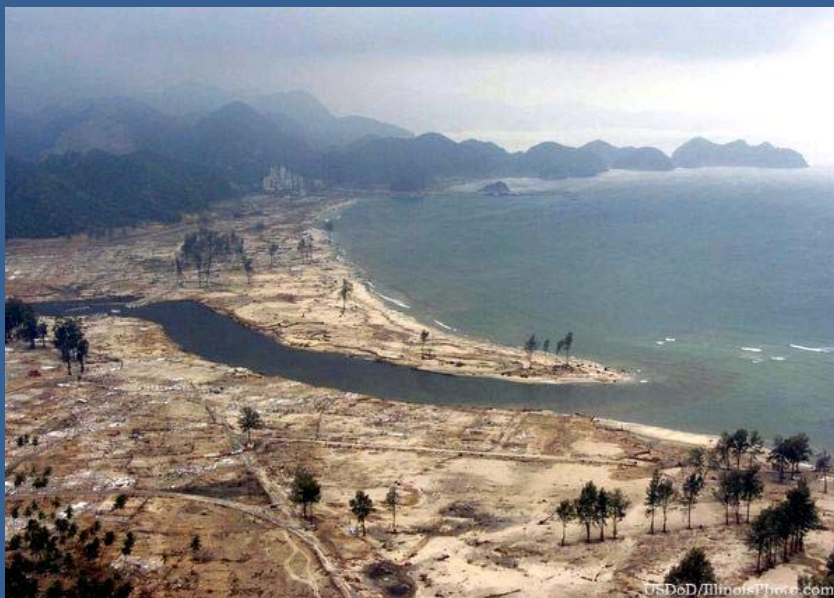


God and Nature: An Analysis of Post Katrina and Asian Tsunami Sermons



Janel Curry

Calvin College



Methods

Urban Transect
Post Event Sermons
Sample Diversity

	Asian Tsunami	Hurricane Katrina
Reformed	8	6
Methodist	3	4
Catholic	7	5
Baptist	11	8

Categories of Analysis

Eschatology (meaning and Interpretation)

Integration (conceptual framework)

Responsibility (agency)

Otherness (identification with)



Findings: Eschatology

No Mention

Future Perfection of Earth

Repent—Judgment is Coming

“Signs of the Times”

We are changed—no fear of death and
should be compassionate (present tense)

Findings: Integration

Nature and God

- Nature apart from God
- God sustaining (on-going)
- God uses nature to teach lessons
 - God in control of nature
- Complex: God breathes into, but cannot step in and out

Findings: Integration

Nature: Good and Evil

- Human sin has corrupted nature
 - Nature is good
 - Nature is neutral

Findings: Integration

Humans and Nature

- Humans and nature are co-equal
- Nature is force to which humans are subject



Summary Findings: Integration



Findings: Responsibility (Agency)

No Response Expressed
Discover Meaning of Suffering
Lament

Value Poor as God Does
Individualized Responses
Communal/Institutionalized Responses



Findings: Otherness

How are those who have suffered depicted?

What is the relationships between sin and suffering?

What is the distance between “us” and “them”?



Conclusions and Implications

