

Does God Cause Natural Disasters? : Part 1

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Urantia Book Question: Does God Cause Natural Disasters?, My Urantia Book Articles, My Facebook Commenting Policy, My Main Priority Is Bill's Bible Basics Ministry, Abide In Your Own Calling, Don't Start Doctrinal Debates Or Argue, The Lord Hath His Way In The Whirlwind And In The Storm, God Does Not Leave The Wicked Unpunished Nor Sees Them As Being Guiltless, Prophecy Against Nineveh, False Claim That God Does Not Kill Or Destroy Anyone, God Uses Earth's Natural Forces As Tools Of Chastisement, Genesis Flood, Sodom And Gomorrah, Plagues Of Egypt, More Divine Chastisements By Natural Disasters, God Kills And Makes Alive, God Makes Peace And Creates Evil, Does God Only Chastise Through His Word?, Passing The Buck To The Devil, Satan Can Only Do Things By God's Permission, Satan Afflicts Job, Prince Of The Power Of The Air, Has God Given Satan Control Of Natural Elements?, Devil Acts As Prosecuting Attorney And Executioner, Accuser Of The Brethren, Two Sides To God's Nature: Lion And Lamb, God Doesn't Afflict Willingly

The other day I engaged in an online conversation with a few of my Facebook friends. This conversation actually began when a sister in the Lord posted a particular quote from the Urantia Book on her timeline. I don't know how accurate this quote is, but this is what she posted:

----- Begin Quote -----

Does God Cause Natural Disasters?

"Of one thing you may be sure: The Father does not send affliction as an arbitrary punishment for wrongdoing."

----- End Quote -----

For those of my readers who may not be aware of it, to date, I have written three articles in which I expose the lies and distortions which are contained in that abominable, damnable, faith-robbing book. They are the following. You will find

them listed again at the end of this article with links:

The Urantia Book: A Dangerous New Age Doctrine!"

The Urantia Book: An Attack on the Blood Atonement!"

Genesis Flood: The Urantia Book Exposed Again!"

At any rate, for those of you who have known me for a while, I am sure you will not be surprised to learn that upon reading the above Urantia Book quote, I felt compelled to respond to that post. Normally, it is not my policy to post comments on other people's timelines. There are several reasons for this. First of all, I keep quite busy with the Bill's Bible Basics ministry as it is. At my age, and with the little energy that I have each day, I need to remain focused on the work which the Lord has specifically given me to do.

As it is, I am literally years behind in my work. While most of you don't know this, I have dozens of articles and series which need to be reviewed and updated. I also have dozens of other articles and series, and snippets of other partially begun articles, which have never even been completed and published yet. All of this on top of creating new graphics, writing new poetry, compiling new KJV Bible Verse lists, responding to online comments, etc. Believe me when I say that it is a lot to do for one old man like me. But I do what I can each day by God's Grace.

In addition to the aforementioned reason, another reason why I don't frequent a lot of my friends' timelines, is because I also strongly believe in abiding in my own calling, exactly as the Scriptures advise us to do. In other words, I do not like meddling in the ministries of other servants of the Lord. In short, for the most part, I simply prefer to mind my own business, and concentrate on my own ministry. I base this belief on the following group of verses:

"Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand."

Romans 15:20-21, KJV

"Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called . . . Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God."

1 Corinthians 7:20, 24, KJV

"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. But we will not boast of things without our measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ: Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth."

2 Corinthians 10:12-18, KJV

"But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision."

Galatians 2:7-9, KJV

The third reason why I don't frequent a lot of other pages on Facebook, is because I don't like starting doctrinal fires on other people's timelines, which I know I won't have time to become involved in, and much less time to put out. In fact, as I explain in articles such as "Should Christians Engage in Doctrinal Debates?" and "Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word", I learned years ago that becoming involved in doctrinal debates is usually a waste of one's time, and an exercise in futility. If you want to better understand why I say this, please refer to the aforementioned article.

Having said all of that, if I am tired and laying in bed with my iPhone, I will go to my Facebook news feed and see what is going on. If something really catches my attention, or if I just want to lend support to something that one of my friends

is saying, I will post a comment here and there. So as I said earlier, when I came across the Urantia Book post, I simply could not resist offering my opinion, because I really don't like the lies and deceptions which that book espouses. So, in a one-sentence response, I informed my sister that I strongly disagreed with the Urantia Book statement, and I shared a link for my series entitled "Hurricane Katrina and Other Natural Disasters".

Thankfully, the sister in question did in fact agree with my position, and stated that she believes that God both creates and allows such storms to happen. So at that point, I shared the following verse with her, in support of what she had said:

"The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet."

Nahum 1:3, KJV

According to the Brown, Driver, Briggs, Gesenius Hebrew Aramaic English Lexicon, in the previous verse, the word "acquit" is translated from the Hebrew word "naqah". The primary meaning of this word is to be exempt from punishment or to be found guiltless. But notice what the verse says. It clearly says "will not at all acquit the wicked". In other words, God is not going to just turn a blind eye to their wickedness. He is not just going to view them as guiltless. He is not going to leave them unpunished. And it is right after that, that the same verse states "the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm." In other words, my understanding is that the verse is saying that God uses the storm and the whirlwind as tools of His chastisement. He has His way, He performs His Will, by using the storm and the whirlwind.

Now, if you have any doubt that this is what Nahum 1:3 is saying, then consider the fact that this is an opening verse in the prophecy against Nineveh. To make the point even more clear, consider the surrounding verses which speak of God's wrath, vengeance, anger, fury and indignation against His adversaries and enemies. In this context, the meaning of verse three seems rather clear, in my view:

"The burden of Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD

revenge, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet. He rebuketh the sea, and maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers: Bashan languisheth, and Carmel, and the flower of Lebanon languisheth. The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein. Who can stand before his indignation? and who can abide in the fierceness of his anger? his fury is poured out like fire, and the rocks are thrown down by him. The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him. But with an overrunning flood he will make an utter end of the place thereof, and darkness shall pursue his enemies. What do ye imagine against the LORD? he will make an utter end: affliction shall not rise up the second time." Nahum 1:1-9, KJV

Well, shortly after I responded a few times to this sister in the Lord, another person entered the conversation. Sadly, from the very start, he was opposed to everything that I had told this sister. More to the point, he very clearly stated that, in his view at least, natural disasters are not created by God, or sent by God, and they are not His judgments. My friends, figuratively speaking, my jaw dropped. I could not believe what I was reading; because what he was basically saying is that God is no longer in control of His creation. I hope that you the reader can see that by even saying such a thing, he was directly contradicting the many examples of Divine Chastisement which we find in the Scriptures.

When I saw where he was headed after his first response, I made it clear to him that I was not interested in engaging in a doctrinal debate with him. However, sadly, he was not about to give it up so quickly. In fact, he tried a few times to validate his position by sharing a few verses, as well as by paraphrasing a few others. But in each case, he either took the verses out of context, or else he refused to acknowledge other verses which challenged his understanding of the ones he had shared. To be honest, his responses were confusing, as well as contradictory at times.

While he admitted that natural disasters are the result of sin entering the world, as I mentioned earlier, he plainly stated that he does not believe that they are sent by God,

because in his view, God does not kill or destroy anyone. God only gives life he said. So at this point, I began to share a number of examples from the Scriptures to help him see that he was wrong, and to prove to him that God does in fact use the natural forces of the Earth as His tools of chastisement when He deems it appropriate. I began by reminding him that God's very first major chastisement against the world was the Genesis Flood. Clearly, in today's terminology, we would refer to the Flood as a "natural disaster". Can any Christian in their right mind deny that God had His hand in that event? For those of you who may have doubts about this, let me just share one set of verses which will set you straight:

"And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the LORD said, I WILL DESTROY MAN WHOM I HAVE CREATED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them."

Genesis 6:5-7, KJV

Can the truth be more plain than that? I likewise reminded him of how an angry God rained down fire and brimstone upon wicked Sodom and Gomorrah in retribution for their sins. Again, this is a clear Scriptural example where God used the natural forces of the Earth to punish evil people. All Bible-believing Christians know this. Even nonbelievers know the story.

"Then THE LORD RAINED UPON SODOM AND UPON GOMORRAH BRIMSTONE AND FIRE FROM THE LORD OUT OF HEAVEN; And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground. But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt. And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the LORD: And he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain, and beheld, and, lo, the smoke of the country went up as the smoke of a furnace. And it came to pass, when GOD DESTROYED THE CITIES OF THE PLAIN, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow, when he overthrew the cities in the which Lot dwelt."

Genesis 19:24-29, KJV

Who destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and the other cities of the

plain due to their extreme wickedness? Those verses make it perfectly clear that God is the one who did it; and again, He used the natural forces of the Earth to accomplish this Divine Chastisement. As I mentioned earlier, this too would be called a so-called "natural disaster" in our modern day.

We find so many other clear examples in the Scriptures where we see God using the natural forces of the Earth and beyond as tools of His chastisements. I could not possibly mention them all here. What about the plagues in Egypt? Was the Lord's hand not in those? Did He not orchestrate every single one of them? Can we also just blindly ignore the droughts, famines, pestilences, fiery serpents and other things which God used repeatedly as a means to chastise the rebellious Israelites? In fact, He repeatedly warned them through Moses that these things would befall them if they rebelled against Him. For any doubters amongst my readers, I offer you the following sample verses which clearly reveal God's hand in all of these things:

"Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you."

Deuteronomy 11:16-17, KJV

"When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance. If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be; What prayer and supplication soever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: Then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;) That they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our

fathers."

1 Kings 8:35-40, KJV

"Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites."

2 Samuel 21:1, KJV

"Then spake Elisha unto the woman, whose son he had restored to life, saying, Arise, and go thou and thine household, and sojourn wheresoever thou canst sojourn: for the LORD hath called for a famine; and it shall also come upon the land seven years."

2 Kings 8:1, KJV

"Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread."

Psalms 105:16, KJV

"Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, Behold, I will punish them: the young men shall die by the sword; their sons and their daughters shall die by famine:"

Jeremiah 11:22, KJV

"And I will send the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, among them, till they be consumed from off the land that I gave unto them and to their fathers."

Jeremiah 24:10, KJV

"And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand."

Jeremiah 27:8, KJV

"Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Behold, I will send upon them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like vile figs, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil. And I will persecute them with the sword, with the famine, and with the pestilence, and will deliver them to be removed to all the kingdoms of the earth, to be a curse, and an astonishment, and an hissing, and a reproach, among all the nations whither I have driven them:"

Jeremiah 29:17-18, KJV

"Then it shall come to pass, that the sword, which ye feared, shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine, whereof ye were afraid, shall follow close after you there in Egypt; and there ye shall die. So shall it be with all the men that set their faces to go into Egypt to sojourn there; they shall die by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: and none of them shall remain or escape from the evil that I will bring upon them."

Jeremiah 42:16-17, KJV

"A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence, and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee: and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them."

Ezekiel 5:12, KJV

"When I shall send upon them the evil arrows of famine, which shall be for their destruction, and which I will send to destroy you: and I will increase the famine upon you, and will break your staff of bread:"

Ezekiel 5:16, KJV

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Smite with thine hand, and stamp with thy foot, and say, Alas for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel! for they shall fall by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence. He that is far off shall die of the pestilence; and he that is near shall fall by the sword; and he that remaineth and is besieged shall die by the famine: thus will I accomplish my fury upon them."

Ezekiel 6:11-12, KJV

So, yes, despite how very uncomfortable this Biblical truth may be for some people -- not just nonbelieving Urantia Book readers, but even some weak Christians as well -- God does in fact kill and destroy people when it suits His purposes, and when they are sufficiently evil. To argue otherwise is to be denial of all of the previous verses and examples I have shared here. To put the icing on the cake so-to-speak, allow me to share two more verses with you:

"See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I KILL, AND I MAKE ALIVE; I WOUND, AND I HEAL: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand."

Deuteronomy 32:39, KJV

"I form the light, and create darkness: I MAKE PEACE, AND CREATE EVIL: I the LORD do all these things."

Isaiah 45:7, KJV

Sadly, despite my sharing some of the previous Scriptural examples with the man in question, he continued to reject what I was sharing with him. In fact, due to his somewhat twisted way of thinking, he informed me that because God is so gracious and merciful by nature -- which I certainly can agree with -- when He is forced to chastise His children, He uses His Word to do so, and "not satanic calamity and evil", as he put it. Well, if God only uses His Word to chastise His children, how in the world do we explain the plethora of verses I have shared here which say quite the opposite?

Regarding his "satanic calamity and evil" comment, now if I understand him correctly, he wants to pass the buck to Satan. Well, actually, he is partially correct in doing so, as I'll now explain. It was at this point in our conversation where I directed him to the Book of Job, and explained to him that Satan can only do things by God's permission. In other words, while Satan did indeed cause all of those tragedies to happen in Job's life, it was God who allowed Satan to torment Job in the first place. Quite simply, Satan was powerless to torment Job without that Divine Permission. This is made very evident in the following verses:

"Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD."

Job 1:6-12, KJV

One verse I found particularly interesting is verse nineteen;

because not only does it point back to a verse I shared with you earlier, but it also points to a well-known verse which we find in the New Testament. After a number of calamities have already befallen Job and his family, then the following happens in verse nineteen:

"And, behold, there came a great wind 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 1:19, KJV

Wow! A "great wind from the wilderness." Now do you remember the verse that we discussed earlier from the Book of Nahum? Here it is again to refresh your memory:

"The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet."

Nahum 1:3, KJV

So point one: God has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm. Point two: God gives Satan permission to torment Job. Point three: Satan turns around and uses the wind as one way to afflict Job's life by killing his sons. Point four: Some of you are probably familiar with the following verse which is found in the New Testament:

"Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:"
Ephesians 2:2, KJV

So basically, collectively-speaking, these verses seem to be suggesting that God has given Satan control over the natural elements; and Satan can use the elements to afflict humanity. You may recall that earlier, I said that this man was just partially correct. That is because while he apparently wants to assign blame to Satan, he refuses to acknowledge that God is standing behind Satan, telling him what he can and cannot do. One way I have explained it before is by saying that the Devil kind of serves as a Prosecuting Attorney, as well as an executioner. After all, the Book of Revelation does call him the Accuser of the Saints or the Accuser of the Brethren. Furthermore, as we have seen, he also executes God's Will on the Earth in the form of afflictions and chastisements.

In my view, the reason why this man refuses to acknowledge that Satan can only operate within the sphere of control that God gives him, and only with God's permission, is because he does not want to accept that God can kill and destroy, as we have already seen. Apparently, even thinking that way must shatter his personal image of God. At least that is what it seems to me. So as long as he can assign all blame for evil in the world to Satan, his personal -- but misguided -- image of God remains intact.

Like so many other people -- including a lot of Christians -- this man only wants to see a gracious and merciful God. He -- and they -- refuse to acknowledge that there are actually two sides to God's nature. The Lord can indeed be very patient, compassionate, gracious and merciful; but He can likewise be filled with anger, indignation and vengeance; at which time He will lower His rod of correction, if need be. In short, as I point out in a number of other articles, depending on the situation, God can be a lion or a lamb. Which of His faces we see depends a lot on us, and our obedience to His Will for our lives. That begins with acknowledging Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

But concerning Divine Chastisements, what we also need to understand is that God does not afflict any of us willingly. He is not just some kind of merciless monster, as certain nonbelievers like to paint Him, in their attempts to justify their own rebellion against Him. To the contrary, the Bible clearly informs us that it actually breaks His heart when He is forced to lay down the law, and resort to using His rod of correction, due to our stubbornness and rebelliousness. His desire, after all, is that we repent of our wickedness, and return to Him. This truth is made clear by verses such as the following:

"Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?"
Ezekiel 33:11, KJV

"For the Lord will not cast off for ever: But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men."
Lamentations 3:31-33, KJV

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14, KJV

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

2 Peter 3:9, KJV

Please go to part two for the conclusion of this article.

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Does God Cause Natural Disasters? : Part 2

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Jesus Came To Give Us Eternal Life, Not To Condemn Or Destroy Us, God Pleaded With Israelites To Repent And Return To Him, God Gave Stiff Warnings Via The Prophets, God Lowers The Rod, God Killed Hundreds Of Thousands Of Israelites Due To Their Rebellion, The Lovey-Dovey Jesus And God Of Love And Mercy, Not Everyone Wants To Repent And Be Saved, Condemned Through Unbelief, God's Response To Incurable Stubbornness And Rebellion Is Judgment Wrath And Ultimately Destruction, Wrath Of God, Lake Of Fire, Unrepentant Jews, Urantia Book Avoids Uncomfortable Biblical Truths, A Watered Down False Gospel, Urantia Book Denies Necessity Of Christ's Blood Atonement, Changing The Truth Into A Lie, Darkness For Light, Damnable Encyclopedia Of Biblical Errancy, Some Urantians Believe The Urantia Book Is Superior To The Bible And Should Replace It, False Angel Of Light And His Ministers, Doctrines Of Devils And Damnable Heresies, Bible Warnings About False Doctrines And False Brethren, Closing Remarks, Suggested Reading List

Continuing our discussion from part one, it has occurred to me that upon reading this article -- assuming that they even take the time to read it -- there may be certain people who will accuse me of making my point regarding God being capable of destroying and killing people, by only quoting verses that are found in the Old Testament. They may in fact argue that I am emphasizing the wrathful God of the Old Testament period, while ignoring the merciful, loving God of the New Testament. As you will see in a moment, that is far from the truth. In his attempt to convince me that I am wrong, and that it is only the Devil who kills and destroys, and not God, this man paraphrased the following verse:

"The thief 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 more abundantly."

John 10:10, KJV

Naturally, I agree one hundred per cent with that verse. The Lord most certainly came to give us life. Not a so-called "abundant life" as many prosperity preachers like to preach, but rather Eternal Life with rewards in Heaven. So, yes, the Lord is the exact opposite of Satan, who is a destroyer. In fact, in addition to the verses I shared with you in part one regarding God's patience and mercy, and His desire that we repent of our sins so that He can heal our lives, I will take it a step further by sharing the following verses with you as well, which further emphasize that Jesus came to save us and to give us Eternal Life. He did not come to destroy us:

"For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them . . ."

Luke 9:56, KJV

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

John 3:17, KJV

"For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost."

Matthew 18:11, KJV

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 19:10, KJV

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16, KJV

"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 4:14, KJV

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed . . . And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst . . . I am that bread of life . . . Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

John 6:27, 35, 48, 53, KJV

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

John 10:28, KJV

"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

John 17:1-3, KJV

But here's the question that we need to ask ourselves: Do any of the previous verses really negate anything else that I've shared with you in this article? Think carefully before you answer. In my view, the answer is definitely not. What they actually do, is round out the picture, exactly as occurs in the Old Testament as well. In other words, as I explain in series such as "The Fruits of Disobedience", in the pages of the Old Testament, we discover time and time again that God demonstrated great patience and mercy when the Israelites backslid into deep apostasy. He waited for them to repent of their rebellion and return to Him. In fact, He pleaded with them to return to Him, as I explain in articles such as "Oh

Israel, Why Will Ye Die?".

But that is not all that the Lord did. He also gave them repeated stiff warnings regarding what would happen to them if they did not repent of their idolatry and other sins; just as we learned in part one of this article. Ultimately, exactly as He had warned them via His Prophets, God had to lower the rod and punish them. Not just once, but many times throughout the pages of the Old Testament. And the way in which He chastised them is clearly described in those verses I shared with you in part one.

While foreign invasions were clearly one method that the Lord used to punish the Israelites, as we learned earlier, He also used natural disasters such as droughts, plagues, famines, wildlife, etc. Carefully examine the Old Testament. Collectively-speaking, the Lord killed at least hundreds of thousands of people when the Israelites sinned against Him. For example, as I share in a few other articles, when King David became proud and self-confident, and decided to take a census in order to measure the strength of his army, God was not pleased, because David was beginning to trust in the arm of the flesh, instead of in the Lord. As a result, we are told that He smote 70,000 Israelites, as we see by this verse:

"So the LORD sent pestilence upon Israel: and there fell of Israel seventy thousand men."

1 Chronicles 21:14, KJV

Allow me to share another example with you. When King Ahaz rebelled against the Lord and fell into idolatry and child sacrifices, God was so upset with him, that He allowed the Syrians to kill 120,000 Israelite soldiers in one day, as we can determine by the following verses:

"Wherefore the LORD his God delivered him into the hand of the king of Syria; and they smote him, and carried away a great multitude of them captives, and brought them to Damascus. And he was also delivered into the hand of the king of Israel, who smote him with a great slaughter. For Pekah the son of Remaliah slew in Judah an hundred and twenty thousand in one day, which were all valiant men; because they had forsaken the LORD God of their fathers."

2 Chronicles 28:5-6, KJV

Turning to the New Testament, while discussing the sins and

disobediences of the Israelites as they wandered through the wilderness led by Moses, the Apostle Paul informs us that due to their sins of idolatry and fornication, the Lord yet again smote 23,000 Israelites in a single day, as we see by this verse:

"Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand."
1 Corinthians 10:8, KJV

Please take note that none of the previous sets of verses say that Satan did any of the killing. They clearly say that the LORD sent the pestilence upon Israel, the LORD allowed the Syrians to slay all those Israelites, and the LORD also slew the idolators and fornicators. That's straight Biblical truth in black and white. In those three examples alone, over 210,000 people died at the Lord's hand.

Now, while it is indeed true that the New Testament reflects God's loving and merciful side through Jesus Christ, similar to the Old Testament, it also reflects His wrathful side as well; and that is what some of these Urantia Book followers -- and even some weak Christians -- do not want to see, and even refuse to see. All they want to preach is a lovey-dovey, forgiving Jesus and a God of love and mercy. They only want to preach half of the story. But as we see in the Old Testament, a false balance is an abomination in God's sight, and it is not rightly dividing the word of truth either. Consider these two verses:

"A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight."
Proverbs 11:1, KJV

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15, KJV

You see, while it is indeed true that God loves us and wants to save us; and while it is true that Jesus gave His own life on the Cross in order to complete His end of the deal, as I point out in articles such as "All Are Given a Chance, But", just like in the Old Testament, the sad, tragic truth is that not everyone wants to repent. Not everyone wants to forsake their sins. Not everyone wants to come to the Light. As crazy as it may sound, not everyone wants to experience

God's love, mercy and forgiveness. They in fact want to stubbornly and rebelliously remain in their sins, hiding in the dark. They don't want to accept Jesus so that they can be saved; and by so doing, they condemn themselves. That is precisely what Jesus said in the Gospel of John, as we see by the following set of verses:

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved."

John 3:18-20, KJV

"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father."

John 15:22-24, KJV

So let me ask you something. How is a righteous God supposed to respond to such incorrigible stubbornness and rebellion? Jesus and the writers of the New Testament give us a very clear answer; and it is the very same answer that we find in the Old Testament. That is, judgment, wrath and finally utter destruction in the Lake of Fire. Friends, all of the verses which follow are found in the New Testament. They clearly reflect the wrathful face of God in the New Testament. He is the same God that we see in the Old Testament. If we do not want His love, if we do not want His salvation, then we will eventually experience His wrath, plain and simple. Let me mention again that it is God and His Angels who are doing all of these things, and not the Devil:

"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Matthew 10:28, KJV

". . . he that cometh after me . . . will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:11-12, KJV

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and MANY there be which go in thereat:"

Matthew 7:13, KJV

". . . He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 13:37-42, KJV

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

John 3:36, KJV

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;"

Romans 1:18, KJV

"Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

Ephesians 5:6, KJV

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God . . . For our God is a consuming fire."

Hebrews 10:31, 12:29, KJV

"And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Revelation 6:16-17, KJV

"And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and

silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts."

Revelation 9:20-21, KJV

"These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will."

Revelation 11:6, KJV

"The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb . . . And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God."

Revelation 14:10, 19, KJV

"And I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvellous, seven angels having the seven last plagues; for in them is filled up the wrath of God . . . And the seven angels came out of the temple, having the seven plagues, clothed in pure and white linen, and having their breasts girded with golden girdles. And one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God, and from his power; and no man was able to enter into the temple, till the seven plagues of the seven angels were fulfilled."

Revelation 15:1, 6-8, KJV

"And I heard a great voice out of the temple saying to the seven angels, Go your ways, and pour out the vials of the wrath of God upon the earth . . . And men were scorched with great heat, and blasphemed the name of God, which hath power over these plagues: and they repented not to give him glory . . . And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, and so great. And the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and great Babylon came in remembrance before God, to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath."

Revelation 16:1, 9, 18-19, KJV

"And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues . . . Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her."

Revelation 18:4, 8, KJV

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

Revelation 19:15, KJV

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 20:15, KJV

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife."

Revelation 21:8-9, KJV

"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:"

Revelation 22:18, KJV

Can you see it now? In both the Old Testament and in the New Testament, He is a God of love and mercy, but He is also a God of wrath, vengeance and destruction. Some people may not like it, and may even be offended by it, but those are just the facts. It is for this reason that we find Jerusalem and the temple being destroyed during the Old Testament period, as well as during the New Testament period. In the case of the Jews, they just never learned their lesson. Sadly, they still haven't learned it 2,000 years later. At least most of them haven't, Messianic Jews aside.

Switching gears, before concluding this article, I would

like to turn our attention once again to the Urantia Book. When I first began investigating the Urantia Book back in May of 1997, I made a very interesting discovery. What I learned is that one reason why so many people are drawn to the Urantia Book in the first place, is because it either avoids, or in fact completely changes, a number of the uncomfortable truths which we find in the Bible, so that they are more palatable and acceptable to the human mind. With certain things that are difficult to understand, it likewise completely changes their meaning, or else it offers rather inventive stories -- fiction, really -- to explain what those things mean in the Scriptures. Some of it sounds very New Age, in my view. In short, the Urantia Book is a watered down, false gospel. It is another gospel.

Let's face it. There are some things which are in fact hard to accept in the Scriptures. One good example is the fact that we clearly find evidence of genocide being committed in the Old Testament by the Israelites. Another example is one we have already thoroughly discussed in this article. That is that God punishes people through personal afflictions and natural disasters. As we have seen with the man on Facebook, the way that some people get around this uncomfortable truth, is by denying it altogether. They claim that God isn't behind all of the natural disasters and calamities that occur in the world. That is just the Devil. God is only merciful and gracious, and He would never ever kill or destroy anyone.

But as I point out in my series "The Urantia Book: An Attack on the Blood Atonement!", one of the most dangerous things I discovered about certain Urantia Book believers, is that they absolutely reject the necessity of Christ's Atonement on the Cross. They cannot understand how a loving God would force His own Son to die a cruel, agonizing death on a Roman Cross. Only a monster would do that, they say. I believe it is in the aforementioned article where I mention the fact that the man I was exchanging emails with at that time, came right out and said that the Crucifixion was a barbaric act which he simply could not accept. So what was his "solution" to the problem? He twisted a few Bible verses and said that Jesus' Atonement was not even necessary, and that all we have to do in order to be saved, is to love and forgive each other. That's it.

So it is just like I said in earlier paragraphs. If there is something which they don't like or cannot accept in the Holy Bible, they either just eliminate it altogether, or else they just rewrite their own version of the truth in the Urantia

Book so that it is more palatable and digestible. I was just reminded of something that the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans. While Paul is actually discussing idolatry in this verse, it does contain a truth which applies to other situations:

"Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

Romans 1:25, KJV

Do you see that? Those wicked Romans changed the truth of God into a lie. And that is exactly what some of those Urantians are doing as well. They are corrupting and perverting the truth of God's Word. They are putting darkness for light, as we see in the following verse:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Isaiah 5:20, KJV

Taking this thought a step further, another thing I learned back in 1997 when I began investigating the Urantia Book, is that some Urantia Book followers apparently take delight in using a blasphemous tome called "The Encyclopedia of Biblical Errancy". In fact, one Urantia Book reader sent me an email in which he stated the following:

----- Begin Quote -----

Regarding what you describe as "God's holy unerring Word, the Bible", I have a wonderful book here called "The Encyclopedia of Biblical Errancy". You can order one from Prometheus Press if you are unafraid.

----- End Quote -----

From what I have read, the general consensus amongst some of these Urantia Book adherents, is that the Bible is so full of errors, misconceptions, myths and inaccuracies, that we should just throw it out the door, and replace it with this modern, misguided work of deception, which they have the gall to claim is a much superior work. In other words, we should just replace the Bible with the Urantia Book, they claim.

The Urantians think that they are following the Light, but in

reality, they are following the false angel of light -- that is, Satan himself -- and they have become his ministers who preach a false gospel, and share a false light as well. They are promoting doctrines of devils and damnable heresies, and not the true Word of God. Consider the following group of verses:

"For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him . . . For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

2 Corinthians 11:4, 13-15, KJV

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of."

2 Peter 2:1-2, KJV

"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Acts 20:28-30, KJV

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

Romans 16:17, KJV

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said

before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

Galatians 1:6-9, KJV

"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;"

1 Timothy 4:1-2, KJV

"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself."

1 Timothy 6:3-5, KJV

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;"

2 Timothy 4:3, KJV

"A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject; Knowing that he that is such is subverted, and sinneth, being condemned of himself."

Titus 3:10-11, KJV

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds."

2 John 1:9-11, KJV

Regarding the man with whom I exchanged a few comments on Facebook, I honestly don't know if he reads and supports the Urantia Book or not, being as I did not have an opportunity to ask him. However, I do suspect that both he and the woman who started the Facebook thread have at the very least read parts of it. In fact, in one of her comments, the woman told me plainly that she is confused, because she supposedly has found a lot of contradictions in the Bible.

In the end, the man became a bit condescending and critical in his remarks, and even began to place a laughing emoji next to some of my comments. In fact, he said that he would pray that I would "contaminate as few people as possible" with my "religious devilish doctrines". He also said that he would pray that the "religious scales" would "fall away" from my eyes "before satan takes [me] in one of his evil intended disasters." He also said "Keep teaching that lying religious doctrine and you'll trap yourself in it's disastrous ending." Finally, he informed me that God prefers to keep me alive.

So as you can surely see, the man was totally unreceptive to everything which I tried to share with him. He may possibly be a Christian, but I am not really sure at this point, due to the fact that a lot of Urantia Book readers do know how to look up Bible verses, but they just don't believe them. There is no doubt in my mind that he is deceived about some things. In my view, he needs to take the advice he was giving me, and seriously apply it to his own life. At any rate, this has now become a two-part article, and I believe that I have provided you with enough Scriptural evidence to make your own personal determination regarding whether or not God causes natural disasters.

With these thoughts I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you have found it to be both informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you would take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were also mentioned in this article, or which contain topics that are related to this article, and which are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server.

Hurricane Katrina and Other Natural Disasters

The Urantia Book: A Dangerous New Age Doctrine!

The Urantia Book: An Attack on the Blood Atonement!

Genesis Flood: The Urantia Book Exposed Again!

Should Christians Engage in Doctrinal Debates?

Humility in Our Understanding of God's Word

Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah: A Warning to Modern Society

Remember Lot's Wife: What Was Her Fate?
Queen James Bible: Blasphemous Abomination Exposed!
The Gay and Lesbian Agenda: To the Point!
When Sin is No Longer a Sin
Do You Want Love and Light, or Rod and Wrath?
The Fruits of Disobedience
Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Chastisement
Beholding the Evil and the Good
Backsliding, Divine Chastisement and the Divine Agreement
Are Personal Tragedies Due to Sin?
Free Will and Personal Choice
All Are Given a Chance, But . . .

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