



Does God Really **Love** This World?

Genesis 6:13: (NKJV) *And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*



We as Christians cling to the truth that God is Love. We cling to its stability, its longevity and its unchangeableness. God is Love. So, what does that mean and how far does that extend? Does God love all things? Does God love this world and all in it - the evil included? Does God hate, and if He does, wouldn't He be hating that which He created? What about the earth? Does God love this earth, I mean, is God "green?" If He does love the earth then will He destroy it? Stay with us as we look into the book that reveals the mind of God on such matters!

Really we have two parts here: First, does God love the earth and second, does God love the world? Was the earth created for longevity or for a temporary stopping point?

Let's start with the earth:

Genesis 1:1-5: (NASB) ¹*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* ²*The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.* ³*Then God said, Let there be light; and there was light.* ⁴*God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.* ⁵*God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.*

A recurring theme through the creative process was that "God saw that it was good."

Genesis 1:26-31: (NASB) ²⁶*Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.* ²⁷*God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* ²⁸*God blessed them; and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.* ²⁹*Then God said, Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;* ³⁰*and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food; and it was so.* ³¹*God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.*

Mankind was created in a different way than the rest of the creation.



Observations:

- Man was created *in His image* from His hand. All other earthly creations were described as being brought forth from the earth.
- Man was to be the ruler of this world and this earth, a sure sign that God cared for it.
- Man and woman were blessed, further indicating God's investment into this creation.



- Man and woman were given rules - more indication of His care for His creation.
- *Very good* means just what it says - God had great satisfaction in His work!

So, by all appearances, God truly does love the earth...

Psalms 104:5: (NKJV) *You who laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever,*

...and it seems as though He will love it forever...

It appears so far that His creation of the earth and everything in it was for a long-term purpose. Mankind has been on the earth about 6,000 years. That is nothing in comparison to a God of eternity.

So, if God loves the earth so much, why did He say that He would destroy it?

Genesis 6:1-8: (NKJV) *¹Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, ²that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose...⁵Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷So the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them. ⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.*



Observations:

- Sin had overcome the earth on both physical and spiritual levels.
- The hybrid ruling race was NOT in accordance with the will of God.
- The contamination was so thorough that destruction loomed.
- Amidst all of this, Noah and his family remained uncontaminated and faithful.

We see Genesis 1 as a summary of God creating a man and a woman. Genesis 2 explains the process by which that happened, not describing two different creations. We see these as two different accounts of the same event.

Genesis 6:11-13: (NKJV) *¹¹The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. ¹²So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. ¹³And God said to Noah, The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and **behold, I will destroy them with the earth.***

All was to be destroyed - the earth included. Does this destruction proclamation negate God's love for the earth?

After the flood:

Genesis 8:20-22: (NKJV) *²⁰Then Noah built an altar to the LORD,...Then the Lord said in His heart, I will never again curse the ground for man's sake, although the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; **nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done.***



Observations:

- Noah reaffirms his humility before God - God sees this as a good beginning.
- God's promise of life everlasting begins to unfold, yet He does not speak of removing sin.
- *As I have done* implies that this promise is specifically centered on the earth.



Genesis 9:8-15: (NKJV) ⁸*Then God spoke to Noah and to his sons with him, saying:...* ¹¹*Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to **destroy the earth**.* ¹²*And God said: This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, **for perpetual generations**:* ¹³*I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.*



God's promise takes a more precise shape.

Observations:

- Never again would there be a flood to "destroy" the earth and all living things.
- The rainbow would be the symbol of the fact that the earth would not be "destroyed" by water again.
- Even though God promised to never again destroy *all flesh* - technically all flesh was not destroyed because He was still talking to Noah. Noah was still on the physical earth, so it was not "destroyed" either.

It is important to keep God's statements in context.

Let's make up our minds - would God destroy the earth or not?

God's meaning regarding the earth and its destruction:

Psalms 102:24-28: (NKJV) ²⁴*I said, O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; Your years are throughout all generations.* ²⁵*Of old You laid the foundation of **the earth, and the heavens** are the work of Your hands.* ²⁶*They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, and they will be changed.* ²⁷*But You are the same, and Your years will have no end.* ²⁸*The children of Your servants will continue, and their descendants will be established before You.*



Observations:

- Again, the foundations of the earth are referenced in the context of the lasting heavens.
- God's meaning is better defined here - *perish* is compared to God's everlasting and unchangeable character.
- *Perish* from the standpoint of God showing His ability to completely overhaul - ending or perishing the *old order* of the heavens and earth but not ending them!



So, when speaking of the earth, God **MUST** love it for *perish* seems to mean “overhaul” and that is a good thing!

Psalms 119:90-91: (NKJV) ⁹⁰Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, **and it abides.** ⁹¹They continue this day according to Your ordinances, for all are Your servants.

Literally the earth stands - God built the foundation upon which it stands.

Isaiah 45:18-19: (NKJV) ¹⁸For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, **who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited:** I am the LORD, and there is no other. ¹⁹I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, Seek Me in vain; I, the Lord, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Here is a clear purpose for the earth - but for how long? It appears that it will be a part of God’s eternal purpose.

Ecclesiastes 1:3-4: (NKJV) ³What profit has a man from all his labor in which he toils under the sun? ⁴One generation passes away, and another generation comes; **but the earth abides forever.**

The word *forever* used here literally means “perpetually.”

But how do we know that this will not change?

Psalms 89:34: (NKJV) My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips.

Okay, so God promised. He loves the earth and created it for a specific reason.

Then, how do we explain the following?

Luke 21:33: (NKJV) Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away.

Matthew 5:18: (NKJV) For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Now, either this is a massive contradiction or there is another explanation.

Although we have messed up this planet considerably, it is not ruined to the degree where God could not repair it. That is an important point to understand. We should have respect for the home our Heavenly Father gave us. Is there a difference between the earth abiding forever and the world abiding forever?

So, does God love the world?

John 3:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Nice, but what does this mean? Does God love things as they are?

Let’s take a closer look at this Scripture:

Luke 21:33: (NKJV) Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Are heaven and earth really toast?



A caller suggests [2 Chronicles 7:14](#) speaking of Israel as a metaphor for the earth: *If my people, which are called by My name shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.*

We need to understand the symbols God uses as they relate to the prophecy being given.

God pronounces the verdict upon the world:

[Isaiah 13:11](#): (NKJV) *I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.*

God carries out that same verdict via symbolic meaning.

[Isaiah 13:13](#): (NKJV) *Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth will move out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts and in the day of His fierce anger.*

So, heavens and earth can be symbols for humanity in two different positions - the heavens, perhaps meaning the spiritual rule in the world; the earth, perhaps meaning the stable society of earth...does this hold true in other texts of prophecy?

[Haggai 2:6-7](#): (NASB) *⁶For thus says the LORD of hosts, Once more in a little while, I am going to shake the heavens and the earth, the sea also and the dry land. ⁷I will shake all the nations; and they will come with the wealth of all nations, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts.*

Here we have the defining of the symbols:

Earth = nations, stable society

Heavens = spiritual rulership

The context of this text is the building of the second Temple - the spiritual house of God to which the glory of the heavens will go. The spiritual rulership of the world will go back to where it belongs. There will be a shakeup of the nations and spiritual rulership of the earth - they are worthy of the wrath of God so it will be brought upon them for their own good. God works for the good of His creation.

So, what do we know so far?

God does love the world - BUT - it needs to be shaken up for righteousness! We know that many Scriptures speaking of the earth are symbolic.

[Revelation 21:1](#): (KJV) *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*

Does this mean that the earth we know gets pushed out of the way and is replaced with another physical earth? Coming from the highly symbolic book of Revelation, we can reasonably surmise that this is a symbolic expression. The word *new* here really means "renewed."



Not only do the symbols fit, but this text clearly shows God ruling men on earth under a different government. This new earth no longer has a *sea*, symbolic in Scripture for restless masses.

This is a very broad based prophecy. The new earth is not just an overhaul in Israel but for the entire planet.

Now this next text makes so much more sense:

Isaiah 51:4:6: (NKJV) *4Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, and I will make My justice rest as a light of the peoples. 5My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, and My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, and on My arm they will trust. 6Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look on the earth beneath for the heavens will vanish away like smoke, the earth will grow old like a garment, and those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not be abolished.*

So, we have the earth not only being spared from utter destruction but being shown as an eternal dwelling place for mankind. How do we get there from here?



What do airplanes, sailboats and God's plan all have in common?

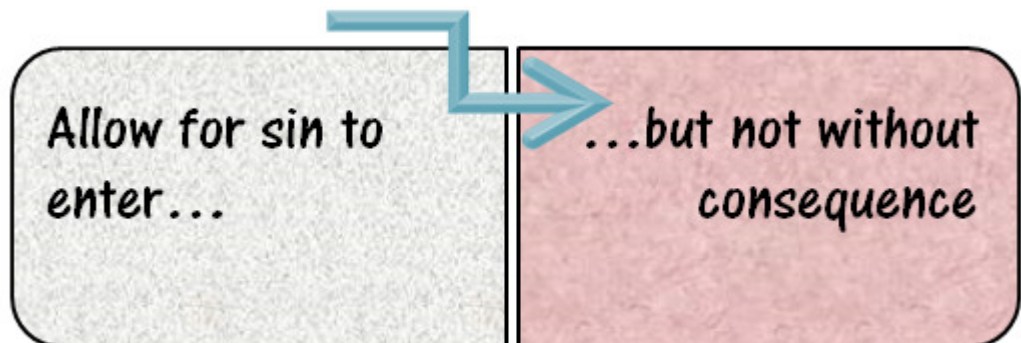
"It helps to realize that an airplane spends 90% of its time in error. We need to take a look at that. If you could see that you could get an airplane from New York to London, even while having been in error ninety percent of the time, maybe you could be less critical of yourself...A sailboat cannot get from where it is to where it wants to be by traveling in a straight line. It has to zigzag. So in terms of true course, it's always in error. What is important about an airplane or a sailboat is that *the errors cancel out.*" - Dr. Robert Anthony

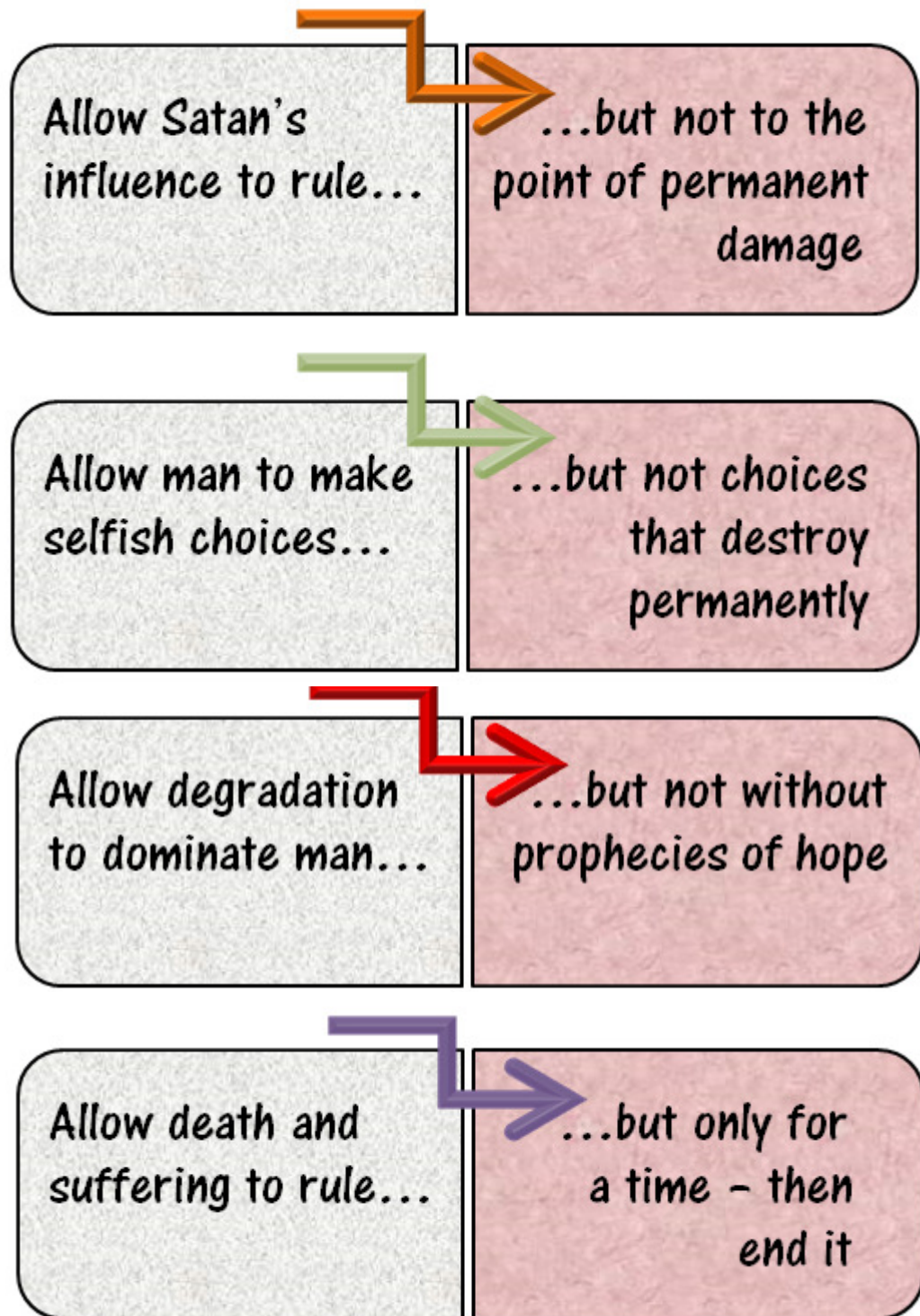


Here is how we can trace God's plan through the Scriptures and through history:

The RULES of the PLAN

The apparently "off course" directions vs. the actual planned progress





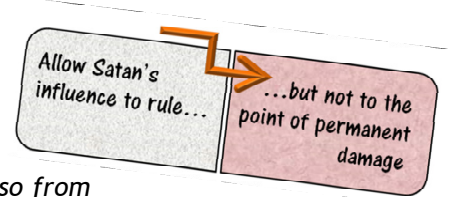
God did not intervene in the entrance of sin:

Genesis 3:6-7: (NRSV) ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.



But He did not allow sinners to remain in the garden:

Genesis 3:22-24: (NRSV) ²²Then the LORD God said, See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever ²³therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. ²⁴He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.



God allowed sin but also allowed the consequences.

We need to think of these valuable lessons in the perspective of eternity. What is the level of allowable damage during this lifetime?

God did not intervene in the mixing of angelic and human races:

Genesis 6:3,5: (NRSV) ³Then the LORD said, My spirit shall not abide in mortals forever, for they are flesh; their days shall be one hundred twenty years. ⁵The LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually.

There had to be a destructive process because it was not the original creation. The Nephilim (the progeny of the fallen angels and earthly women) were not part of God's eternal plan. They were allowed to live for a short period of time only.

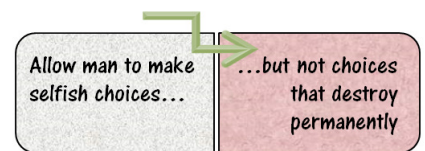


Though He did destroy that corrupted world:

Genesis 6:7-8: (NRSV) ⁷So the LORD said, I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created--people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am **sorry <5162>** that I have made them. ⁸But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD.

Sorry: Strong's #5162. Mxn nacham *naw-kham*'; properly, to sigh, i.e. breathe strongly; by implication, to be sorry, i.e. (in a favorable sense) to pity, console or (reflexively) rue

There can be great hope in destruction. Sometimes it is necessary so that which is stable and meant to be can be built. That is how God loves the world. Sin is allowed to teach man lessons for all of eternity. Things may seem to be terribly off course, but ultimately they are not.



Let's discuss a really good example of God's permission...

God did not intervene in the desires of Israel to have a king:

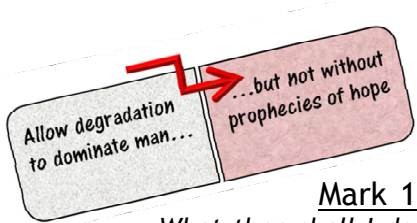
1 Samuel 8:4-7: (NRSV) ⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵and said to him, You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations. ⁶But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, Give us a king to govern us. Samuel prayed to the LORD, ⁷and the LORD said to Samuel, Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.



Israel originally had God-sanctioned judges, unlike the nations around them. Why would God allow it? His will could still be done through the king. It took only one generation for the king to mess up!

Though He did monitor and guide their kings:

1 Samuel 15:22-23: (NRSV) ²²And Samuel said, Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Surely, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. ²³For rebellion is no less a sin than divination, and stubbornness is like iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king.



God allows man to make selfish choices, but not choices that will destroy permanently or that He does not oversee. God has this in His hands!

God did not intervene in the death of Jesus:

Mark 15:12-15: (ASV) ¹²And Pilate again answered and said unto them, What then shall I do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews? ¹³And they cried out again, Crucify him. ¹⁴And Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out exceedingly, Crucify him. ¹⁵And Pilate, wishing to content the multitude, released unto them Barabbas, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.

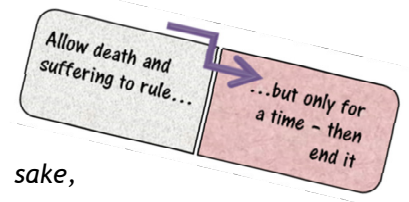
God's way of reconciliation is not to burn everyone up, but to bring all into harmony through the ransom. He is working with those few who are trying to follow His plan now. We need to become *ministers of reconciliation* (2 Corinthians 5:18) to be prepared for work in the future.

Though he did precede it with prophecies to show what it would accomplish:

Daniel 2:44-45: (ASV) ⁴⁴And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. ⁴⁵Forasmuch as thou sawest that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Where is the kingdom being set up? On earth. *The earth abides forever.* The earth was meant to be inhabited. Through damage and destruction comes everlasting peace - these Daniel Scriptures speak of destroying an evil society including governments, nations and false religions that are to be replaced with righteousness.

Mark 13:19-20: (ASV) ¹⁹For those days shall be tribulation, such as there hath not been the like from the beginning of the creation which God created until now, and never shall be. ²⁰And except the Lord had shortened the days, no flesh would have been saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.



Revelation 20:12-14: (ASV) ¹²And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne; and books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead that were in it; and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. ¹⁴And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, even the lake of fire.



Jesus came as a ransom for all men who died in Adam. This was a pivot point in the plan of God! All men who died in Adam qualify for a resurrection because of Jesus. We have that promise. The plan seemed to zig and zag, but it all leads to God loving the world. Death is eventually thrown into the lake of fire and destroyed.

The earth was created as a place for humanity to live. Those who follow after Christ now will receive a heavenly reward as promised. The rest are given an opportunity on earth because of God's love. That is our God of heaven that we worship!

*So, does God really love this world...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*



*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*

A look at some other Scriptures that seem to talk about the earth and all in it being destroyed:

Psalms 46:1-3: (NKJV) ¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ³Though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah

We already have established the symbolism for the earth (stable society), but what about the restless sea and the mountains?

Isaiah 57:20: (NKJV) *But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.*

Restless sea = restless masses of humanity

Now for the mountains:

Jeremiah 51:24-25: (NKJV) ²⁴And I will repay Babylon and all the inhabitants of Chaldea for all the evil they have done in Zion in your sight, says the LORD. ²⁵Behold, I am against you, O destroying mountain, who destroys all the earth, says the LORD. "And I will stretch out My hand against you, roll you down from the rocks, and make you a burnt mountain.

Babylon, a government of man, was symbolized by a mountain.

Micah 4:1-2: (KJV) ¹But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. ²And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Mountains = governments, whether of man or of God



Now, let's go back to that Psalm again:

Psalms 46:1-3: (NKJV) ¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. ²Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, (the organized nations of the world will be in serious trouble) and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; (the governments of man swallowed up by the restless masses of humanity) ³Though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with its swelling. (A massive amount of trouble happening) Selah.

Massive amounts of trouble, and yet there is a glimmer of hope in that same Psalm:

Psalms 46:4-7: (NKJV) ⁴There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. ⁵God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. ⁶The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

Water = Truth

River = those who carry the Gospel message of hope of salvation

This glimmer is the *very elect*, for the text tells us they carry the gladness of God - the good news of the Gospel. Furthermore, this is happening at the breaking of a new day! God's hand is overriding these difficult things for all of mankind.

Matthew 24:21-22: (KJV) ²¹For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. ²²And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Jesus warns that it will get very difficult but not to worry, because it means God will put a stop to the overwhelming trouble and give us hope towards something else. God is saving the earth.

One last prophecy:

2 Peter 3:6-14: (NKJV) ⁶by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. ⁷But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

So what about this day of Judgment - haven't we had enough with all the trouble?

⁸But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Never forget that GOD WILL DELIVER!!!

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it ~~will be burned up~~ (more accurately translated "will be discovered" in the Rotherham and other translations)



Not only will God deliver on His promise of reconciliation, but He will deliver on His prophesied judgments and trouble that are a result of sin.

¹¹Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, ¹²looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Now that you know it's coming, what kind of person will you be, even with the prospect of such difficulty?

¹³Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless;

Look at that - the earth is again "front and center" and it will fulfill its purpose!

By the way - the other prophecy in Psalms 46 - you know - the one with destruction and mayhem?

Here is how IT ends:

Psalms 46:8-11: (NKJV) *⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD, who has made desolations in the earth. ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire. ¹⁰Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah*

Yes, the earth is here to stay - how do we know? **GOD SAID SO!**