

## Where is God during natural disasters? Romans 8:18-25

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*Read Romans 8:18-25 and pray that God would give you light.*

1. Listen to the news and your non-Christian friends. Where do they say evil and natural disaster comes from?
2. Take a look at v.20. What does it mean that creation was “subjected to futility”?
3. What was creation before being subject to futility? Take a look at the word God repeatedly uses to describe his completed creation in Genesis 1:10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31.
4. How was creation subjected to futility? Perhaps it might be good to revisit Genesis 3:1-19.
5. Why does God hate evil? Are there things in your life that God hates and calls sin? What should you do about it right now?
6. Did death exist before Adam and Eve sinned? Compare Genesis 2:16-17 and Romans 5:12.
7. Read vv.20-21 carefully. These verses tell us that someone subjected creation by the “will of the one who subjected it”. Is that someone God or man? Why do you say so? What does that teach us? Perhaps take a look at these verses as well: Job 37:11-13, Isaiah 40:12, Matthew 10:29-30.
8. Paul writes this passage to comfort Christians. What is the comparison he draws in v.18 and how does that make suffering in the present more bearable?
9. In v.19-22 Paul personifies creation by saying that it “waits in eager expectation” and “creation has been groaning”. The world says environmentalism is the answer to this. What do these verses tell us about God’s solution to these problems?
10. In v.23 Paul says we await “the redemption of our bodies” - what does this mean, and how does it solve the fundamental issue of creation’s brokenness?
11. What is the “hope” Paul describes in v.24? For whom is this hope available?
12. In v.25 Paul talks about the relationship between patience and hope. Explain to someone you love how the Christian hope leads to patience during suffering.