

# Perspective

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## Who Is in Control of the Weather?

Some weather disasters are embedded in our minds, like Hurricane Katrina which walloped New Orleans in 2005 killing 1, 800 people. Hurricane Maria nearly wipe out Puerto Rico in 2017, and Hurricane Harvey did major damage in Louisiana and Texas in the same year. Sciencenews.org published an article in 2021 titled, “Hurricanes may not be becoming more frequent, but they’re still more dangerous”: “Climate change is helping Atlantic hurricanes pack more of a punch, making them rainier, intensifying them faster and helping the storms linger longer even after landfall. But a new statistical analysis of historical records and satellite data suggests that there aren’t actually more Atlantic hurricanes now than there were roughly 150 years ago, researchers report July 13 in Nature Communications.” Additionally, statistically, the number of weather-related natural disasters costing into the billions of dollars in damage, has been on the increase over the last four decades from 1980 to 2024. Over that time frame the U.S. averaged 9 events per year, while the annual average for the last five years is 23. Since 1980, there have been 402 natural weather disasters in the U.S. The National Centers for Environmental Information has kept track of billion-dollar natural disasters since 1980; it cites as the reasons, increased exposure, vulnerability, and climate change. Of the 10 years with the most natural disasters, nine were in the last ten years. What is the cause of these deadly and powerful natural disasters?

## Is the weather just going through cycles?

Weather goes through cycles because of recurring changes in atmospheric conditions caused by movements and chemical changes in air pressure, ocean currents, sunlight, and other natural factors. These cycles are predictable and lead to changes in our environment, such as the melting of sea ice and permafrost. Climate cycles, on the other hand, are longer and usually a series of ice ages are followed by warmer interglacial periods. Each ice age could last about a hundred thousand years; the ice ages were triggered by changes in the Earth’s orbit, often referred to as Milankovitch cycles, that affected the amount of solar energy which reaches our planet. Milankovitch cycles relate to changes in Earth's orbit around the sun and the tilt of the axis, which occurs about every 100,000 years. These cycles can lead to periods of cold and warm, which in turn affect the climate and weather patterns. Natural cycles like the El Niño and La Niña can also cause short-term climate cycling, affecting the distribution of rainfall and temperature across the globe. But this isn’t what it is all about. There is a major factor almost entirely overlooked which is far more important.

## The greatest source of weather

Scientists may never be able to accurately predict the weather in the long term, but most weather models point to worse weather ahead. Still, they only view the physical evidence, but that only gives us part of the story. There is a source which gives us the real answer. That source is the word of God, the Bible.

You might be surprised what God says: *"He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."* (Matthew. 5:45). It is the God of heaven who controls the weather!

Psalm 33:12 gives a promise to the nations which worship Him: *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..."*

God admonished Israel: *"If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely."* (Leviticus 26:3-5)

It is God who sends the rain, sleet, and snow, but He also can send sizzling heat and drought for a disobedient people. Good weather can be a way God shows His love and kindness for a humble people, but He can also strive to cause repentance by withholding the blessing of a gentle rain and favorable crop weather.

He warned ancient Israel: “*But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments... I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze. And your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit.*” (Leviticus 26:14, 19-20).

If people obeyed God, they would have rain in due season with former and latter rains. However, if the nations walked contrary to God’s laws, then He would send them severe droughts and their crops and trees would not yield their fruit. He said, “*I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze,*” depicting a time of drought and dried up fields which cannot grow anything.

### **What does obedience and sin reap?**

Many do not consider that God has created an earth with potentially dangerous consequence which might occur in nature, such as the shifting of tectonic plates. This creates dangerous earthquakes. Dangerous tornadoes, hurricanes, cyclones, and volcanoes can occur which can wreak havoc; in some cases, people build unwisely in the paths of destruction.

Most never think about the fact on many, many occasions God, out of His great mercy, intervenes to avert natural disasters from happening. In Isaiah 40:22 it states. “*God sits enthroned above the circle of the earth; its dwellers are like grasshoppers.*” This verse emphasizes God's vastness and the comparative insignificance of humanity to His grandeur. The "circle of the earth" refers to the vault of heaven, and it illustrates God's power over all creation. When a hurricane or tornado is miraculously diverted, who should be praised and thanked, but God?

God has set in motion patterns which govern the earth, and God allows mankind to reap the consequences of physical sins, pollution, abuse of the environment, or attempts to manipulate the weather. God also uses the weather to punish for spiritual sins. God loves us and will correct us. If need be, even as God loved Israel so much, He simply could not allow them or us to drift aimlessly, unwarned on to perdition.

If we read Deuteronomy 28:1-24, we see God's blessings for obedience include good weather, and God punishes for sins with weather catastrophes. One of God's prophets, Elijah, prayed and God withheld rain from a rebellious and sinful nation to warn the people to turn from their false gods (I Kings 17-18). Was that only pertaining to the ancient nation of Israel? No!

If that happened to the children of Israel, it will happen in our modern time when sin is often far worse. Most don’t know what sin is, but it is transgression of the laws of God (I John 3:4). Most do not believe or practice obedience to the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20). Request or review our booklet, *The Ten Commandments*.

Clearly, a major cause of our upset weather conditions involves sin, both physical and spiritual. The nations of the earth are about to be punished for their carnal corruption and immorality. Jesus Christ prophesied in Luke 21:25, “*And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.*”

We are beginning to reap the penalties of living the "get" way of life. It is time to live and practice the “give” way and yield to our great God so we can reap the benefits of obedience the laws of God, and the blessings which come from Him. Our nation needs to repent of sin, and turn to God and keep His laws, so God can once again bless us! He truly desires to do that for any nation which will walk in His ways.

In II Chronicles 7:14, God states it far better than mortal men ever could: “*if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.*”