

Hurricane Katrina has left an absolutely devastating path. We are shocked and saddened by the losses our fellow Americans have suffered. In the wake of the disaster, we may wonder: Did God cause this to happen? Did God allow it to happen? Did it just happen on its own? We have lots of questions.

God is an incredible God. He is all-powerful and not to be trifled with. He created the world and has control over it (Gen. 1; Psa. 148:1-5). When we observe the damage the powerful forces of the earth can do, we should stand in awe of a God whose powers are infinitely greater.

Man (not God) brought calamity and death into the world. After Adam and Eve sinned, disease, death, and destruction came into being (Gen. 3:16-19; 1 Cor. 15:21a). Without a doubt this catastrophe has reeked incredible damage, and that should remind us of how devastating sin is.

Our faith will be tested from time to time. We are told in the Scriptures that the storms of life are meant to make us stronger (Jas. 1:2-3; Heb. 12:5-11). How many Christians will God test through this? How many will have their faith strengthened as a result? How many will better their lives because of this tragedy?

Life is short. This can well remind us of the brevity, uncertainty, and frailty of our earthly existence (Jas. 4:14; 1Pet. 1:24). We are never guaranteed another day of life upon this earth. It could be taken from us in a moment.

This is an incredible opportunity to spread the good news about Jesus Christ. Through relief efforts, and through reminders of things like this, we can and should spread the gospel (2Cor. 5:11; Gal. 6:10). This unfortunate incident can be an open door for us to evangelize.

Through times like these - don't question God, but determine to find a greater quest in God and in working His will!

- adapted from Edd Sterchi