**Bible Study 4/4/2012 Brentwood Bible lunch Fellowship**

**“Natural Disaster”**

**Appetizer – Psalms 26**

[**Isaiah 45:7**](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah+45%3A7&version=ESV)ESV / 84 helpful votes

I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the Lord, who does all these things.

### [1 Samuel 12:18](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Samuel+12%3A18&version=ESV) ESV / 4 helpful votes

So Samuel called upon the Lord, and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.

### [Exodus 9:13-35](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+9%3A13-35&version=ESV) ESV / 4 helpful votes

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Rise up early in the morning and present yourself before Pharaoh and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of the Hebrews, “Let my people go, that they may serve me. For this time I will send all my plagues on you yourself, and on your servants and your people, so that you may know that there is none like me in all the earth. For by now I could have put out my hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, and you would have been cut off from the earth. But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. You are still exalting yourself against my people and will not let them go. ...

# Natural Disasters: A Biblical Perspective

1. God has said in Bible prophecy that natural disasters would grow in frequency and intensity as the end of the age approaches—to shake people out of their complacency and lead them to seek Him (Matthew 24:7For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/MAT/24/7#v7); Luke 21:25-26 [25] And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;
[26] Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/LUK/21/25-26#v25); Revelation 6:12And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/REV/6/12#v12); 11:13; 16:18).

2. In His design for the world, God allows many events to run their course according to "time and chance" (Ecclesiastes 9:11I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/ECC/9/11#v11)), so that many tragedies are, for those affected, accidental and unforeseeable.

3. Those who die in accidents or natural disasters are not necessarily greater sinners than those who survive (Luke 13:1-5 [1] There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.
[2] And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?
[3] I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.
[4] Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?
[5] I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/LUK/13/1-5#v1)).

4. Personal tragedies or calamities are not necessarily the result of one's sins (John 9:2-3 [2] And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?
[3] Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/JHN/9/2-3#v2)).

5. Natural disasters or accidents should humble us, helping us to see our dependence on God to sustain and deliver us (Revelation 16:8-11 [8] And the fourth angel poured out his vial upon the sun; and power was given unto him to scorch men with fire.
[9] And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory.
[10] And the fifth angel poured out his vial upon the seat of the beast; and his kingdom was full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues for pain,
[11] And blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and repented not of their deeds.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/REV/16/8-11#v8)).

6. Natural disasters have sometimes been the direct judgment of God on a rebellious humanity (Genesis 6:6-7 [6] And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.
[7] And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/GEN/6/6-7#v6), 11-13, 17; 18:20; 19:24-25).

7. Some natural disasters are made worse by man's poor judgments (Proverbs 14:12There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/PRO/14/12#v12)) and age-long rejection of God and His laws, resulting in worsening environmental and climatic conditions.

8. God is a truly loving God who is working out a great plan for all humanity (John 3:16For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/JHN/3/16#v16); 2 Peter 3:9The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/2PE/3/9#v9); 1 Timothy 2:4Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/1TM/2/4#v4); 1 Corinthians 15:22-24 [22] For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
[23] But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.
[24] Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/1CO/15/22-24#v22)).

9. Converted Christians who die in natural disasters will be resurrected to immortality in the first resurrection at the return of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 15:51-52 [51] Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
[52] In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/1CO/15/51-52#v51); 1 Thessalonians 4:16For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/1TS/4/16#v16); Revelation 20:4-6 [4] And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
[5] But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.
[6] Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/REV/20/4-6#v4)).

10. Non-Christians who die in natural disasters, those who never had a genuine understanding of God or real opportunity for eternal salvation, will be raised in the second or general resurrection to live again in the flesh with their first real opportunity to learn God's way, repent and be saved (John 5:28-29 [28] Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,
[29] And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/JHN/5/28-29#v28); Matthew 12:41-42 [41] The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here.
[42] The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/MAT/12/41-42#v41); Revelation 20:5But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/REV/20/5#v5)).

11. The multitudes of humanity who are raised in the second or general resurrection will experience joyful and abundant life under the rule of the Kingdom of God (Ezekiel 37:12-14 [12] Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.
[13] And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,
[14] And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/EZE/37/12-14#v12)).

12. The sufferings experienced now in "this present evil age" (Galatians 1:4Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/GAL/1/4#v4))—this era of man's self-rule under the influence of Satan the devil—are writing a lesson of experience about what it means to live in a world cut off from God and His ways.

13. We don't know all the reasons God brings or permits specific calamities or why particular people are made to suffer by them, but we should trust that in God's omniscience and ultimate wisdom He knows how to work out what is best for everyone in the end (Romans 8:28And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/ROM/8/28#v28); 1 Timothy 2:4Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/1TM/2/4#v4)).

14. Jesus Christ will eventually return to usher in the rule of the Kingdom of God (Revelation 11:15And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/REV/11/15#v15); Daniel 7:14And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/DAN/7/14#v14)), under which natural disasters will no longer plague mankind.

15. When all humanity is at last glorified, there will be no more pain, suffering or sorrow (Revelation 21:4And 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.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/REV/21/4#v4)).

16. All the sufferings of this brief present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory we will ultimately experience for all eternity to come (Romans 8:18For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.
[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/ROM/8/18#v18); 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 [17] For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;
[18] While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

[See All...](http://www.ucg.org/bible/1/2CO/4/17-18#v17)).