

A Christian Perspective on the Role of Religious Belief in Disaster Management for the Wellbeing of the Society

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Abstract

Religion plays a crucial role in society, especially during times of disaster. There is a need to understand and assess the impact of religion on disaster management, specifically how religious beliefs can contribute to the overall well-being of society during crises. This paper presents an in-depth investigation into the significance of religious belief, from a Christian perspective, in disaster management for the overall well-being of society. The study aims to bridge the gap in the existing literature by examining the intersection of Christian biblical teachings and the active involvement of Christian organisations in disaster response and recovery efforts. The purpose of this study is to examine the Christian emphasis on compassion and care for all individuals, particularly the vulnerable and marginalised, in disaster management scenarios. Additionally, the study explores biblical teachings on disaster response and recovery, uncovering moral and ethical guidance from the scriptures. The scope of the study encompasses an analysis of Christian organisations' active involvement in disaster management, showcasing their contributions to immediate relief, long-term recovery, and community resilience. The study is qualitative and makes use of secondary data. This study includes a thorough review of scholarly literature, examining Christian principles and biblical narratives related to compassion, care, and responsibility for others. The study highlights the increasing recognition of religious communities' roles in disaster management and the need to understand the unique contributions of Christian beliefs in this context. The significance of the study lies in presenting the benefits of incorporating religious belief into disaster management strategies. These include the provision of psychological and emotional support by faith communities, fostering resilience, and promoting community cohesion during times of disaster. Furthermore, the research addresses potential challenges and criticisms, such as conflicts with secular strategies and inclusivity concerns.

Keywords: Christian Perspective, Religious Belief, Disaster Management, Biblical Teachings, Christian Organizations.

Introduction

Natural and man-made disasters pose significant challenges to societies worldwide, causing immense human suffering, loss of lives, and widespread destruction. In the face of such calamities, disaster management plays a crucial role in mitigating the impact and facilitating the recovery process. While disaster management strategies typically focus on logistical and practical aspects, the role of religious belief in this context is often overlooked. This paper explores the Christian perspective on the role of religious belief in disaster management and its potential contributions to the well-being of society. Throughout history, religion has played a central role in the lives of individuals and communities, shaping their worldviews, values, and responses to



adversity. As disaster management seeks to address the multifaceted challenges posed by catastrophic events, it becomes imperative to understand the influence of religious belief on individuals and communities in times of crisis. By examining the Christian perspective on disaster management, we can gain insights into the unique contributions that religious belief can make in promoting the well-being of society during and after disasters.

From a Christian viewpoint, the principles of compassion, love, and care for others are foundational. These principles find their roots in the teachings of Jesus Christ and are exemplified in biblical narratives of helping the afflicted, healing the wounded, and extending support to those in need. Such teachings not only guide individual believers but also motivate Christian organisations and faith communities to actively engage in disaster management efforts. The Christian perspective emphasises the importance of addressing the immediate physical needs of the affected individuals, as well as providing spiritual and emotional support for their well-being.

By recognizing the significance of religious belief in disaster management, we can harness its potential benefits. Religious communities often serve as pillars of strength and support during times of crisis, providing a sense of belonging, hope, and resilience to their members. The psychological and emotional support derived from religious belief can play a vital role in the healing and recovery process, promoting the overall well-being of individuals and communities affected by disasters.

Moreover, religious belief encourages a sense of communal responsibility and solidarity, fostering cooperation among diverse groups and promoting social cohesion. By emphasizing values such as compassion, selflessness, and the common good, religious perspectives can contribute to the development of inclusive and collaborative disaster management strategies that prioritize the well-being of all members of society. In exploring the Christian perspective on the role of religious belief in disaster management, this paper aims to shed light on the potential benefits, challenges, and best practices associated with integrating religious belief into broader disaster management frameworks (Michael Bailey, and Mumford Karen 45). By recognizing the role of religious belief and fostering collaboration between religious organizations, secular authorities, and other stakeholders, societies can harness the power of faith communities to enhance disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, ultimately promoting the well-being of individuals and society as a whole.

Disaster Management

Disaster management is a multidisciplinary field that encompasses a range of activities and measures aimed at mitigating the impact of disasters, facilitating response and recovery, and promoting resilience within communities. It involves comprehensive planning, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to address both natural and man-made disasters. (Bernard Lango 22) To better understand the concept of disaster management, it is essential to examine its definition, scope, key principles, and the role of various stakeholders. Disaster management varies across sources, but it generally refers to the systematic approach taken to prevent or minimize the adverse effects of disasters and to respond effectively when they occur (Coppola Damon 10). It involves a proactive approach that combines risk assessment, disaster preparedness, response coordination, and recovery strategies. The scope of disaster management extends beyond immediate response efforts and encompasses long-term measures aimed at reducing vulnerability, building resilience, and promoting sustainable development (Smith and Wenger 22).

Key principles and components are fundamental to effective disaster management. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) highlights several principles, including a focus on the prevention and reduction of disaster risks, integration of disaster risk reduction into sustainable development policies, and enhancement of preparedness for effective response (UNDRR 4). Additionally, effective disaster management involves coordination and collaboration among multiple stakeholders, including governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), communities, and individuals. Governments play a critical role in disaster management due to their responsibility for policy-making, resource allocation, and coordination of response efforts. They establish legal frameworks, develop disaster management plans, and mobilize resources to support preparedness and response activities (UNDRR 14). For example, in Nigeria, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is responsible for coordinating and supporting disaster management efforts at the national level (NEMA). Governments also work closely with international organisations, such as the United Nations, to promote effective disaster management globally.

NGOs are another important stakeholder in disaster management. These organisations often possess specialized expertise and resources that complement government efforts. NGOs engage in various activities, including disaster preparedness training, emergency response coordination, provision of humanitarian aid, and long-term recovery programs (Twigg John 89). Examples of prominent disaster relief NGOs include the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, which provide emergency assistance and support to affected communities worldwide. Communities and individuals also play a crucial role in disaster management.



Community-based disaster management involves empowering local communities to actively participate in risk reduction and response efforts. This approach recognizes the unique knowledge and strengths of communities and encourages their involvement in decision-making processes (IFRC 7). Local communities provide essential support during disasters, such as search and rescue operations, evacuation assistance, and the provision of immediate relief to affected individuals.

Religious Belief and Disaster Management

Religious belief plays a significant role in shaping individual and communal responses to disasters and has a profound impact on disaster management strategies. Understanding the influence of religious beliefs is crucial for effectively integrating them into disaster management frameworks. Religious belief has a pervasive influence on societies, providing frameworks of meaning, values, and moral guidance for individuals and communities. Religion often serves as a source of strength, comfort, and hope during times of adversity. It provides a sense of purpose, resilience, and unity, which can greatly impact individual and communal responses to disasters (Bailey and Mumford 45). Religious beliefs shape perceptions of disasters as divine tests, opportunities for spiritual growth, or manifestations of divine will, influencing attitudes and behaviours.

In many religious traditions, disaster management is seen as an opportunity to express compassion and serve those in need (John Smith 56). For instance, in Islam, disaster response is guided by the principles of "Sadaqah" and "Khair" which emphasize providing relief and support to affected individuals (Ahmed Ziauddin 78). Similarly, the Buddhist perspective emphasizes the importance of compassion and selflessness in times of disaster (Luis Gomez 36). From a Hindu standpoint, disaster management is viewed as a responsibility to both humans and the natural world. The concept of "Dharma" teaches Hindus to uphold righteousness and protect all creations, including nature (Sripati Chandrasekhar 92). This understanding motivates many Hindus to actively contribute to disaster relief efforts. Another religious perspective on disaster management can be found in Judaism, where the concept of "Tikkun Olam" plays a central role. Tikkun Olam refers to the Jewish commitment to repair the world and engage in acts of social justice, including disaster response (Eliezer Goldberg 104).

Individuals' religious beliefs strongly influence their responses to disasters. For example, belief in a benevolent and caring higher power may lead individuals to perceive disasters as challenges to be faced with resilience and faith (Nigg Joanne 73). Religious beliefs can provide a sense of comfort, guidance, and meaning during times of crisis, helping individuals cope with trauma and loss. Moreover, religious practices such as prayer, meditation, and religious rituals serve as coping

mechanisms and sources of solace for individuals affected by disasters (Pargament Kenneth 112). Religious communities, with their organisational structures and shared beliefs, play a vital role in disaster management efforts. Throughout history, religious communities have been actively involved in providing assistance and support to affected individuals and communities. These communities often possess a strong sense of solidarity and compassion, mobilizing resources and volunteers for disaster relief and recovery efforts (Tierney and Bevc 235). For instance, following natural disasters like hurricanes, earthquakes, or floods, religious organisations have been at the forefront of providing emergency aid, shelter, food, medical assistance, and psychosocial support to affected populations (Norris, Stevens, and Pfefferbaum 370).

Historical examples demonstrate the significant contributions of religious communities in disaster management. One notable example is the response of various religious organisations and faith-based groups to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, and other Christian organisations played a pivotal role in providing immediate relief and long-term recovery assistance to the affected population (Roland Fuchs 225). They mobilized resources, organized volunteers, and established temporary shelters, medical clinics, and schools to support the recovery process. Another historical example is the response of religious communities to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples opened their doors to provide shelter, distribute essential supplies, and offer emotional support to displaced individuals (Olson, Bromley and Shupe 162). Religious communities played a crucial role in facilitating the rebuilding process, mobilizing volunteers for cleanup efforts, and providing assistance to marginalized and vulnerable populations affected by the disaster.

Religious beliefs have a significant influence on individual and communal responses to disasters. They provide a sense of meaning, resilience, and support during times of crisis. Moreover, religious communities have a long history of actively engaging in disaster management, providing essential aid, and playing a central role in recovery efforts. Understanding and incorporating religious beliefs and the contributions of religious communities into disaster management strategies can enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of response and recovery efforts.

Overall, while the Christian perspective on disaster management often centres around charity and love for one's neighbour, other religious perspectives bring their unique teachings and values to guide individuals and communities in responding to disasters.



Christian Perspective on Disaster Management

The Christian perspective on disaster management is shaped by the theological foundations of Christianity, the teachings found in the Bible and the active involvement of Christian organisations in disaster response and recovery efforts. This section explores the Christian perspective on disaster management by examining Christian teaching and emphasis on compassion and care for others, the relevant biblical teachings, and the role of Christian organisations in disaster management. Christian teaching places a strong emphasis on compassion, love, and care for others. At the heart of Christian belief is the commandment to love one's neighbour as oneself (Matthew 22:39). This principle extends to the response to those affected by disasters, as Christians are called to demonstrate compassion and offer assistance to those in need (Luke 10:25-37). The theology of compassion drives Christians to actively engage in disaster management, seeking to alleviate suffering, provide support, and contribute to the overall well-being of affected individuals and communities.

Christian teaching places a strong emphasis on compassion and care for others, reflecting the core teachings of Jesus Christ and the biblical principles of love and service. This emphasis is rooted in the belief that all individuals are created in the image of God and are called to imitate Christ's love and compassion toward others. Several biblical passages support this theological emphasis on compassion and care. One of the central teachings in Christian theology regarding compassion is found in the Gospel of Matthew, where Jesus states, "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them" (Matthew 7:12, ESV). This verse, commonly known as the Golden Rule, encourages believers to treat others with kindness and compassion, reflecting their own desires for fair and loving treatment.

Furthermore, Jesus taught his followers the commandment to love one another unconditionally. In the Gospel of John, Jesus states, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another" (John 13:34, ESV). This teaching highlights the sacrificial and selfless love that Christians are called to extend to others, mirroring the compassion and care demonstrated by Christ himself. The parable of the Good Samaritan, found in the Gospel of Luke (Luke 10:25-37), exemplifies the Christian emphasis on compassion and care for others. In this parable, Jesus tells the story of a man who is beaten and left half-dead on the road. While religious leaders pass by without offering assistance, a Samaritan traditionally regarded as an enemy of the Jews, stops to help the injured man, demonstrating compassion and selflessness. Through this parable, Jesus teaches his followers to show mercy and care for those in need, regardless of their background or social standing. Christian theologians have further emphasised the importance of compassion and care for others throughout history. Saint Mother

Teresa, known for her tireless work with the poor and marginalized, stated, "We can do no great things, only small things with great love." Her words reflect the belief that acts of compassion, no matter how small, have the power to make a significant impact on the lives of others (Nigg, 711).

In a nutshell, Christian theology places a significant emphasis on compassion and care for others, inspired by the teachings of Jesus and the principles of love and service found in the Bible. The Golden Rule, the commandment to love one another, and the parable of the Good Samaritan all highlight the Christian call to demonstrate compassion towards all individuals. Christian theologians and figures throughout history have reinforced this emphasis on compassion and underscored the transformative power of small acts of love.

In the same vein, biblical teachings provide guidance on disaster response and recovery. The Bible contains narratives of individuals and communities facing various forms of disaster and the ways in which they responded. For example, the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) highlights the importance of providing practical assistance and care for those in distress. Additionally, biblical passages such as James 2:14-17 emphasise the need for faith to be expressed through action, urging believers to actively engage in meeting the needs of others, particularly during times of crisis. The Bible contains teachings that provide guidance and principles for disaster response and recovery, offering wisdom and insights for believers facing crises and challenges. These biblical teachings help shape the Christian approach to disaster management and inform the actions and attitudes of believers in times of adversity.

One relevant biblical teaching can be found in the book of Proverbs, which states, "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed" (Proverbs 19:17, ESV). This verse emphasises the importance of generosity and caring for those in need, highlighting the responsibility of believers to provide support and assistance to those affected by disasters. Similarly, the book of James also guides responding to crises. James 2:14-17 states, "What good is it, my brothers if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, be warmed and filled,' without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also, faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead" (ESV). This passage emphasises the importance of translating faith into action, calling believers to actively engage in meeting the practical needs of those affected by disasters.



In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus instructs his followers to care for the vulnerable and marginalized, stating, "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (Matthew 25:35-36, ESV). This teaching highlights the Christian responsibility to extend compassion, care, and practical assistance to those in need, including those impacted by disasters. The biblical story of Joseph in the book of Genesis provides an example of disaster response and recovery. When faced with a severe famine, Joseph, through divine wisdom, implemented a comprehensive plan to store grain during the years of abundance and distribute it during the years of famine, ensuring the survival and well-being of his family and the surrounding nations (Genesis 41:46-57). This story demonstrates the importance of foresight, planning, and compassion in mitigating the effects of disasters and promoting recovery.

From the above discussions, the Bible contains teachings that provide guidance for disaster response and recovery. Verses from Proverbs, James, and Matthew emphasise the importance of generosity, works of faith, and caring for the vulnerable and marginalized. Additionally, the story of Joseph in Genesis exemplifies the value of planning and compassion in addressing the impacts of disasters. These biblical teachings shape the Christian approach to disaster management, inspiring believers to actively engage in compassionate action, care for those in need, and seek practical solutions to alleviate suffering and promote recovery.

Going forward, Christian organisations have a long history of involvement in disaster management efforts. Faith-based organisations, churches, and Christian NGOs actively contribute to disaster response and recovery by providing immediate assistance, coordinating relief efforts, and supporting long-term recovery initiatives. Organisations such as World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, and Catholic Relief Services, among others, play significant roles in providing humanitarian aid, coordinating volunteers, and partnering with local communities to address the needs of those affected by disasters (Ruth Chambers 110). Christian organisations often have established networks, resources, and expertise that enable them to respond quickly and effectively to disasters. They mobilize their members, volunteers, and supporters to provide various forms of assistance, including food, shelter, medical aid, psychosocial support, and spiritual care. Moreover, Christian organisations actively engage in community development initiatives, seeking to build resilience and promote sustainable recovery in disaster-affected areas (CNA 9).

Christian organisations play a significant role in disaster management efforts, leveraging their resources, networks, and values to provide support, relief, and long-term recovery assistance to those affected by disasters. These organisations, rooted

in Christian principles of compassion and service, actively engage in disaster management to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of individuals and communities facing crises. One example of Christian organisations involved in disaster management is World Vision. World Vision is a global humanitarian organisation that responds to disasters worldwide, providing immediate relief and long-term recovery support. They work in partnership with local communities, governments, and other organisations to provide essentials such as food, clean water, shelter, healthcare, and education to those affected by disasters (World Vision International n.pag).

Samaritan's Purse is another Christian organisation actively engaged in disaster management. They specialise in international relief and have responded to numerous disasters around the world. Samaritan's Purse provides emergency medical care, clean water solutions, and shelter assistance to disaster-affected communities. They also coordinate volunteer teams to help with debris removal, reconstruction, and community rebuilding efforts (Samaritan's Purse).

Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States, is also deeply involved in disaster management. CRS collaborates with local partners, governments, and communities to respond to emergencies and assist in long-term recovery. They provide emergency shelter, water and sanitation facilities, food, and livelihood support, while also focusing on community resilience and disaster risk reduction initiatives (Catholic Relief Services).

These organisations exemplify the Christian commitment to serving those in need during times of disaster. They mobilize their resources, expertise, and networks to provide immediate relief and work toward sustainable recovery. Christian organisations also emphasise the importance of holistic care, addressing physical, emotional, and spiritual needs in their disaster management efforts. In addition to international organisations, local churches and faith-based groups are often actively involved in disaster management at the community level. They play a crucial role in providing immediate assistance, including emergency shelter, food distribution, and pastoral care. Churches often serve as hubs for community coordination, volunteer mobilisation, and long-term recovery efforts, utilising their local connections and knowledge to effectively address the needs of disaster-affected individuals and families (Chambers 114).

The foregoing suggests that the Christian perspective on disaster management emphasises compassion, care for others, and active engagement in assisting those affected by disasters. Its emphasis on love and the teachings found in the Bible, guide



Christians to respond to disasters with practical assistance and support. It further elucidates how Christian organisations play a vital role in disaster management efforts by providing immediate relief, coordinating resources, and contributing to long-term recovery. Their involvement reflects the Christian commitment to compassion, social responsibility, and the promotion of human well-being in times of crisis.

Benefits of Religious Belief in Disaster Management

Religious belief offers several benefits in the context of disaster management, contributing to the overall well-being of individuals and communities. One of the key benefits of religious belief in disaster management is the psychological and emotional support it provides to individuals. Faith can serve as a source of comfort, hope, and resilience during times of crisis. Research has shown that religious beliefs and practices can enhance coping mechanisms, reduce anxiety and stress, and promote psychological well-being in disaster-affected populations (Galea Sandro 284). Religious belief provides a sense of meaning, purpose, and trust in a higher power, which can help individuals navigate the emotional challenges associated with disasters.

Faith communities also play a vital role in disaster management by fostering resilience and promoting community cohesion. Religious institutions often serve as centres of support and coordination during disasters. They provide a sense of belonging, social support, and a platform for collective action. Faith communities have the capacity to mobilize resources, volunteers, and expertise, enabling them to respond quickly and effectively to disasters (Comfort, Gallaher, and Greene459). Through their active involvement, faith communities strengthen social bonds, promote cooperation, and build community resilience, which is essential for long-term recovery.

Case studies further illustrate the positive impact of religious belief in disaster management. For instance, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, faith-based organisations played a significant role in providing immediate relief and long-term recovery assistance. Churches opened their doors as shelters, distributed food and supplies, and offered emotional support to those affected by the disaster (Ebaugh and Roof 535). The faith community's active engagement fostered a sense of unity and solidarity, facilitating the recovery process.

Another case study is the response to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Faith-based organisations such as Catholic Relief Services and World Vision were among the first responders, providing emergency relief, healthcare, clean water, and livelihood support. These organisations also worked alongside local faith communities to

facilitate community rebuilding and sustainable development (Chambers Ruth 118). The involvement of religious organisations and the support provided by religious belief played a crucial role in the recovery and resilience-building efforts in Haiti.

Challenges and Criticisms

Challenges and criticisms exist regarding the role of religious belief in disaster management. Challenges arise from potential conflicts between religious beliefs and secular disaster management strategies. In some cases, religious beliefs may influence the decision-making process, leading to conflicts with established emergency response protocols. For example, certain religious groups may have specific dietary restrictions or rituals that could hinder the distribution of standardized relief supplies or medical treatments. Balancing the needs and sensitivities of diverse religious communities with the overarching goals of disaster management can pose a challenge (Jenkins, Boer and Johnson).

Criticisms have also been raised regarding religious involvement in disaster management. Some argue that religious organisations may prioritise evangelism or proselytisation over the immediate needs of disaster-affected populations. Concerns have been raised about potential coercion or exploitation of vulnerable individuals during times of crisis. Additionally, criticisms have focused on the exclusion of certain marginalised groups or the neglect of individuals with different religious or non-religious affiliations (NPR, n pag). Another challenge involves balancing religious freedom and inclusivity in disaster response. Disaster management must strive to accommodate and respect the diverse religious beliefs and practices of affected individuals and communities. This entails providing spaces and opportunities for religious expression and support while ensuring that assistance is inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of their religious background. Striking this balance is essential to uphold the principles of religious freedom and promote a sense of inclusivity (Rothstein, Viggo and Stausberg 5).

It is important to acknowledge and address these challenges and criticisms in disaster management. Engaging in open dialogue, fostering interfaith collaborations, and implementing policies that promote inclusivity and non-discrimination can help mitigate potential conflicts and ensure that religious belief is integrated in a way that respects the needs and rights of all affected individuals and communities (Rim-Rukeh, Onyeakusi, and Nwankwo, np).



Recommendations

The study offers several recommendations to enhance the collaboration between religious organisations and secular authorities, develop guidelines for religious communities in disaster management, and promote interfaith dialogue and cooperation in disaster response. These recommendations aim to harness the potential of religious belief while ensuring inclusivity, coordination, and effective response in times of crisis.

One key recommendation is to encourage collaborative efforts between religious organisations and secular authorities in disaster management. Recognizing the unique strengths and resources that religious communities bring to the table, it is essential to establish partnerships and networks that foster mutual trust, coordination, and information sharing. Such collaborations can enhance the effectiveness of disaster response and recovery efforts by combining the expertise, infrastructure, and community connections of both religious and secular entities.

Developing guidelines specifically tailored for religious communities in disaster management is another important recommendation. These guidelines should provide practical recommendations on how religious communities can integrate their religious beliefs and practices into disaster preparedness, response, and recovery activities. They should address issues such as religious accommodation, inclusivity, and the coordination of religious organisations with broader disaster management systems. Guidelines can serve as a resource to promote consistent, ethical, and culturally sensitive practices among religious communities during disasters.

Promoting interfaith dialogue and cooperation in disaster response is also crucial. Engaging in interfaith dialogue fosters mutual understanding, cooperation, and the sharing of best practices among different religious traditions. This collaboration can lead to more comprehensive and inclusive disaster management approaches that address the needs of diverse religious communities and promote unity in times of crisis. By recognizing and respecting the contributions of various religious perspectives, interfaith dialogue contributes to a more holistic and effective disaster response.

Implementing these recommendations requires a concerted effort from religious organisations, secular authorities, and stakeholders involved in disaster management. By embracing collaboration, developing guidelines, and promoting interfaith dialogue, the potential of religious belief in disaster management can be harnessed for the overall well-being of society.

Conclusion

This paper highlights the significance of recognizing and incorporating religious belief in disaster management for the overall well-being of society. Throughout the paper, several key points have been discussed, underscoring the importance of religious belief in disaster management efforts. The paper emphasised the psychological and emotional support provided by religious belief in times of disaster. Religious beliefs offer comfort, hope, and resilience to individuals, helping them cope with the emotional challenges associated with disasters. Additionally, faith communities play a crucial role in fostering resilience and promoting community cohesion through their support networks and collective action. The study also explored the biblical teachings on disaster response and recovery. Christian theology emphasises compassion and care for others, providing a moral foundation for disaster management efforts. Biblical teachings guide Christians to respond with love, generosity, and a commitment to the well-being of all individuals, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized. Furthermore, the paper discussed the involvement of Christian organisations in disaster management. Christian organisations, often motivated by their faith and values, actively engage in disaster response, offering immediate relief and long-term recovery assistance. Their involvement strengthens social bonds, promotes cooperation, and contributes to the overall well-being of disaster-affected populations.

Recognizing and incorporating religious beliefs in disaster management is crucial for several reasons. Religious beliefs and practices hold immense significance for individuals and communities, providing them with a sense of meaning, purpose, and hope in times of crisis. By acknowledging and respecting religious perspectives, disaster management efforts can tap into the resources, expertise, and social capital present within faith communities. The potential for a Christian perspective to contribute to the well-being of society through disaster management is significant. By integrating Christian theology, values, and organisations into disaster response and recovery efforts, a holistic approach can be achieved, addressing not only the physical needs but also the emotional, psychological, and spiritual well-being of individuals and communities. Overall, the study highlights the importance of recognizing and incorporating religious belief in disaster management. By leveraging the strengths of religious communities, respecting diverse religious perspectives, and fostering collaborative partnerships, disaster management efforts can be more comprehensive, inclusive, and effective in promoting the overall well-being of society.



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