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

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### Methods

**Urban Transect**
**Post Event Sermons**
**Sample Diversity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Asian Tsunami</th>
<th>Hurricane Katrina</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reformed</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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