

Reflection Wednesday Week 6 2023

It would be good to see the Noah story as more about God promising never to destroy humankind like this again rather than the destruction of evil people. The other question is whether you would like to live to be 601???

The Gospel shows us that, if we want to see clearly, we need the help of Jesus and that healing will not always happen immediately. It is believed that the Noah story is built on the experience of people being drowned by flooding and the writer wishes us to understand that this is not what God wants - far from it.

It's easy to challenge God about the huge numbers who have died in the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. However, God gave us the ability to build properties that could withstand severe earthquakes. The fault lies with the human greed of the builders not God. Let us pray:

For those who have lost loved ones

Heavenly Father, our hearts are moved by the effects of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The grief felt by families who have lost loved ones, or await news of loved ones, is unimaginable. We turn to you, God of all comfort, and ask that you be close to people in the days ahead and that they might know your peace that surpasses all understanding.

For those who have lost homes

Lord God, we pray for those who have lost their homes or have moved to safety away from tall buildings. Please keep them warm in the midst of this harsh winter and provide all they need. We pray especially for children who are confused and frightened by what is happening. May you be for them an oasis of peace in which to take shelter.

For those providing help

Lord God, we thank you for the swift action of those who are already responding. For the rescue teams searching for survivors, we ask for endurance and resilience. For those providing temporary shelter, we pray for the swift delivery of equipment. And for all those in communities offering comfort and help to their neighbours, we pray that you give them selfless compassion.

For the world's response

Lord, we pray for world leaders as they decide how to respond. We pray that you stir each of our hearts in generosity towards the people of Turkey and Syria. Amen.