

## How Big Is Your God?

### 1) God Gives Gifts with a Purpose (2:9-3:2)

### 2) God is the Source of Disaster – 3:3-6

1 Samuel 2:6-7 - The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and raises up. The Lord makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts.

Isaiah 45:7 – The One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.

Lamentations 3:38 – Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both good and ill go forth?

Objections:

a) Other “causes” of Disaster

b) Logical Objection

### 3) God Speaks through His Prophets (3:7-8)

What then do the Scriptures tell us about why God chooses to bring good at times and calamity at times?

a) NOT because He is up for re-election in 4 years

Numbers 23:19 – *God is not a man that he should lie, nor the son of man that he should change his mind. Has He said, and will he not do it, or has he spoken and will he not make it good?*

Psalm 115:3 – *Our God is in the heavens, He does whatever He pleases.*

b) Bring Judgment

Eccl 12:14 – *For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.*

Rom 12:19 – *Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.*

c) Bring Reform

James 1:2-4

Heb 12:27-28

Hab 2:14

Rom 11:36

**Praxis**

1. What is the biggest or most powerful thing you have ever seen? How did you respond to it?
2. Who are modern-day "Nazirites & prophets"? How might we encourage them rather than silencing / perverting them?
3. Name the various gifts of God to Christians, and then name how we are to use each of them.
4. How does considering the previous listing affect you? What is one thing you will do with it?
5. Discuss this statement: "If God is not acknowledged as the source of disaster, he can neither be the source of good."
6. What two purposes does God have for disaster? Can we ever be sure which one is in play with a particular disaster?
7. What applications does Amos 3:8b have for the sincere Christian today?