

The Lord Kills

Lord God, this week the entire world heard Your mighty voice. Your finger touched the bottom of the ocean and shook the foundations of the earth; You sent a mighty tidal wave to sweep the shores of Asia. Why Lord? Why? Thousands of lives were lost – many little children have drowned too – and more than a million people have suffered the loss of their house, possessions and loved ones.

I cannot excuse You by saying that it was a “natural” disaster, as if You had nothing to do with it. You are God in truth, sitting on the throne of heaven, reigning over all creation. “Whatever the LORD pleases He does, in heaven and in earth, in the seas and in all deep places.” The tsunami on Sunday 26th December 2004, Lord, was Your deed according to Your good pleasure.

We dare not point a finger accusing You of injustice and cruelty. That would be blasphemy! You are holy and just in all Your ways. Yet we are hard to understand. Let not the sacrifice of so many lives be in vain; God open our eyes to see, our ears to hear Your voice and understand.

We often live as if *we* are in control, as if *we* rule our destiny...Lord, we now realize our nothingness. *You* are Author and Captain of our souls; *You* give us breath, and whenever *You* like, *You* can take it away. “The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.”

That terrible reality - death - reminds us that this world is not the “very good” creation You made in the beginning. Ours is an cursed universe... cursed because of our sin in Adam, and the rotting piles of our personal sins which turned Your garden into a rubbish dump. Therefore Your wrath, God, is revealed from heaven against all human ungodliness and unrighteousness, as You did in Noah’s days when You destroyed the world by the flood.

“For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

You employed some of the same flood waters this week to warn us again of the judgment to come. You killed so many people, and chose to spare our lives even though we are as sinful as they were, to wake us up from our slumber and turn our hearts to You.

Some died in their sin and are now suffering in hell the eternal consequences of their rebellion against You.

Some had trusted in You, Lord, and though imperfectly, they loved You sincerely. Even in their death, You showed them mercy and comforted Your children in heaven.

Lord, if you call me today, where will I spend eternity?