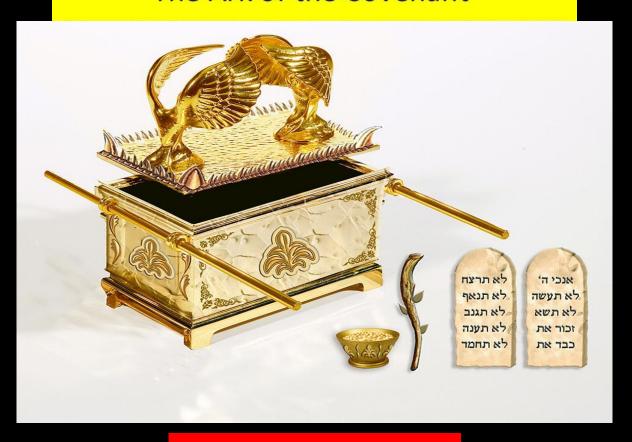
Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

- John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. -Revelation 3:20





