

Is it God or Satan that has the power to bring disasters upon the earth?

Satan is able to create calamity on the earth. He is called the *Prince of the power of the air* (Eph 2:2). In Egypt the magicians were able to duplicate Moses' miracles (Ex 7:22).

A storm arose on the sea when Jesus and his disciples were on a boat (Mt 8:23–24). It may have been Satanic. Nevertheless, the Lord stilled it (vv. 8:26-27).

After a man is saved, Satan is powerless against him; but Satan can still deceive (Re 12:9). Christians should remain vigilant (1 Pe 5:8).

God is the creator (Is 40:28) and Satan is his *creation* (Is 14:12-14). Jesus is all-powerful (Jn 17:2); but, Satan's powers are limited (Col 1:16).

The Lord is able to create calamity.

J. Vernon McGee wrote:

...[T]here is no such thing as an accident in the life of a child of God. There must be a cause for the effect. God is not moving this universe in a foolish, idle manner. Therefore, when calamity strikes, there is a lesson to be learned from it.¹

Believers are assured that God wins in the end (Ps 92:11). The Psalmist encouraged believers to praise God for his love and faithfulness. He is powerful and wise when dealing with the wicked (Ps 92). God's faithful continue to praise and thank him (vv. 1,8).

¹ McGee, J. V. (1991). *Thru the Bible commentary: The Prophets (Amos/Obadiah)* (electronic ed., Vol. 28). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.