

Sermon Notes

God's True Nature – James 1:13

August 31, 2025

I. Introduction

If a tornado hits, God gave the command. The tornadoes were His to get people to repent.

- a. check [devo for quotes](#) about who God is... is that biblical truth... is that God's heart...
Gen 18:20-32... "outcry against Sodom is great... sin is very grave... Abraham said, *would You also destroy righteous with wicked; suppose there were 50 righteous, would You not spare it for the 50; far be it from you to destroy righteous with the wicked...* so the Lord said, *if I find 50 righteous people I will spare the city...* 45,40,30,20,10... *I will not destroy it for the sake of 10...*"
John 3:16-18... "God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but to save it..."
Rom 2:4... "it is God's kindness that is intended to lead us to repentance..."
- b. so which is it... does God like to destroy or save... did Jesus pay the penalty for wrath and judgment or not... and if He did, why is God still punishing us...
John 12:31-32... "now is judgment... if I am lifted up... I will draw all to Myself..."
Rom 3:25... "whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood..."
1John 2:2... "He Himself is the propitiation for our sins... not only ours... but whole world..."
1John 4:10... "God sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins..."
[hilasmos](#)... *turning away wrath by an offering; satisfying wrath of God...*
- c. fewer and fewer people have a good opinion of God... He gets the blame when a child dies... when a tornado hits... or when someone gets cancer... time to change that... [pray](#)...
Rom 1:16-32... "they did not glorify Him or give Him thanks... became utter fools..."
[doxaxo](#)... *always a good opinion, resulting in praise, honor; judgment, view, think, suppose...*

II. True Nature

Why do bad things happen to good people? That only happened once and He volunteered. RC Sproul

- a. when tragedy strikes... often struggle to understand... try to make sense of it when it simply doesn't make sense sometimes... often believe incorrectly about who God is...
Gen 50:20... "you planned evil against me... God planned it for good... to save..."
John 16:33... "in this world you will have trouble... I have overcome the world..."
Rom 8:28... "all things work together for the good of those who love God..."
1Pet 4:12... "don't be surprised at the fiery trials... as if they were something strange..."
- b. can God use tragedy for good... absolutely, and He often does... but those verses don't tell us He is the source of tragedy or even allows it... must determine source of tragedy before you can come up with proper response and allow God to use it for good...
Eph 6:11... "put on full armor of God... so you can stand against schemes of devil..."
James 4:7... "submit to God... resist the devil... and he will flee from you..."
[pheugo](#)... *seek safety by flight; shun or avoid; escape safely out of danger; vanish...*
- c. if God didn't cause tragedy, then maybe He allowed it... got to be really, really careful with this... bible urges us to protect innocent... stand against hate and injustice... if it's not okay for us to allow bad things to happen... why do we think it's okay for God to...
Prov 24:11-12... "rescue those being taken off to death... save those stumbling toward slaughter... no excuse by saying, we didn't know about this... He who guards your soul knows you knew..."
Isa 55:1-9... "My ways are higher than your ways... My thoughts higher than your thoughts..."

- d. saw last week that Isa 55 has nothing to do with pain and tragedy... but everything to do with a good God who wants to provide us with the best of everything... to freely forgive... do we really think Jesus would walk by a suffering person and not do anything...
Matt 9:35... "went to all towns... preaching good news... healing every sickness..."
Luke 6:19... "power was coming out from Him and healing them all..."
Acts 10:38... "Jesus went around doing good... healing all oppressed by devil..."
Heb 1:3... "the Son is the exact image (representation, imprint) of the Father..."
- e. does God bring sickness... did God cause the storm on the lake... did God want the man to be born blind... no, no, and no... satan did... a house divided cannot stand...
Exo 15:26... "I will not inflict illness on you... I am Yahweh who heals you..."
Luke 8:22-25... "fierce storm came on lake... *going to die*... Jesus rebuked wind and waves..."
Mark 3:22-26... "how can satan drive out satan... if a kingdom is divided against itself it cannot stand... if a house is divided against itself, it cannot stand... it is finished..."
John 9... "blind from birth... *who sinned... neither, happened so power of God might be displayed...*"
- f. for God to cause evil... allow evil... passively accept evil... would cease to make Him good... cease to make Him God... that wrong belief is destroying people spiritually...
Hosea 4:6... "people are destroyed by lack of knowledge... rejected knowledge..."
James 1:13... "God is never tempted to do wrong (evil, injurious, troublesome, destructive)..."
[peirazo](#)... *make trial or test for the purpose of ascertaining someone's quality; to test one's faith, virtue or character; to inflict evil upon one in order to prove his character or faith...*
[GSV](#)... God never inflicts evil to prove our quality, character, or faith by doing something destructive
- g. didn't God stand by and allow Jesus to suffer and die painfully... shouldn't I be like Jesus and suffer too... [are you sure](#)... He willingly gave up His own life... part of His unchanging plan... why would God want us to experience very thing He died to save us from...
John 10:18... "no one can take My life... sacrifice it voluntarily... authority to lay down..."
Eph 1:5-16... "His unchanging plan has been to adopt us by sending Jesus to die for us..."
1John 3:16... "this is how we know love... He laid down His life for us..."
Rev 13:8... "the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world..."
- h. want to believe God is good... evil and suffering cause doubt... lead to this thought... God is good OR God is able... not both... scripture tells us God is good and able and willing...
Luke 4:18-19... "anointed to preach good news... proclaim freedom... set free... year of favor..."
Luke 5:12-13... "if you are willing, you can heal me... I am willing, be healed..."
2Cor 6:7... "by the Word of truth... by the power of God... weapons of righteousness..."
2Cor 9:8... "God is able to make every grace overflow... always having everything you need..."
- i. although it is true God never changes... can't completely understand true nature of God in OT... merely a shadow of reality... God's true nature is revealed in Jesus...
Mal 3:6... "for I am the Lord, and I do not change..."
1Cor 2:10-16... "Spirit shows us God's deep secrets... we have received God's Spirit..."
2Cor 3:5-18... "at reading of OC, veil remains... it is only removed in Christ..."
Col 2:17... "these are only a shadow of what was to come... the reality is Christ..."
Heb 10:1... "law is only a shadow of good things to come... not the actual form..."
James 1:17... "every good gift... comes from Father... who does not change..."
- j. many hurt and abused by misunderstanding of who God really is... can't even walk in doors of church anymore... not actually opposed to God... opposed to their *understanding* of God... only way to change that is for us to reveal His true nature to them... [pray](#)...
Matt 24:5... "many will come in My name... I am Messiah... will deceive many..."
1John 3:1-2... "world doesn't know Him... when He is revealed... shall see Him as He is..."
[phaneroo](#)... *make known what is unknown by teaching, words, deeds, or in any other way...*