

God is Merciful Article

Headlines in recent years have exclaimed: “Horrible Earthquake Hits Japan,” “Hurricane Mitch is the Most Devastating Storm on Record,” “North Texas Hit by Severe Drought; Farmers Reeling.”

Why are these things happening to good people? Of course, no one can read the mind for God to find out why he allows certain disasters to occur. However, these headlines also remind us just how gracious God is to us. For the most part, the natural world around us functions according to an orderly plan. We realize that a fraction of a change in our environment could destroy all life on Earth. If the distance from the Earth to the sun was changed even slightly, our atmosphere would be too cold or too hot to sustain life. Without sufficient atmosphere around the Earth, harmful rays from outer space would kill us. But God sustains this planet on which we live in a marvelous fashion so that we enjoy night and day, summer and winter, rainy seasons and dry.

Jesus stated in the Sermon on the Mount, “God gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust, too.” Matt 5:45 God provides the necessities of life for Every human born on this planet. Many times we take His mercy for granted – until we experience a devastating blizzard with the mercury plummeting, or when the summer temperature soars in the 100s for days on end. Then we complain about how bad things are.

Unfortunately, we rarely thank God for the thousands of days of sunshine. How often do we stop to be thankful that, year after year, the flowers bloom and our grocery store shelves are stocked with food grown in farmers’ fields? When was the last time you felt gratitude for the enjoyment of food, friendships, music, art, and so many other things?

When we think of blessings, our thoughts eventually end up at the doorstep of mercy. God’s mercy is an attribute that leads Him to show compassionate concern for His people and tender treatment of the needy. Our merciful God always seeks the welfare, both temporal and eternal, of His children who have not yet accepted His love and forgiveness. Although many people show mercy to others, God is the grand master of mercy. His very nature desires to relieve us of the self-imposed misery and distress we experience because of our sin.¹

¹ Bright, B (1999) *God: Discover His Character* (pp 231-232) Orlando: New Life Publications