

8. What is one good effect that we know God will perform for the faithful in Haiti? Read Romans 5:3-5 and Psalm 119:65-72.

9. What should our reaction be toward the Haitian people? Read Luke 6:37, James 1:27, and Psalm 82:4.

## **What is God doing in Haiti?**

With more than 150,000 people confirmed dead following the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti earlier this month, many wonder what God's role has been in this disaster. Televangelist Pat Robertson has declared that the Lord sent this disaster to punish the Haitian people for a supposed "pact with the devil". Others have speculated that the Lord sent this earthquake because, although Haiti is purportedly 95% Christian, about half of the population still practices the idolatrous and syncretistic religion of voodoo. Haiti is also the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, leading some to speculate that God has been especially cruel to the Haitians, kicking a horse when it's already down, so to speak. So just what is God doing in Haiti? Did He have a hand in this earthquake? And if so, to what end or purpose?

1. Many people speak of God "allowing" tragedy to happen. How does this square with the Scripture's depiction of God's authority and activity? Read Job 1:6-12. Does God just allow the devil to torment Job, or is God more active in Job's situation? Read also Deuteronomy 32:39. Does it appear that God is passive in matters of life and death?

2. Did God send this earthquake because of a particular sin of the Haitian people? Read Luke 13:1-5. What does Jesus teach concerning such deadly events and the people who suffer from them?

3. Is God being cruel to the Haitians in particular for some reason? Read John 3:16-17 and I John 4:8 to see how God's character guides His actions toward all people.

4. From Luke 13:1-5 again, what does Jesus teach that the purpose of such events is for all of us?

5. What is another message the Lord is sending when natural disasters strike? Read Mark 13:3-13.

6. What is another reason for natural disasters. Read Romans 8:18-25.

7. Will God use the tragedy in Haiti for the good of the Haitian people? Read Romans 8:28.