

Did God Send The Hurricane To Punish The Gulf Coast?

Are natural disasters on the rise? Is God growing increasingly angry with the conditions in the world?

1. Why do natural disasters happen?
 - At the end of God's creation everything was "very good"
 - Because of sin the earth was cursed
 - Sin became so prevalent that God sent the flood
 - After the flood, conditions on the Earth were dramatically changed
 - Bottom line: natural disaster happen as one of the consequences of sin entering the world
2. Can we say that Hurricane Katrina was sent as a specific judgment of God?
 - Some natural disasters in the Bible were sent as punishment
 - Others were not
 - In the absence of direct revelation, we cannot make a conclusion about this or any other natural disaster
3. Do these natural disasters argue against a "benevolent" God?
 - God created a world controlled by natural laws
 - These are for our good
 - But they are non-selective
 - Anything that keeps us focused on faithfully serving God can be viewed as good
4. Some passages are misinterpreted to suggest that all such "signs" are an indicatin of God's judgment.
 - Matthew 24:7-8,34