

Are natural disasters, suffering really ‘acts of God?’

Some may wonder as they face the stresses of life, “Why does God allow this to happen?”

Many people in Florida have likely been feeling that way now, as homes across the state have been destroyed by hurricanes Charlie and Frances, and then, with Ivan heading in their direction, they face a possible third hurricane. But are these things God’s fault? Does He cause problems to try people? If He is a merciful God, why doesn’t He prevent such suffering?

The Bible provides answers. 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 try anyone.”

In recent decades, oil spills, pollution from factories and other things brought on by man have devastated the earth’s environment. The pollution reaches beyond our



sharon corcoran

- use it or lose it

immediate vision, and the results have included destructive weather.

Revelation 11:18 says, “But the nations became wrathful, and your own wrath came, and the appointed time for the dead to be judged, and to give their reward to your slaves the prophets and to the holy ones and to those fearing your name, the small and the great, and to bring to ruin those ruining the earth.”

God’s time to end such destruction of the earth will come. Psalm 72:7 says of the time following that destruction: “In his days the righteous one will sprout, and the abun-

dance of peace until the moon is no more.”

Isaiah 30:18 says, “And therefore God will keep in expectation of showing you favor, and therefore he will rise up to show you mercy.”

So why do we still see problems around the earth? 2 Peter 3:9 says, “God is not slow respecting his promise, as some people consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.”

When the problems of the world are removed, all wickedness will also be removed. Some who would be destroyed with the wicked if that time came today may repent in due time. God has allowed the time He has so far and will allow however much time He deems appropriate to

give everyone a chance to repent before destruction is brought on the wicked.

The Bible contains warnings to keep us from being caught unaware by this destruction.

Luke 21:36 says, “Keep awake, then, all the time making supplication that you may succeed in escaping all these things that are destined to occur, and in standing before the Son of man.”

1 Thessalonians 5:4, 5 says, “But you, brothers, you are not in darkness, so that day should overtake you as it would thieves, for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We belong neither to night nor to darkness.”

Since God’s destruction of the wicked will come, we need to be sure we are “keeping awake” and are “sons of light.” Jesus told his followers at Matthew 24:45-47 that a “faithful and discreet slave”

would provide spiritual food for God’s household.

Isaiah 2:2, 3 says, “And it must occur in the final part of the days that the mountain of the house of God will become firmly established above the top of the mountains, and it will certainly be lifted up above the hills; and to it all the nations must stream. And many peoples will certainly go and say: ‘Come, you people, and let us go up to the mountain of God, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will instruct us about his ways, and we will walk in his paths.’”

Romans 10:14 says, “However, how will they call on him in whom they have not put faith? How, in turn, will they put faith in him of whom they have not heard? How, in turn, will they hear without someone to preach?”

The apostle Paul, who wrote these words, preached and taught

“publicly and from house to house,” as recorded in Acts 20:20. A similar work is being done today by Christians around the world, and though some are not interested or too busy to pay attention, many are responding as those in Isaiah Chapter 2.

We don’t know how much time God will give us to respond, so if we want to see the promise of Isaiah 2:4 fulfilled, we need to respond.

The promise is: “And they will have to beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning shears. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither will they learn war anymore.”

What a blessing that will be! God’s mercy means we have to endure trials until He decides it’s time to destroy their cause, but the benefits to those who use that time to learn God’s ways will be eternal.

matters of record

Marriage Licenses

The following marriage licenses have been issued by the Sherman County District Court:

Ronald James Harnett and Nancy Lea Carr both of Parker County.

Reynaldo Diaz and Maria de Jesus Escatel both of Goodland.

Andres Hernandez of Goodland and Daniela Rodriguez of Burlington, Colo.

Manuel Gonzalez and Christina Gutierrez both of Kanorado.

Todd Michael Dommik of Lansing and Kyla Natosha Ontiveroz of Hutchinson.

Miguel Angel Gonzalez and Christina Marie Rogers both of Burlington, Colo.

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court: **July 29** — Michael D. Yeager, 22, Corvallis, Ore. was fined \$138 for speeding.

July 30 — Lea A. Ray, 44, University, Miss. was fined \$120 for speeding.

Adrian Knepp, 25, Odon, Ind. was fined \$132 for speeding.

Katerina Kopecka, 26, Dillon, Colo. was fined \$285 for speeding.

Paul B. Church, 44, Pendleton, Ind. was fined \$120 for no valid license and \$72 for speeding.

Michael J. Ballard, 40, St. Charles, Ill. was fined \$150 for speeding.

James K. Byrnes, 34, Thornton, Colo. was fined \$126 for speeding.

Quincy J. Wilkins, 70, Denver, was fined \$80 for no child restraint.

Robert R. Herrington, 29, Portland, Ore. was fined \$20.50 for speeding.

Bong Vang, 31, Westminster, Colo. was fined \$80 for no child restraint.

Lavina J. Mcilvain, 75, Emporia, was fined \$120 for speeding.

Tommy A. Lozano, 37, Thornton, Colo. was fined \$126 for speeding.

August 2 — Dan D. McArthur, 39, Highland Ranch, Colo. was fined \$159 for speeding.

Leon C. Bowman, 21, Moreno Valley, Calif. was fined \$213 for speeding.

Willis J. Ingram, 24, Denver, was fined \$138 for speeding.

Nicole S. Hegger, 21, O Fallon, Mo. was fined \$132 for speeding.

Sean A. Gustafson, 20, Parker, Colo. was fined \$132 for speeding.

Dana K. Pearson, 43, Bradenton, Fla. was fined \$106 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Ray J. Hutchinson, 61, Pleasant Grove, Utah was fined \$150 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Donna L. Grossman, 58, Olathe, was fined \$138 for speeding.

David L. Herrick, 54, Mira Coma, Calif. was fined \$132 for speeding.

Daniel G. Del Solar, 21, Bethesda, Md. was fined \$120 for speeding.

Jason C. Dykert, 25, Phoenix, Ariz. was fined \$138 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Bonita J. Swanson, 47, Galeburg, Ill. was fined \$104 for over weight limit on wheels and axles.

Charles Glenn, 32, Englewood, Colo. was fined \$132 for speeding.

Marcia G. Hausman, 64, Louisville, Ky. was fined \$120 for speeding.

Donald K. Mobley, 46, Chandler, Okla. was fined \$195 for speeding.

Scott W. Hackett, 39, Lakewood, Colo. was fined \$126 for speeding.

Barry R. Hiatt, 36, Brighton, Colo. was fined \$132 for speeding.

Steven A. Sandoval, 21, Kanorado, was fined \$120 for speeding, \$20 for no child restraint and \$10 for no seat belt.

August 3 — Kristen L. Brown, 47, Ormond Beach, Fla. was fined

\$138 for speeding.

Robert D. Cox, 18, Prairie View, was fined \$138 for speeding.

August 4 — Shelley D. Mims, 43, Tulsa, Okla. was fined \$186 for speeding.

Steven R. Byers, 43, Denver, was fined \$138 for speeding.

Michael R. Knott, 40, Anaheim, Calif. was fined \$114 for speeding.

Gregory J. Schachle, 19, Canute, Okla. was fined \$144 for speeding.

Michael J. Melnikoff, 43, Riverside, Calif. was fined \$10 for speeding.

Susan C. Butman, 48, Littleton, Colo. was fined \$138 for speeding.

Srinidhi Devanur, 39, Fremont, Calif. was fined \$186 for speeding.

Abbey L. Penny, 18, Burlington, Colo. was fined \$195 for speeding.

Armin Mujkanovic, 20, St. Louis, Mo. was fined \$150 for violation of motor carriers.

Francisco R. Gomez, 49, Roseville, Calif. was fined \$150 for speeding.

August 5 — Mark A. Eldert, 43, Commerce City, Colo. was fined

\$126 for speeding.

Elizabeth Reed, 48, Aurora, Colo. was fined \$126 for speeding.

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., 66, Atlanta, Ga. was fined \$114 for speeding.

Kelly L. Maldonado, 40, Tucson, Ariz. was fined \$138 for speeding.

Daniel G. Finch, 21, Lyndhurst, N.J. was fined \$132 for speeding.

James M. Murray, 46, Littleton, Colo. was fined \$138 for speeding.

James A. Romero, 33, Thornton, Colo. was fined \$138 for speeding.

Felix Diazsoto, 52, Fort Lupton, Colo. was fined \$222 for speeding and \$180 for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle.

August 6 — Robert L. Parisien, 23, Biddeford, Maine was fined \$138 for speeding.

Annmariel Latch, 25, Colorado Springs, Colo. was fined \$186 for speeding.

Armando Inglesias, 50, Bronx, N.Y. was fined \$132 for speeding.

Jose J. Montes, 30, Westminster, Colo. was fined \$126 for speeding.

Steven C. Hagan, 40, Denver,

was fined \$126 for speeding.

August 9 — Dariusz Czyszczon, 30, Pueblo West, Colo. was fined \$231 for speeding.

Blain J. Bogar, 26, Billings, Mont. was fined \$144 for speeding.

Guadalupe C. Baltazar, 26, Thornton, Colo. was fined \$120 for speeding.

Robert W. McCurdy, 54, Scott City, was fined \$102 for speeding.

Dale W. Thompson, 57, Denver, was fined \$159 for speeding.

James E. Mahoney, 74, Lebanon, Pa. was fined \$114 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Cindy L. Renschler, 47, Mount Vernon, Ind. was fined \$126 for speeding.

Madeline Nealy, 49, Denver, was fined \$144 for speeding and \$300 for no liability insurance.

Karrie A. O’Brien, 30, McCook, Neb. was fined \$143 for speeding.

Mircea Melniciuc, 60, Humble, Texas was fined \$100 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Alan E. Minson, 39, Aurora, Colo. was fined \$132 for speeding.

Tracy J. Caisse, 35, Brighton, Colo. was fined \$144 for speeding.

Barbara J. Salance, 50, Boulder, Colo. was fined \$186 for speeding.

Stephen E. Schartz, 47, Lakewood, Colo. was fined \$150 for speeding.

Helen S. Anderson, 54, Laguna Niguel, Calif. was fined for \$150 for speeding.

Municipal Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the municipal court:

Aug. 23 — Ted J. Lingard, 39, Madison, Wis., was fined \$84 for speeding, 42/30.

Ryan K. McCall, 19, WaKeeney, was fined \$286 for careless driving and \$40 for speeding.

Luis A. Quezada, 33, Bethune, Colo., was fined \$88 for speeding, 53/40.

Aug. 24 — Cody A. Engel, 16, Goodland, was fined \$286 for reckless driving.

Aug. 25 — Rochelle R. Lucas, 38, Sharon Springs, was fined \$76 for illegal registration.

Raquel Perez, 22, Goodland, was fined \$436 and served five days in jail for driving while suspended.

Aug. 27 — Robert S. Gonzales, 18, was fined \$236 for driving while suspended and had a five-day jail sentence suspended.

Aug. 31 — Floyd D. Smith, 61, Goodland, was fined \$76 for no child safety restraint.

Sept. 1 — Henry Daigle, 85, WaKeeney, was fined \$236 for simple battery and \$100 for disorderly conduct.

Brad Cowan, Goodland, was fined \$46 for improper parking.

Sept. 2 — Janet M. Chacon, 25, Burlington, was fined \$88 for speeding, 54/40.

Sept. 8 — Cassandra Dawdy, 26, Goodland, was fined \$136 for criminal property damage.

Byron K. Moberly, 19, Goodland, was fined \$96 for exhibition of speed.

Jesus E. Trevino, 18, Cimarron, was fined \$236 as a minor consuming alcohol and \$40 for disobeying a stop sign.

900

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Gorilla

That’s right. The Gorilla has been growing. Already the biggest and most effective advertising medium in the Tri-State Region, **The Country Advocate** has been adding readers all year.

No more 800-pound weakling. Now **The Advocate** is the 900-pound gorilla of Northwest Kansas advertising!

First, **The Advocate** added nearly 1,550 new home-delivered households in Sherman County with readers of the all-new, all-local *Goodland Star-News*.

Then, the Gorilla picked up 1,750 new home-delivered households in Norton County when *The Norton Telegram* joined the club.

When you need to sell something, find something or notify someone, the Gorilla is your best friend. Reaching 18,200 households with nearly 42,000 readers across northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado, the Gorilla packs a punch. It can move your refrigerator or your old car. A

house? No problem for the Gorilla. And all at rates that save you money.

And **The Advocate** is nearly all home delivered. Some “shoppers” count on people picking them up at the filling station. It’s cheap, but it can’t compare to home delivery reaching nearly every house in the area.

Just try it! The Gorilla will work hard for you. Call today with your ad.

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215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
(785) 877-3361

170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749
(785) 475-2206

Bird City Times
Box 167, Bird City, Kan. 67731
(785) 734-2621

The Saint Francis Herald
Box 1050, St. Francis, Kan. 67756
(785) 332-3162