



Tsunami – Did God Cause it?

“For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness:
neither shall evil dwell with thee.” (Ps 5:4)



The recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean that struck several nations at the end of 2004, has killed approximately 150,000 people! Some claim that this natural disaster was an “act of God.” Did God send the 2004 Tsunami? Does God send out judgments in the form of hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and cyclones? If He does, “Why?” On the other hand, if God has nothing to do with these events, the question is, “Why does He allow them to happen in the first place?”

If we hope to comprehend the divine will of God, we must come to grips with questions such as these! Indeed, we must learn what the true Biblical nature of God really is. That kind of specific information about God is available only from the Holy Scriptures.

Jennifer Griffin of *Fox News* reported on January 4, 2005, that some of the sermons that were preached by local clerics the weekend following the tsunami, placed the blame of the disasters on “God’s judgment.” They asserted that many of the beaches that were devastated were areas of great sin and debauchery because the beaches permitted nudity and drinking! So, did God single out those sinful people and in His anger send a devastating tsunami to punish them?

Without a proper understanding of what the Scripture reveals concerning these questions, people are bound to come up with wrong conclusions. Therefore it is our job as Christians to research and uncover the actual Biblical perspective concerning all of these issues.



As companion studies, we recommend two *Rivkah Ministries* Bible Studies entitled, “Destroy the Works of Evil” and “Evil, Where did it Come From?” You can obtain these other studies that expand upon the basis of this Bible Study from the Internet address: <http://www.Rivkah.org>.

Let us begin tonight with the Book of Romans since Paul makes some statements in that book that are often misunderstood. Sometimes his statements lead to a great deal of confusion. He specifically wrote, “And we know that **all things work together for good** to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Rom 8:28). This passage has led to unknown confusion especially within the Christian community. On the surface it appears that Paul is stating that everything, “all



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things,” without exception, work for good toward God’s purposes. However, that passage clearly establishes two specific conditions that must be satisfied in order for “**all things working together for good;**” those specific conditions are “(1) to them that love God, (2) to them who are the called according to his purpose.” **All things working together for good**” applies only to those **who love God and who are called**. It simply is untrue that everything that happens in this world “works together for good.” Although good things can come out of rape and murder, these evils in themselves do not “work together for good!” The false implication of “**all things working together for good**” in the world at large is that God is involved in and therefore responsible for (*or allowing*) “all things” that happen in the world. On the contrary, we are going to learn a little later that God has fostered a supernatural hands-off policy regarding this world. We will use the Scripture to prove and clarify this concept a little later.

With respect to evil outcomes resultant from natural disasters, we need to look into the Bible in order to understand what it says about the origins of these natural phenomena. In order to understand God’s involvement, we must look to Jesus “if ye had known me, **ye should have known my Father also**” (John 8:19). Therefore, we need to observe His encounters with the various destructive elements in nature. We should all remember that He calmed the storm, “he arose, and **rebuked the wind**, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. **And the wind ceased**, and there was a great calm” (Mark 4:39). Essentially, Jesus took authority (*exercised His dominion*) and He rebuked the harsh weather. Further, the scripture teaches, “Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing every sickness and every disease among the people**” (Matt 9:35). Natural disasters on a massive scale such as the recent tsunami usually leads to large outbreaks of disease. However, in the Gospels, we find Jesus “**healing every sickness and every disease among the people**” (Matt 9:35).

It is not hard to find religious arguments that maintain that God teaches humans by initiating “evil” things (*ie. cancer, disease, poverty, paralysis, etc.*) into the lives of His people. Even deceived Christians who are actively involved in these dreadful conditions might say, “**God gave me this cancer** so that I would learn to be sensitive of the sick;” or “**God put me on my back** so the only direction I could look was up.” We have all heard these kinds of sentiments; the only problem is that God does not cause cancer or paralysis or any form of evil! Instead of using evil things as practical examples for His teaching, Jesus “went about **doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil**” (Acts 10:38). That passage also identifies who is the real source of **all** oppression.

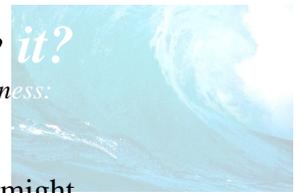
Neither does God send “evil” hardships into our lives in order to perfect us! If this were true, it would be natural that the person that has undergone the most “evil” would end up being the most righteous. Obviously, this is untrue.

Let’s take for example someone who has been put into prison because he got drunk and killed someone in an auto accident. Does it make sense for that person to say, “Why did God allow me to kill that person?” No! That person did “it” to himself! That person made a decision(s) and he now has to live with the consequences of his own decision(s)! It would be a good idea for us to remember that John 10:10 as a kind of fulcrum point concerning these issues, “The thief cometh not, but for **to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I**



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am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

God told the devil during a conversation concerning Job, “And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he (*Job*) hath is in thy power” (Job 1:12). From the fall of man, the devil already had power over Job and the whole world. Practically the next event after his conversation with God is that a servant came to Job and said, “thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: 19 And, behold, there came **a great wind** (*perhaps a tornado*) **from the wilderness**, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee” (Job 1:18-19). So we observe this “natural disaster” taking the lives of Job’s children; the devil obviously initiated the malevolent weather. Does this evil nature of the devil harmonize with other Scriptures? We have already observed what John writes, “The thief (*devil*) cometh not, but for **to steal, and to kill, and to destroy**: I am come **that they might have life**, and that they might **have it (life) more abundantly**” (John 10:10). We find the devil behind theft, murder and destruction while on the other hand we observe that Jesus came to ensure life! In this context, notice yet another statement concerning Jesus, “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, **that he might destroy the works of the devil**” (1 John 3:8).

Hopefully, we are beginning to grasp the Biblical concept that God never uses evil things to teach lessons to humans; therefore, we should ask, “So how does God teach humanity? What methods does He use in order to teach us?” Notice the exact Biblical answer to this question, “**All scripture is given** by inspiration of God, and is profitable **for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness**: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished** unto all good works” (2 Tim 3:16-17). This passage teaches that God presented us with His Scripture in order that we may learn from it! This means that God’s primary method of correction is His word!

Now I can choose to go out and get into an adulterous affair and ruin my marriage and get a divorce, which will certainly damage my finances. Through that experience I will learn the hard way that adultery is destructive to my life. Or, I can read, believe and follow God’s word on the subject: “**Thou shalt not commit adultery**” (Ex 20:14); “whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: **he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul**” (Prov 6:32); further, the proverbs teach me about the end result of entertaining sin with the seductive woman, “With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. 22 He goeth after her straightway, as **an ox goeth to the slaughter**” (Prov 7:21-22).

The question is, “Which is the best teacher; the word of God or the lessons learned by “hard knocks?” Experience is not the best teacher! Further, God does not cause the evil things that will naturally result in the life of the adulterer (*a violent reaction from a jealous husband, sexually transmitted diseases, the wrath of a vengeful wife, resultant loneliness, financial ruin, etc.*); instead, the adulterer brings those natural “evil” outcomes upon himself!

The point is that we must not blame God for our own problems and tragedies! Not even the natural disasters! We are all aware that God cursed the ground at the fall of man, “unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of



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the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground** for thy sake” (Gen 3:17). Notice what God told Cain after he killed Abel, “What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. 11 And now art thou cursed from the earth (*God did not say I speak a curse upon you; the earth had already been cursed.*), which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; 12 **When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength**; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth” (Gen 4:10-12). The Apostle Paul explains this “cursing” of the ground; “**the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain (like labor pains) together until now**” (Rom 8:22). All of creation is in a state of unrest! Paul even explained why, “For the earnest expectation of the creature (*creation*) **waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God**” (Rom 8:19). The earth will continue travailing and groaning until the sons of God are manifest; the earth is literally suffering and anxious for the children of God to appear and exercise their God-given dominion.

Why is the physical creation in a state of unrest? Notice that God “**blessed them**, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and **subdue it: and have dominion** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Gen 1:28). God gave humanity dominion over the earth! God designed the earth so that it would naturally responds to humanity. Notice how Solomon expressed that the earth literally responds to the sinfulness of people, “**When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee**” (1 Kings 8:35). God explained to Cain that the land (*earth*) responds to sinfulness; in like manner, according to Solomon, Israel would experience drought (*natural disaster*) because of sin!

We have learned that God’s preferred method of instruction is His word. Nevertheless, the sinfulness of the humans definitely results in natural disasters. We know that “iniquity shall abound” in the last days; further, we know that, “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**. 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. 8 **All these are the beginning of sorrows**” (Matt 24:6-8). No, today’s natural disasters (*perhaps the beginning of sorrows*) are not the judgment of God! Instead, because of the increasing sinfulness of humanity problems will get worse, “evil men and seducers **shall wax worse and worse**” (2 Tim 3:13). When He comes to judge, **the whole earth will know that He has come**, “And it shall come to pass, that he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. 19 The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. 20 **The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard**, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again . . . 23 Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously” (Isa 24:18-23).

Now, let’s ask the follow-up question, “If God is the source of all love and He is all powerful, why does he not stop natural disasters like the recent tsunami?” We have discerned that God has a hands-off policy towards the earth. God is clearly not bringing the earth under subjection from His heavenly location. Why not?



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The reason is that God does not exercise control over the earth; MAN does! We must realize that God’s word is his bond! When God speaks anything out of his mouth, He will not take it back, “My covenant will I not break, ***nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips***” (Ps 89:34). This means that everything that takes place on the earth is not equivalent to the will of God! He has set-up laws that govern the universe and those laws always produce a predictable result. Job teaches us that God always protects His people by placing a hedge about them; this is especially true of the New Testament Church! But, what about people that are not under God’s protection, “That ***at that time*** ye were ***without Christ***, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and ***strangers from the covenants*** of promise, having no hope, and ***without God in the world!***” (Eph 2:12) It does not get any plainer; those people “without Christ” are “without God in the world!” Therefore, those “without God” will continue to suffer the natural disasters of the earth until the sons of God are manifest or until they come to Christ.

Along with Adam’s fall, man renounced his authority over the earth. The word renounce comes from (“re” – again and “nintus” – messenger or speaker.) This implies that man spoke something different than what God had originally said! It is important for us to realize that man exercised his own dominion by placing himself under subjection! When Adam obeyed satan he actually came under the devil’s authority. God’s word corroborates this concept, “Know ye not, that ***to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey***, his servants ye are to whom ye obey” (Rom 6:16).

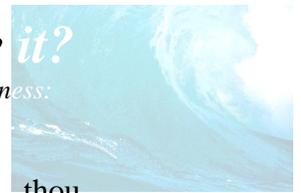
However, Jesus has already restored humanity’s right to rule (*exercise dominion over*) the earth, “***All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth***” (Matt 28:18). Further, Jesus has shared with us His power ***over this earth***, “Behold, ***I give unto you power*** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you” (Luke 10:19). Jesus will come in the future and completely restore this world, “Whom the heaven must receive ***until the times of restitution*** of all things, which ***God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets*** since the world began” (Acts 3:21). Did you catch the concept that the prophets ***spoke*** of the restitution of all things? Of course, God watches over and controls His entire universe through Divine Providence! However, in this world, God’s will is performed only through the words of His Holy prophets and of His people. Also, His will is performed through the prayers (*words*) of His saints! Since men have dominion over the earth, it was even men who had to speak the Messiah into existence! Consider all of the prophecies about the Messiah in the Old Testament.

Strange as it may seem, the Bible teaches that ***only human beings are authorized to bring the earth under subjection***, “The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD’s: but ***the earth hath he given to the children of men***” (Ps 115:16)! From that verse we understand that the earth belongs to the human race! God gave the earth to humanity and He will not break His word! Notice how the Book of Hebrews teaches that man was made to exercise dominion or rulership over the physical works from God’s hands, “Thou madest him (*mankind*) . . . and ***didst set him over the works of thy hands***” (Heb 2:7). Realize however, that man was made to govern; we can clearly see this important Biblical principle in the Psalms, “For thou hast made him (*mankind*) . . . and hast ***crowned him with glory and***



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honour. 6 Thou *madest him to have dominion* . . . thou hast *put all things under his feet*” (Ps 8:5-6).

God’s original purpose concerning government / human dominion over earth was four-fold:

(1) to extend His Heavenly (*unseen*) kingdom: God wanted to extend his invisible kingdom over the visible earth through communication with the invisible spirit in man to convey dominion to visible mankind;

(2) to establish a kingdom of sons and not subjects: Instead of *subjects*, God wants *sons*, “the *servant abideth not in the house* for ever: but *the Son abideth ever*” (John 8:35). The son has ownership in the house and is actually part of the family;

(3) to establish a family of sons and not merely servants: In the story of the prodigal, we graphically observe the difference between the concept that was in the mind of the son; and, the concept that was in the mind of the father. When the son considered going back home he thought within himself that he might say, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, 19 And am *no more worthy to be called thy son*: make me as one of *thy hired servants*” (Luke 15:18-19). In contrast, “the father said to his servants, Bring forth *the best robe* (*the robe represents the son’s authority as part of the family*), and put it on him; and *put a ring on his hand*, (*the ring represents the son’s financial capabilities in the family*) and *shoes on his feet*: (*the shoes represents the son’s walk (fellowship) in the family*) 23 And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: 24 For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found” (Luke 15:22-24);

(4) to establish relationship: Instead of *religion*, God wants *relationship*. Instead of *searching* for God, sons have *found* God. “Henceforth *I call you not servants*; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but *I have called you friends*; (*close relationship*) for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you” (John 15:15).

God does not want servants or slaves; instead, He wants relationship with His own SONS! The key to Kingdom thinking is expressed in the following verse, “And God said, *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion* over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So *God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them*. 28 And *God blessed them*, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and *subdue it: and have dominion* over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Gen 1:26-28)

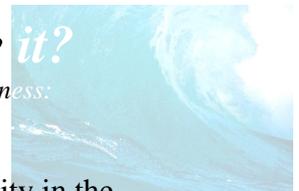
We need to recall the law of first mention at this point! God’s first instruction to humanity was a *dominion mandate!* He wants us to dominate the earth, “and let them have dominion” (Gen 1:26). He wants us to rule the visible earth through the visible body from His invisible realm. God wants His will be done on earth as it is in heaven through the dominion of His sons! This is the dominion leadership mandate! The Hebrew word for dominion means: (1) to govern; (2) to control; (3) to rule; (4) to manage; (5) to master; and (6) to lead!

Whatever God creates, He confers with all necessary natural ability. This means that since God created the fish for water, He put the natural ability in the fish to swim. Since God



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created the bird for the air, He put the natural ability in the bird to fly. Since God made us to rule He therefore put the ability within us to rule! That is why humans have such a

difficult time coming under the authority of tyrant. Our human nature abhors being dominated; consider: (1) the boss telling the employee, “you must do this job the way I told you!” (2) the mother telling the child, “you better get over here right now!”

As Creator, God established all of the standards; therefore, He is the King. However, He does not want subjects in His domain; He wants sons! God created because he is a Creator. Creating is His natural role. Whatever the Creator creates is naturally His domain.

The Bible teaches that we have dominion over the earth! Dominion means to rule! We are the world’s dominators. In point of fact, the earth is our domain. The biblical words “Ruler” and “King” have the same origin. We are the kingdom of God on the earth. ***The kingdom is the functioning of the rulers on the domain.*** The kingdom is not the physical planet; as we carry out the dominion of God upon this planet, we establish His kingdom.

We are all kings over the territory or domain of the earth, “the earth hath he given to the children of men” (Ps 115:16). We are supervisors, leaders, governors, managers, and rulers of the planet. God teaches that whatsoever we bind on earth, “shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matt 16:19). If something is not happening in the earth it is because we are not allowing it to happen! This is the purpose of prayer. Prayer is constantly giving God permission to interfere upon the earth’s activities, “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matt 6:10). We are the ones who have the body and therefore the license to rule over the earth; however, “men ought always to pray, and not to faint” (Luke 18:1). This means that we should be in constant prayer; if we do not continually pray, we will end up limiting ourselves. John Wesley said something to the effect, “Prayer is strange. Without God we cannot; without us God will not!” Whenever we disagree with any of the existing earth conditions, we need to pray. Prayer is business; it is our dominion communication link into the Kingdom of God. Essentially, God is teaching His children (sons of God) to be like Himself, based upon what we do with this earth (*under Christ*) He will expand our responsibilities!

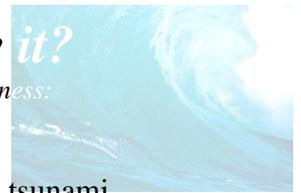
We were born to dominate earth. We were not made to dominate heaven. Heaven is only a temporary future habitation for us. Instead, in the future God will bring His habitation the New Jerusalem to the earth. Our domain is the earth. However, if we dominate plants, trees, birds, and animals, why are some people dominated by cocoa leaves (*cocaine*) or tobacco leaves (*cigarettes*)? Why are some people dominated by fermented juices (*alcohol*), which comes from various plants? Why are some people dominated by green dyed paper, (*money*) which originally comes from trees? You get the point; rather than being dominated, we dominate! In essence, we must begin by dominating ourselves (*the dust of the earth*), “He that is faithful in that which is least (*the individual*) is faithful also in much (*the earth*)” (Luke 16:10).

Adam actually fell from his responsibility of performing proper dominion. Mankind still maintains dominion; however, he is not fulfilling the original intent of God, which is to rule the earth while remaining under the authority of the Kingdom of God. Instead, mankind is ruling from the kingdom of darkness and the result has produced a long history of death, destruction, natural disasters and sorrow! As a quick aside, have you heard the news



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stories how the animals somehow knew about the tsunami (through a kind of 6th sense) and they naturally fled from the water. They essentially heard from God and fled. This means that fallen human beings cannot hear from God as well as animals!

Paul taught, “For **the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus** hath made me free from **the law of sin and death**” (Rom 8:2)? God actually established a “law of sin and death!” The “law of sin and death” is evident through: sickness, disease, natural disasters, war, poverty, and all of those things that the Bible relates are the result of “the curse!” Paul said, “**sin entered into the world, and death by sin**; and so death passed upon all men” (Rom 5:12). **Here is a key concept:** When death for the human family came into the world through Adam, it turned out to be the ceasing point of sin in the life of the individual! Notice how Paul describes it, “sin entered into the world, and **death by sin**” (Rom 5:12). Sin naturally brings death to those who indulge in it as Paul wrote, “But sin, that it might appear sin, **working death in me**” (Rom 7:13). Realize this, sin works death in the individual human being! The apostle James describes the sin/death process, “Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, **bringeth forth death**” (James 1:15). Paul taught us that sin actually takes its adherents captive by a new law, “bringing me into **captivity to the law of sin** which is in my members” (Rom 7:23). Once the individual is taken captive by sin then death is the natural result! When human beings sin against someone else they generally experience pangs of guilt and sorrow; indeed, the smitten conscious is part of the process, “the sorrow of the world **worketh death**” (2 Cor 7:10). God has established this entire process in order that “the law of sin and death” would place a curb on sinning in the individual human. Upon death, sinning obviously terminates also in the life of that person.

Death therefore became the only factor in the life of the human being that would cease him from his sin, “the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and **madness is in their heart while they live**” (Eccl 9:3). The prophet Jeremiah continues in this expression of the wickedness in the heart of **unregenerate** humanity, “The **heart is deceitful** above all things, and **desperately wicked**” (Jer 17:9). Imagine what the world would be like if notorious sinners from the past remained alive! Let’s consider, if Adolph Hitler were still alive, what manner of evil and destruction would he be instigating in today’s age of atomic, biological, and chemical weapons of mass destruction? God prearranged that death would bring an end to everyone who sins, instead of allowing them to eternally exist in that kind of a chaotic world. In effect, death establishes a curb against the prolongation of sinning on the part of each individual human! This is the essence of what the Bible describes as “the law of sin and death” (Rom 8:2). It is easy to observe that there are “death cycles” in this world such as: war, terrorism, disease, and natural disasters. All of these cyclical natural and/or man-made conditions result in death and destruction.

Rom 5:17 continues, “For if by one man's offence death reigned (*ruled*) by one; much more **they which receive** abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall **reign** (*rule or have dominion*) in life by one, Jesus Christ.” Most of us read quickly over that verse and just kind of say to ourselves something like the following; “Well, that verse mainly teaches that Adam sinned and therefore all of us must receive the sacrifice of Jesus Christ!” The verse does say that; however, it has so much more information to convey. Notice the



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following table as it seeks to expound that verse more thoroughly by means of the eight specific segments contained in the verse!

Rom 5:17	(1) For if by one man's offence (2) death reigned by one; (3) much more (4) they which receive (5) abundance of grace (6) and of the gift of righteousness (7) shall reign in life (8) by one, Jesus Christ.
(1) For if by one man's offence	Adam was that “one man” who brought death into the world, “For as in Adam all die” (1 Cor 15:22). One might ask so why should Adam’s sin affect me personally. However, we all sinned in Adam in the same sense that, “Levi also, who receiveth tithes, <i>payed tithes</i> in Abraham” (Heb 7:9). Levi had nothing to do with paying tithes nor did we have anything to do with Adam’s sin; yet in God’s economy the seed within the father experience the blessings/curses of the father. Through our father Adam, God’s “Law of Sin and Death” became effective to us.
(2) death reigned (ruled or had dominion) by one;	Death has ruled, “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam” (Rom 5:14). Death is the victor over every sinner, “sin hath reigned unto death” (Rom 5:21). Do you realize that the Bible speaks of two <i>opposite</i> laws regarding life and death? We all know what laws are; they are invisible regulations out of God’s wisdom to which everyone is subject. For example, there is the law of gravity. No physical thing known to man can break that law. Jump off a tall building onto the street and you will die! Everything on earth is subject to the law of gravity. The Bible teaches two <i>opposite</i> laws regarding life and death, “For <i>the law of the Spirit of life</i> in Christ Jesus hath made me free from <i>the law of sin and death</i> ” (Rom 8:2). These two <i>opposite</i> laws will be the topic of a future Bible Study.
(3) much more	Adam sinned and he began the death cycle! “The law of sin and death” took over. Just think of all of the grief and all of the sins that satan and Adam have brought upon the world! It is very powerful to think about all that sin; however, “ <i>Much More</i> ” – has Jesus has brought to us, “where sin abounded, grace did <i>much more</i> abound” (Rom 5:20)! We must realize that the “sin consciousness” that Adam brought is not anywhere near the same level or anything on par with what Jesus brought to humanity! Jesus brought “ <i>much more!</i> ” What God did in Jesus is “much more!” There is something in those who are “the righteousness of God” that bondage cannot hold. There is something in those who are “the righteousness of God” that poverty cannot abide. There is something in those who are “the righteousness of God” that even the foul elements of nature cannot conquer.
(4) they which receive	The key to righteousness is that it must be <i>received!</i> This cannot be emphasized enough. There is a sad story of man who killed someone during President Andrew Jackson’s administration and there arose a great cry from the people of his hometown for the president to pardon his death sentence. However, when the warden offered him the pardon, he would not receive it! The Supreme Court ruled that he should therefore die as planned and he did; all because he would not <i>receive</i> what had been offered! There is power in <i>receiving</i> ; by the same token, there certainly can be great loss to those who choose not to <i>receive</i> from Jesus!
(5) abundance of grace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “For the law was given by Moses, but <i>grace</i> and truth came by Jesus Christ” (John 1:17). • “the <i>grace of God</i> which is given you by Jesus Christ; 5 That <i>in every thing ye are enriched by him</i>, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; 6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7 <i>So that ye come behind in no gift</i>” (1 Cor 1:4-7). • “But <i>unto every one of us is given grace</i> according to the measure of the <i>gift</i> of Christ” (Eph 4:7). • <i>Grace</i> and peace <i>be multiplied unto you</i> through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord” (2 Peter 1:2)



Tsunami – Did God Cause it?

“For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness; neither shall evil dwell with thee.” (Ps 5:4)



Rom 5:17	(1) For if by one man's offence (2) death reigned by one; (3) much more (4) they which receive (5) abundance of grace (6) and of the gift of righteousness (7) shall reign in life (8) by one, Jesus Christ.
(6) and of the gift of righteousness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made <i>the righteousness of God</i> in him (2 Cor 5:19-21) • <i>the righteousness of God</i> which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe” (Rom 3:22)
(7) shall reign in life	There is no getting around the concept that we are supposed to reign during this lifetime!
(8) by one, Jesus Christ	“as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive” (1 Cor 15:22). “But we see Jesus, who . . . by the grace of God should taste death for every man” (Heb 2:9).

In essence Jesus had two major mandates when he came to the earth. First, He came to reintroduce the kingdom of God to man on the earth, the dominion of which Adam had failed to bring. At the beginning of Jesus’ ministry we read, “*The people which sat in darkness saw great light*; and to them which sat *in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up*. 17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, *Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*” (Matt 4:16-17). His primary teaching was “repentance.” Repentance means to transform one’s thinking! Before we can become fully functioning sons in this reintroduced Kingdom of God, we must first have renewed or transformed our thinking. Secondly, Jesus came to restore righteousness to mankind. Through Him we are a new creation! We are different from what we were while existing in the kingdom of darkness, “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; *that we might be made the righteousness of God* in him” (2 Cor 5:21).

God wants you and me to have dominion over the earth, “after our likeness (*the God kind*): and let them have *dominion* over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (Gen 1:26)! That word of instruction was given to Adam and Eve; however they did not take dominion. God’s command still remains for the Sons of God who will take hold of it, claim it, speak it and go through the birthing process!

Have you learned the answer to the following questions: Did God send the 2004 Tsunami? Does God send out judgments in the form of hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, and cyclones? If He does, “Why?” On the other hand, “Why does He allow natural disasters to happen in the first place?” This lesson should have given you answers to these questions about the Almighty!

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