

## 2020 and Natural Disasters

*On top of everything else, this year set records in terms of natural disasters...*

### There were the hurricanes

31 tropical and subtropical depressions, 30 named storms, 13 hurricanes, 6 of which are major hurricanes, 340 total fatalities, \$32.783 billion in damage  
Hurricane IOTA became the second Cat – 5 Hurricane ever to hit in the month of November.

### Then there were the fires

“In 2020, [there were...] record-breaking megafires, burning more than 8.2 million acres of land ... razing over ten thousand buildings, and killing at least 37 people.”

### Then there was naegleria fowleri, the brain eating amoeba

*Here is the question Romans 8:18 answers: “How can the Christian maintain hope for eternal life in the face of sufferings and death? How can those who ‘have been set free from the law of sin and death’ die? How can God’s very own, dearly loved children suffer? Do not these contradict, or at the very least call into question, Paul’s declaration ‘There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus?’” – PhD Douglass Moo*

## Why Do We Need Hope That Creation Will Be Restored?

### Creation is subjected to futility & bondage to corruption

*Futility implies purpose*

*We don’t live in a pointless world!*

Reason 1 – Our appreciation of beauty, art, and music

Reason 2 – It’s impossible to live if you think everything is pointless

## What is Our Hope?

### Glory is coming

Glory is the opposite of futility – a world where everything works!

### Creation awaits

The phrase “waits with eager longing” is one Greek word, “Apokaradokia” which means literally “watching eagerly with and outstretched head.” Straining the neck toward something.

It's like birth pains (vs. 22)

### How Do We Get the Hope?

An epic story with God at the center

*Creation was subjected to futility... “by him who subjected it”*

Who subjected it? Why? - Genesis 3:17-19

*In hope!*

What hope is Paul talking about? The “protoevangelium” of Genesis

In this hope we are saved!

The help of the Holy Spirit

### Questions for Personal Study

1. Name a way creation's brokenness has affected you this year.
2. Can you imagine a restored, perfectly functioning world? How good would that be?
3. How does the Spirit help us in our weakness? Have you ever been too “done” to pray?
4. How does salvation enter you into hope?