

Reminders From Hurricanes Harvey and Irma

1. We live in a broken world.

Before the fall of man, God said everything was good. It's likely that the weather was perfect all the time. No rain, no snow storms, no tornadoes, no hurricanes, no tsunamis or earthquakes. Before the fall of man, everything worked in perfect harmony. Sin changed everything. We live in a broken and cursed world of sin and death in which natural disasters will occur.

...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; **(Gen 3:17)**

God destroyed the world with a global flood **(Gen 6:5,11)**. The fountains of the deep were broken up **(Gen 7:11)**. 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.

Romans 8:20-22 (ESV) ²⁰For the creation was **subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

This world is not our home. There will be no disasters in eternity.

2. God is sovereign and awesome in power.

Nothing in nature happens outside of God's providence. God can cause natural disasters or He can simply allow them to happen according to the laws of nature.

God sent the plagues in Egypt. God sent the flood. God hurled a storm into the sea to swallow up Jonah.

Job 37:6 says, "He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.'

"**Amos 4:7 says**, "I also withheld rain from you when the harvest was still three months away. I sent rain on one town, but withheld it from another. One field had rain; another had none and dried up."

Mark 4:9 tells of Jesus rebuking the wind and saying to the waves, "Peace! Be still!" Out of obedience, the wind died down and was completely calm.

Isaiah 45:7 says, "I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things."

Psalms 115:3 says, "Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him."

The weather - good or bad – is in the direct control of the hand of God. Some think that God must therefore be harsh and unjust in allowing natural disasters. But the truth is just the opposite. Which brings us to the third thing we must remember.

3. God can be trusted.

1 Peter 4:19 (ESV) ¹⁹Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

Job 37:22-24 (ESV) ²²Out of the north comes golden splendor; God is clothed with awesome

majesty. ²³The Almighty—we cannot find him; he is great in power; justice and abundant righteousness he will not violate. ²⁴Therefore men fear him; he does not regard any who are wise in their own conceit.”

4. It’s Foolish to Place Importance on Things.

Matthew 6:19-21 (NKJV) ¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) ³³But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

5. We Don’t Know the Number of Our Days.

James 4:13-17 (ESV) ¹³Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— ¹⁴yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. ¹⁵Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” ¹⁶As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

6. God Warns Us Repeatedly About the Storm; It’s Too Late to Prepare Once It Comes.

Matthew 24:37-39 (NKJV) ³⁷But as the days of Noah *were*, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.