

# Is God responsible for tragic events, suffering?

When tragic events take place, many are quick to blame God, saying He “took” their loved ones. Natural disasters are often called “acts of God.” Are these things really God’s fault? Does he make us suffer? If He is almighty, why doesn’t he prevent all suffering?

As unpleasant as it is to accept, death and suffering are a part of life. Job said at Job 14:1: “Man, born of woman, is short-lived and glutted with agitation.”

The apostle Paul said at 2 Timothy 3:1: “But know this, that in the last days critical times hard to deal with will be here.”

The Bible has warned us that we will see extremely difficult times and will suffer. Jesus’ disciples asked him how long these difficult times would last. Jesus didn’t give them a specific



sharon  
corcoran

- use it or lose it

date or year when these things would end but said at Matthew 24:13, “But he that has endured to the end is the one that will be saved.”

There is hope for better times, salvation, but we have to endure the difficult times to get there. Does the fact that we have to endure suffering mean God wants us to suffer or causes it in order to try us?

James 1:13 says, “When under trial, let no one say, ‘I am being tried by God.’ For with evil things God cannot be tried nor does he himself

tan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.”

Satan has opposed God at least since he approached Eve in the Garden of Eden. He has been joined by angels, who became demons.

2 Timothy 2:26 tells us that Satan has a will contrary to God’s and that he traps people in order to accomplish it: “and they may come back to their proper sense out from the snare of the Devil, seeing that they

try anyone.”

So, where does evil come from? Revelation 12:9 tells us: “So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth; he was hurled down to earth, and his angels were hurled down with him.”

Satan has opposed God at least since he approached Eve in the Garden of Eden. He has been joined by angels, who became demons.

Rather than putting Satan and his followers to death, God allowed

time to pass. By doing so, he allowed Adam and Eve to produce a human race fraught with problems and subject to death. Why would he do this?

Proverbs 27:11 says, “Be wise, my son, and make my heart rejoice, that I may make a reply to him that is taunting me.”

The time allowed, and the resulting suffering, has proved Satan a liar and has shown that independence from God results in nothing but trouble. Seeing the results before us today, we surely have to see the truth of Ecclesiastes 8:9: “man has dominated man to his injury.”

Mankind has tried every conceivable form of government but has failed to solve the world’s problems. Religions today are a maze of conflicting teachings, and throughout history, religion has fueled the fires

of warfare. Morals keep sinking to a new all-time low, as becomes apparent each time a celebrity decides to come up with a new way to get attention. The prophet Habakkuk had asked God at Habakkuk 1:13: “Why is it that you look on those dealing treacherously, that you keep silent when someone wicked swallows up someone more righteous than he is?”

He got his answer in Habakkuk 2:3 “For the vision is yet for the appointed time, and it keeps panting on to the end, and it will not tell a lie. Even if it should delay, keep in expectation of it; for it will without fail come true. It will not be late.”

God has an appointed time to end wickedness. Even if it seems to be delaying, it will definitely happen, and we need to be sure we are not among the wicked when it does.

# Loss of spouse leaves mate without confidant and companion

Dear Plain Sense: My elderly father died a few months ago after a long illness, and my mother, who is 82, just can’t seem to get over it. She’s lost weight because she’s not eating much. And she refuses to join in on social events. What can I do?



high plains  
mental health

- plain sense

hobbies, gardening, walking or writing in journals.

When dealing with any kind of stress, including the loss of a loved one, it is especially important to take care of one’s physical health. Physical symptoms such as loss of appetite, headaches, upset stomach and sleep difficulties often are present during a time like this. It then becomes necessary for the bereaved to be sure to eat nutritious foods, get some exercise and try to get enough rest and sleep.

Isolation can lead to further feelings of loneliness and even depression, so staying involved with family and friends and joining in on social activities can be a boost to one’s emotional health.

Sometimes the best thing that friends and family can do for the bereaved is to just be there. Offering to assist with simple chores around the house can help the person to begin developing a new routine.

Always remember that the grieving process can be a few days, weeks

or months, and is not the same for everyone. If after a reasonable time, you continue to have concern for your mother’s physical and emotional well-being, then it may be

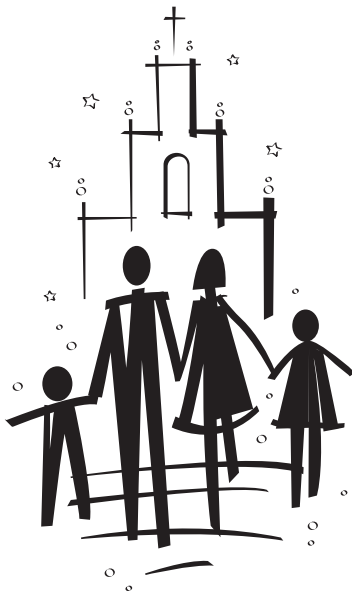
necessary to seek further assistance from a professional such as a counselor, physician or minister.

Contributed by Karen D. Beery, Consultation and Education De-

partment. The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.

Mail questions to High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, Consultation and Education Dept., 208 E. Seventh, Hays, Kan. 67601.

## Worship warms the heart



### Calvary Gospel Church

**Pastor:** Rev. Steve Rains  
Fourth & College • 899-3605  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Morning Service: 10:30 am  
Small Group Ministries  
**Wednesday:** Prayer and Worship: 7:00 p.m.  
Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Pastor:** Father Norbert Dlabal  
307 W. 13th • 899-7205  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment  
**Mass Schedule:**  
**Saturday:** 6 pm, **Sunday:** 10:30 am  
**Spanish Mass:**  
1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

### Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398  
**Minister:** Tony Kafka  
**Youth Minister:** Doug Bean  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9:30 am  
Sunday School: 10:45 am  
**Wednesday:**  
Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm  
Adult & Children’s Classes: 7 pm

### Word of Life Foursquare Church

10th & Clark • 899-5250  
**Pastor:** John Coumerilh  
**Service Schedule:**  
**Sunday:** Worship Celebration  
and Kids’ Church: 10:30 am  
First Wednesday: K.W.A.M.!  
Grades 1 through 5: 7 p.m.

### Pleasant Home Church

**Serving the rural community  
for over 100 years**  
Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70  
**Pastor:** Charlie Busch  
694-2242  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 am  
Sunday School: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm

### Bible Baptist Church

**Pastor:** Glenn Hermanson  
Fifth & Broadway  
899-7368  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Morning Service: 10 am  
Evening Service: 6:30 pm  
**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO  
(719) 346-7984  
**Sacrament Meeting:** 10 am  
**Sunday School:** 11:15 am  
**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 12 am

### Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo  
Spanish Speaking Church  
**Minister:** Esteban Ortiz B.  
1601 Texas • 899-5275  
**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru  
Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am

### United Methodist Church

**Brewster:**  
**Pastor:**  
Worship Service: 10:45 am CST  
Sunday School: 9:45 am CST  
**Winona:**  
**Minister:** Rev. Bob Winters  
Worship Service: 9 am CST  
Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

### First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**Pastor:** Loren Strait  
Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 10:30 am  
**Sunday School:** 9:15 a.m.  
**Activities:** Junior High & High School Youth Groups,  
Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men’s and Women’s Groups,  
Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship  
**Special Notice:** Handicap Accessible, Hearing  
Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler  
Nurseries Available

### Kanorado United Methodist Church

**Pastor:** Leonard Cox  
399-2468  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am  
Worship Service: 10:15 am

### Church of the Nazarene

**Pastor:** Bob Willis  
Third & Caldwell  
899-2080 or 899-3797  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:50 am  
Evening Service: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 pm

### First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman  
899-3631  
**Pastor:** Rev. Janet Hernandez  
**Saturday:** Informal Worship: 5:30 pm  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Worship Service: 10:30 am

### Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400  
**Pastor:** Chad DeJong  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am  
Morning Worship: 11 am  
Evening Worship: 6 pm  
**Wednesday:** AWANA (Winter)  
and prayer: 7 p.m.

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center  
Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969  
**Priest:** Father Hal Lycett  
**Holy Eucharist:** 10:00 a.m. Sunday  
10:00 a.m. Thursday  
**Morning Prayer:** 8:00 a.m. Wed. - Sun.  
For emergencies Wed. - Sun. 890-6969  
Sr. Warden for emergencies  
Mon. and Tues. 890-3320

### Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423  
**Pastor:** Bob Snyder •  
Residence: 890-0134  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am  
Worship Service: 11 am  
Youth Group at Gattshall’s at 5:30 pm  
Adult Bible Study 6 pm

### First Baptist Church

**Pastor:** John Meckling  
Fifth & Center • 899-3450  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Morning Worship: 10:30 am  
Evening Worship: 6:30 pm  
**Tuesday:** Mens’ Prayer Group: 6:00 am  
**Thursday:** Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

### Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail  
**Pastor:** Jim Martin  
**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 11 am

### Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 890-6161  
**Pastor:** Scott Grimshaw  
**Sunday:** Christian eduction/fellowship:  
10:15 a.m.  
Worship Service: 9 am  
**Wednesday:** Confirmation: 6 pm

### Church of Christ

401 Caldwell  
899-6185  
**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 am  
Worship Service: 10:45 am  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 pm

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend  
your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

Short & Son Trucking  
Hwy. 24

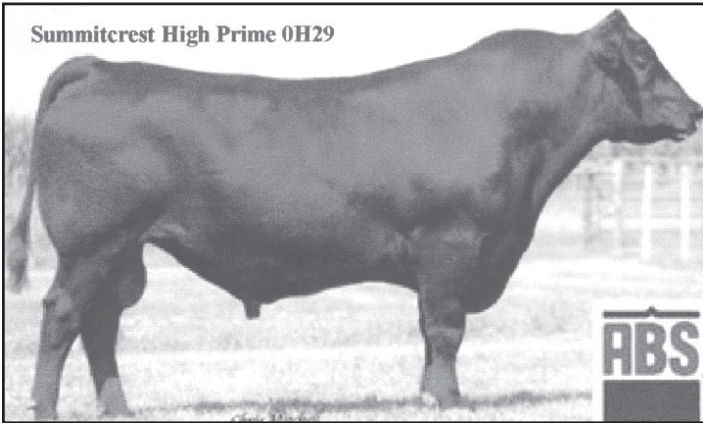
Koons Funeral Chapel  
North Main

Good Samaritan Center  
208 W. 2nd

Goodland Star-News  
1205 Main

## Selling 65 Angus Bulls

Summitcrest High Prime 0H29



Calving ease, superior carcass bull  
High Prime: One of the largest offerings  
of sons. Calving Ease EPD’s. Ranks  
among the top 1% of proven sires for \$G  
and among the top 2% for \$B, a  
Marbling EPD among the top top 3% and a UREA  
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20 Sons  
Offered

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Rob Spencer  
and Family  
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308-340-3211

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Tuesday**  
**March 9, 2004**  
**1:00 p.m. CST**  
\*\*\*\*\*

BB  
Angus

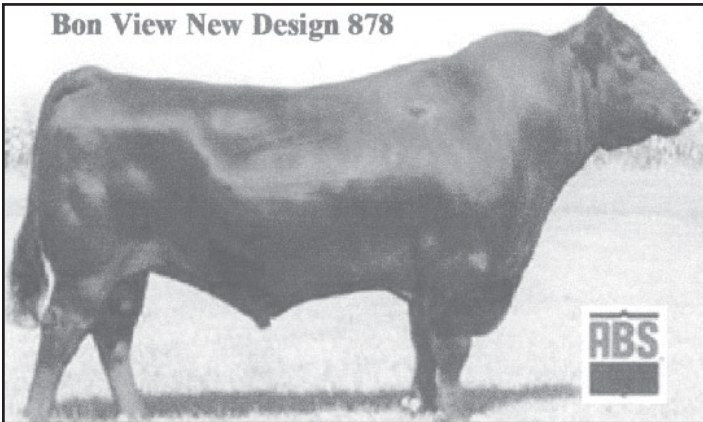
Chase Beeby  
and Family  
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308-340-6438

Midwest Sale Barn -  
North Barn - McCook, NE  
\*\*\* Lunch Available\*\*\*

**Unique Opportunity:** 40 head of A.I. Sired Females  
**List of Sires:** Leachman Quest and New Design 878

Other Sires Represented at the sale include: **Leachman  
Quest • MillBrae Plowman 1627 • N BAR Prime Time**

Bon View New Design 878



Calving ease, superior carcass, high maternal bull