

God's Purpose for Planet Earth

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

- A. Humans have had an unbalanced interest in the earth for 55 years.
 - 1. When I was in grade school, it was called ecology.
 - a. Recycling was beginning to be discussed
 - b. The "population explosion" was the topic of the day
 - c. We were going to run out of oil in 20 years
 - d. Anti-littering was the current PC
 - 2. The names and fashions have changed, but it is still based on the same ignorance of the earth and its designed purpose and capabilities
 - a. Now it is industry and job killing legislation enforced by the EPA
 - b. Earth first and Green is the new PC
 - c. We are now going to run out of ozone in a few years
 - d. Gaia the earth goddess is the unofficial deity of the 21st century
 - 3. Here is the harsh reality for the priests of the order of earth worshipers: We are not big and strong enough to damage this world to the point where it cannot recover.
 - a. We don't have the power to undo any of God's laws, spiritual or physical (Power, WV)
 - b. I am not suggesting that we be careless or wasteful with the earth and exploit or destroy its beauty; we are its stewards
- B. What does the Bible teach about God's purpose for the Planet Earth?

I. GOD CREATED THE EARTH

- A. God is the Creator - Gen. 1:1-2
 - 1. 2Kings 19:15; 2Chron. 2:12; Psalm 90:2, 102:25, 121:2; Heb. 1:10
- B. God made the world out of nothing in six days - Gen. 1:31
 - 1. Heb. 11:3; Ex. 20:11
- C. Not only did God create the earth, but He upholds it by the word of his power
 - 1. Col. 1:17; Psalm 119:90; 2Peter 3:5, 7

II. GOD CREATED HUMANKIND TO DWELL ON THE EARTH

- A. The record is unmistakable - Gen. 1:26
 - 1. God not only created, He determines the laws - Acts 17:24, 26
 - 2. God created us in His own image and with superior intelligence and gave us dominion over creation - Gen. 1:26-28
- B. Notice that God created us at "the beginning" (Gen. 1:1, 26-31). One cannot believe the Bible and accept general, organic, or theistic evolution - Matt. 19:4
 - 1. This earth was created for us.

III. HUMANKIND'S DAYS ON EARTH ARE LIMITED

- A. 1Chron. 29:15; Gen. 3:19 - Man is not meant to dwell on this earth forever.
- B. Earth itself is limited. Earth is presently running down - Heb. 1:10-12
 - 1. Jesus said the earth will perish - Matt. 24:35; 2Peter 3:10-11

2. The second inescapable physical law of our universe (the laws of thermodynamics): The entropy of any isolated system always increases

IV. THE EARTH OF NOAH'S DAY

- A. The antediluvian or world before the Noachian flood was a very different world (a fact many do not realize).
 1. Peter in describing the ancient world referred to it as the "world that then was" - 2Peter 3:6
 2. In contrast, Peter writes of the present heavens and earth (world after the flood) as, "the earth which is now" (vs. 7).
 3. It appears the earth never knew rain before the flood - Gen. 7:4, 2:6
- B. The hydraulic forces of a flood of the enormity of the Genesis flood would have been beyond man's calculation. The climatic, atmospheric, and geological changes produced by such a flood were productive of great change, no doubt. The point is: the earth before the flood and our earth are significantly different in many ways. In fact, there would be such major differences as to account for many of the objections offered by evolutionists today, as to age, fossil, and other matters pertaining to the present earth.

V. GOD'S NAME IS PROCLAIMED THROUGHOUT THE EARTH

- A. God is the Sustainer. Since the earth belongs to Him, He desires and deserves the praise and recognition that are rightly His
 1. Psalm 135:5-7, 136:1-9
 2. God desires His name "declared throughout all the earth" - Ex. 9:16
 3. The Gospel is to be preached to "all the world" - Mark 16:15
 4. "Their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world" - Rom. 10:18

VI. GOD'S PEOPLE ARE STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS ON EARTH

- A. This earth is not designed to be our permanent abode - Heb. 11:13
 1. When one abandons belief in God, His word, and His heaven, he must believe in something else, something less, something destined to die
 2. To be part of this world is to live according to the world - 1Peter 2:11
 3. Jesus said He was going (leaving this earth) to prepare a place and that the saved would be with Him there - John 14:3

Conclusion:

- A. When Jesus returns - 1Thes. 4:17; Ecc. 12:13-14