



(QURAN: 64:11)

**No kind of Calamity  
can occur,  
except by the leave of God.**

To understand & rationalize natural calamities (occurrences inflicting destruction & distress) on the basis of religion or any other system of knowledge, it is necessary to differentiate between the disasters that occur due to natural events & the misfortunes that are wrought by the people themselves by acting contrary to the Divine moral values. Without having an appropriate classification, we will not be able to establish correct cause & effect relationship with reference to a certain calamity. And, if the cause of an effect is **not** correctly identified, there is a chance that any remedial action taken will not produce the desired results. The question is whether the incidents, like earthquakes, causing destruction are caused by a physical process that takes place in nature or are a consequence of a human moral behaviour. On the basis of their origin & causes, the calamities, thus, can be mainly divided into natural, social & accidental.

1. Natural calamities may further be divided into physical and biological calamities. Earthquakes, floods, cyclones, hurricanes are examples of physical phenomena which cause devastation. Widespread diseases, epidemics, pandemics are examples of biological calamities.

2. Social Calamities are those which are caused by corruption, injustices, moral disintegration, economic exploitation & political oppression.

3. Accidental Calamities are caused by some accident, such as rail, road, sea & air mishaps.

**Wrath of God Theory:** There are 19 major world religions, which are subdivided into some 270 large groups. Epistemologically, the exact religious response to natural calamities may vary from religion to religion as each looks at these happenings with its specific perspective. Therefore, a generalized picture cannot be presented. However, many people, particularly a section of religious clergy from all

backgrounds, generally regard natural hazards as an expression of God's displeasure. They believe that earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes & floods are indications of the 'wrath of God', to borrow their words. For Muslims, Christians & Jews it is also very common to correlate the physical disasters with the calamities that befell the opponents of the previous Prophets mentioned in the Quran & the Bible. They, thus, regard these natural catastrophes as a chastisement for the affected people from God.

It is important to realize that an earthquake is **much more** than a "natural" disaster – that this suffering is **not** just part of God's inscrutable plan. **Human negligence & oppression** makes a challenging natural event into a disaster of hugely devastating proportions.

A prominent "American Christian" leader, Pat Robertson, said that Haiti has been "cursed" by a "pact with the devil." **What a ridiculous & offensive statement.** Has he forgotten the decades of American imperialism that impoverished the island? The sad reality is that the people of Haiti have endured almost constant oppression & injustice since the first arrival of European colonialists five centuries ago. The indigenous population was nearly completely exterminated following the arrival of Christopher Columbus, and then hundreds of thousands of Africans were enslaved and transported to Haiti, where they endured possibly the most brutal conditions ever experienced by humanity. So in rethinking Robertson's view: he's right!!! The "pact with the devil" means the pact with the "white" murderous colonizers. Robertson needs to clean out his "dirty" mind. He can start by leaving his gilded air-conditioned "700 Club" office and taking 700 "white" workers to help suffering humanity in Haiti. Before boarding the plane, visit the bank and withdraw 700 million dollars to rebuild, feed & clothe. Isn't that what Jesus would have done, Mr. Robertson? **Psycho!**

Earthquakes are the most devastating natural forces on earth, with the worst loss of life. Every two minutes somewhere the surface of the earth cracks. The earth shakes millions of times a year. The intensity of three hundred thousand of these earthquakes is minor; they are imperceptible tremors and cause no destruction at all. Twenty of them, on the other hand, are powerful

(SURAT ASH-SHU'ARA: 146-149)

**WILL  
YOU BE LEFT SECURE, IN THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL THAT YOU HAVE HERE?**

(QURAN SURAT AN-NAHL: 45-47)

**Do those who devise evil  
feel secure that GOD will not  
cause the earth to swallow them up,  
or that wrath will not seize them  
from directions they little perceive?**

earthquakes which convulse the land. Yet since they often do not hit densely populated areas, they kill few people and cause little economic loss. Only five of these earthquakes reduce buildings to heaps of rubble.

Today's advanced level of technology inspires man with the feeling that he has control over nature. Yet, those who are overwhelmed by such a notion soon feel disappointment. Technology is a tool provided by God for the service of man & is entirely under His control. Various events show that even the most advanced technology is impotent to rule nature.

For instance, despite the "earthquake-resistant technology" developed by Japanese scientists, Kobe fell victim to widespread havoc caused by **twenty seconds** of intense shock waves during the 1995 quake. The world's most earthquake-resistant structures built to withstand an intense jolt simply collapsed during a momentary quake. During the previous three decades, the Japanese government had invested trillions of dollars in academic research to develop warning systems for earthquakes. Yet, these efforts yielded no conclusive results at all. Scientists are still unable to devise systems to issue warnings that could reduce the destructive effects of dangerous seismic events. Kobe was a recent example, demonstrating how vulnerable to unexpected patterns of seismic hits a modern industrialized city is.

This is intended to remind those who forget their purpose in creation of an important fact: everything on earth owes its existence to God, who has created the entire material universe. Everything's existence is consequent upon the exercise of the will of God. Therefore, nothing has a being separate & apart from God. The Quran states: "**God has full power & control over His affair; but most of mankind know it not.**" (12: 21)

Zamals Software Co.; 6 Dowding St. Kitty  
shamalz2007@yahoo.com; Brochures on [zamalsgy.com](http://zamalsgy.com)  
**PLEASE DONATE: CALL SHAMAL 225-9031**