

# GOD AND EARTHQUAKES

## WHY GOD DID NOT INTERVENE IN DISASTER

"Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us?"  
- Judges 6:13

### 1. Framing the Issue

- a. There is immeasurable suffering in the world and God is silent (Anderson, ch. 1)
- b. The God of circumstance is the popular preference – Calvin's God does not help
- c. The answers of apologists are inadequate – they lack an explanation – Rom 8:28
- d. Voltaire's *Candide* – mocks "the best of all possible worlds"
- e. Bad circumstances results of bad behavior does not explain God's will or ability

### 2. The Consequence of Sin

- a. Sin addresses many bad circumstances – Rom 1:28; 3:10,23
- b. Suffering at the hand of ourselves – Gal 6:7-8
- c. Judgment also contributes → Genesis 6:6-7, 11-13,17
- d. God always pronounces his judgments → 2 Peter 2:5
- e. Cursed be the ground - Gen 3:17-18; Gen 8:22
- f. What we see is the result of sin and judgment - Romans 8:19-22

### 3. God Not in the Wind

- a. God was not in this wind or earthquake – 1 Kings 19:9-13
- b. Time and chance happens – Ecc 9:11
- c. Calamity does not happen more to greater sinners – Luke 13:1-5
- d. A blind man not because of judgment – John 9:1-3
- e. ***Yet, he has intervened before:***
  - i. He prevents rain - Deut 11:17; James 5:17
  - ii. God and earthquakes – Numbers 16:30-34, Rev 16:18-19
  - iii. The plagues of Exodus, the power of creation, wonders of Revelation
  - iv. He raised the dead, healed the sick as a sign to Israel - John 11:40-45

### 4. He Does Not Intervene Today

- a. His last word was grace – 1 Cor 15:8
- b. His next word is judgment – Romans 1:17-18, 2 Thess 1:5-7
- c. Peter talks about the delay in God's intervention – 2 Peter 3:10, 15
- d. God did not prevent Haiti is because of-1 Tim 1:16, Col 1:27, Rom 16:27
- e. We walk by faith not by sight – 2 Cor 5:7
- f. The sufferings are not comparable to the glory - 2 Cor 12:9, Rom 8:18
- g. Faith is enduring through tribulation – 2 Cor 11:24-30
- h. God's response to human suffering is the cross - Rom 5:8