

GOD AND HURRICANES

INTRODUCTION: I am glad you are here, safe. I pray all your loved ones are safe and remain safe. In a little while, we are going to have a very special time of prayer for everyone who has been and will be impacted by these storms.

- Not giving out the recommendations today
- Can't have meetings that begin on Monday
- We will move the schedule back one week and give them out next Sunday
- Our minds are all on Irma, so I have changed the message today to allow God to speak to our hearts in the midst of what is happening.
- I'm going to share some things with you that most people, even Christians do not know.
- I hope you know, because I have taught these things to you, but I'm not naive enough to think everything I taught stuck with everyone.
- **TITLE – GOD AND HURRICANES = Three Questions**

I. WHY DOES GOD ALLOW HURRICANES?

- **God created the earth in a way that it did not have hurricanes or storms of any kind.**
 - **Waters above and below with firmament in between**
 - **Water vapor above earth**
 - **Produced longevity**
 - **Also produced world wide tropical effect like a terrarium**
 - **No hurricanes, tornados, storms, not even rain.**
- **Sin became pervasive. Every thought was evil.**
 - **God told them He would send a world wide flood.**
 - **120 years to repent. None did.**
 - **To preserve His purpose for mankind - Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord**
 - **Life preserved on ark**
- **During the flood, everything changed on earth**
 - **Water above the earth was spent**
 - **Longevity ceased**
 - **Hydrological cycle changed**
 - **Rain began, storms began, tornados, hurricanes - all a consequence of sin**
- **Why doesn't God do something?**

- o He has – the cross
- o He just isn't finished.
- o He still has the door open inviting people into His eternal home.
- o Be glad He is not finished. If he were finished, all those lost people worried about houses and cars, and businesses would find themselves in hell begging to get out and come back to the quenching rain and cooling wind of a hurricane.

So,...

II. WHAT IS GOD DOING IN THE MIDST OF THE HURRICANE?

- God is drawing people to Himself.
- People pray and cry out to God who have not thought of him in years.
- God often shows His mercy, compassion, and kindness to the lost, seeking to draw them to Himself.
- God is taking care of His children. Does not mean none are injured or die. But God is still with them and cares for them.
- One of the primary ways God cares for the hurting after a storm like this is through God's people. Only folks we saw helping others in Texas were God's people, and I am please to say most of them were Baptists.
- God brings blessings to His children out of the storm.
 - o Are you tired of my Katrina stories?
 - o School buildings - 6 ft of water
 - o End, class rooms were brand new.
 - o Whole church like new - things corrected and updated - no cost
 - o To this day, FBC Slidell is remembered as the church that helped everyone during Katrina

III. WHAT SHOULD WE DO IN THE MIDST AND AFTER A HURRICANE?

- Trust God

Psalm 29:10–11 (NKJV) The LORD sat *enthroned* at the Flood, And the LORD sits as King forever. ¹¹ The LORD will give strength to His people; The LORD will bless His people with peace.

- **Be wise. Preserve life. Take care of family. Take care of others who need help.**
- **Pray – We're going to pray, right now.**
 - **Those who have a special concern yourself because of this storm**
 - **Those who have loved ones in its path for whom you are concerned,**
 - **Come to the front, and just spread out across the front facing me. We're going to pray for you and your loved ones.**
 - **Church family, come find someone and surround them. Put your hand on their shoulder.**
 - **Share the name or the need – briefly, like one sentence. We want to spend our time praying, not giving details of the need.**
 - **Someone for each person, pray aloud for the need.**
 - **Now I will pray**
 - **Now all huddle up and listen**
- **Story of finding Deweyville**
- **Deweyville – Pastor Damon, Pastor Brad**

You may return to your seats

INVITATION