

## *Humanity's Heavenly Protector*

Shortly before his arrest, crucifixion and resurrection Jesus predicted “days of distress unequalled from the beginning when God created the world...”<sup>(1)</sup> In fact, he referred to these horrible days as a time of difficulty without equal in all human history.

Specifically, Jesus foretold wars and rumors of wars, nations and kingdoms locked in monumental struggles against one another, earthquakes, famine and natural disasters beyond comprehension.<sup>(2)</sup>

Judging from Jesus' words, humanity is totally unprotected and faces eventual annihilation. However, listen to our precious Lord's words in Mark 13:20. “If the Lord had not cut short those days no one would survive, but...he has shortened them.” In other words, Jesus promised that God is humanity's heavenly Protector. He refuses to allow mankind to be wiped off the face of the earth.

### **The Way Things Were**

Humans find it very easy to blame God for all earth's woes. Even many atheists claim there is no God because earth is in such a mess. In effect, this belief finds fault with God, the God they say doesn't exist. Buddhists, Hindus, modernists, free-thinkers and lots of people who consider themselves Christian, accuse God for all mankind's ills. These hostile feelings toward the Lord spring out of our ignorance of the way things used to be.

The original creation was not afflicted with natural disasters or any harmful event whatsoever. It could not be anything less than paradise, because the Creator contains no evil. He can only make things that are like himself—perfect, pleasant and beneficial. After completing his creative work, “God saw all that he had made and it was very good.”<sup>(3)</sup> Additionally, a Hebrew psalmist pointed out, “You are good, and what you do is good.”<sup>(4)</sup>

The humans God brought into being had no criminal inclinations or warlike tendencies. Love for God, love for other humans and love for planet earth filled them with pleasant impulses and gentle feelings.

God generously subjected planet earth and all its creatures to Adam and Eve's managership. “God blessed them and said...fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground. I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.”<sup>(5)</sup> “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”<sup>(6)</sup> There were no struggles between humans and earth, because earth cooperated fully with its human overseers. There were no droughts,

no pestilences; humans affectionately cared for earth and earth yielded its bounty to humans. In the original creation no harmful event or disaster was possible.

## **The Way Things Are**

As long as Adam and Eve submitted to God, earth submitted to them. This perfect harmony between humans and planet earth changed drastically at the moment Adam and Eve rejected their heavenly Protector. But when they abandoned their love for God and flung off their submission to him, creation was plunged into decay. <sup>(7)</sup> Earth rebelled against its human managers when they rebelled against their heavenly Father. Ever since then, “the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of child birth.” <sup>(8)</sup> The Lord told the sinful Adam that the ground is cursed “because of you.” <sup>(9)</sup> Ever since then, the soil has grudgingly yielded food to mankind. The water laden atmosphere that envelops earth inconsistently provides the rain essential for life. As a consequence of Adam’s behavior, the ground began producing thorns and thistles. Earthquakes, plagues, pestilences, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, and everything else destructive to mankind came into existence because “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” <sup>(10)</sup>

Jesus’ prediction of frightful events on earth doesn’t cause the events. He simply foretold the logical result of humanity’s ever increasing wickedness and hostility to the Lord. It is true that God sometimes uses disaster to discipline mankind. However, his objective is to bring us to himself not to destroy us. Our hostility against God and our lewd behavior opened the door for all the past, present and future pain and suffering inflicted on our race. As long as we act in opposition to God, earth will react in opposition to us.

## **The Way Things Will Be**

Left to ourselves there would be no hope for humanity’s survival. But we are not left to ourselves; we are not alone because God is on our side! Remember, Jesus promised God would shorten the horribly destructive time the Bible calls the last days. True, we already see the beginning of the frightful events Jesus said would happen. Historians call the twentieth century the age of violence. What will historians call the twenty-first century? It doesn’t matter, because Jesus is humanity’s heavenly Protector.

Instead of meditating on frightful events, look to humanity’s heavenly Protector. “When the earth and all its pillars quake, it is I who hold its pillars firm.” <sup>(11)</sup> “The Lord reigns...The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.” <sup>(12)</sup> “You established the earth, and it endures.” <sup>(13)</sup> “He...made the earth...not to be empty but...to be inhabited.” <sup>(14)</sup>

Footnotes:

1. Mark 13:19
2. Mark 13:7-8
3. Genesis 1:31
4. Psalm 119:68
5. Genesis 1:28-29
6. Genesis 2:15
7. Romans 8:21
8. Romans 8:22
9. Genesis 3:17
10. Romans 3:23
11. Psalm 75:3
12. Psalm 93:1
13. Psalm 119:90
14. Isaiah 45:18

