

## **Planet Earth: Is There any Hope? – Part 2**

### **Psalm 6-8**

#### **Introduction:**

1. We are living on a big ball called “planet earth.” The earth is suspended in the air, speeding through the solar system at 66,000 miles per hour.
2. Why is there life on this earth? Did it happen by random chance? No, the Bible teaches that God placed life on this earth, but why?
3. As you look around at the atrocities that are committed on this earth on a daily basis, it leads people to ask the question, "Why did God put life on planet earth?"
4. The ultimate answer to this question is that God created the heavens and the earth that they all might magnify and glorify His Son, Jesus Christ. **Colossians 1:16**
5. God has a glorious purpose for the earth, the heavens, and mankind. But much of what we see today is not very glorious. It is quite ugly. Why is there so much evil on the earth? Is there any hope? What is God's ultimate plan for this earth?
6. Psalm 6-8 holds the answers to these questions. Much of the book of Psalms is very prophetic in nature and lays out for us God's future plans for this earth.

#### **Why is there so much evil on this earth?**

1. People will often say, "This world has gotten so wicked." They say this as if 50 years ago it was a righteous and holy place.
2. Let me let you in on a little secret - this earth has always been full of evil and wickedness. In Genesis 3, mankind is in the Garden of Eden, and by Genesis 6, notice the description God gives of this earth. **Genesis 6:5; 1 John 5:19; Ezekiel 9:9**
3. Why is this? **Romans 5:12** holds the answer. Ever since the Garden of Eden, mankind, by and large, has lived in rebellion against God and His Word.  
**Psalm 14:1-3**
  - In Genesis 3, Satan questioned God's Word, changed God's Word, and repudiated God's Word. He then substituted God's Word with his own lies.
  - Satan advertised his policy of evil and his "lie program" in Genesis 3, and mankind bought it. Since then every person is faced with a choice. Will you believe Satan's "lie program" or believe what God has said? **John 8:44-47**
4. This is the battle happening on the earth today, but it is nothing new. David was a man after God's own heart and believed God's Word, but notice the battle he faced as we read our text. 6:7-8, 10, 7:1-2
5. Mankind is broken down into two groups in Scripture:
  - Children of God. **Galatians 3:26**
  - Children of the wicked one. **Matthew 13:38**
6. The children of God have always been in the minority, and God's Word warns us that just as the world persecuted and rejected Christ, His children can expect the same. Those who hold to God's Word are enemies of Satan and his world system. **John 17:14-17**
7. Many times on this earth, God's children suffer, and the children of the wicked one seem to have the upper hand and seem to be getting away with evil. 73:3, 5, 12-17

- Death (6:5), weariness (6:6), tears (6:6), grief (6:7), and weeping (6:8) are all a part of this earth.
8. The Bible prophesies that one day Satan will have his anointed man that will rule this earth - he is called the man of sin, the son of perdition, anti-Christ. He will rule in a period of time called the Tribulation (use chart).
  9. If you think things are bad now, during this time the Satanic policy of evil will reach it zenith, and the children of God (the believing remnant of Israel) will go through trials and tribulation like never before. **Matthew 24:21-22;**  
**Jeremiah 25:32**
  10. In many of the psalms, David is a picture of this suffering remnant of believers. God will bring chastening to this world system, and David doesn't want to be in that group (6:1). Notice his cry in 6:8-10.
  11. Why is there so much evil on the earth today? It is because of mankind's rebellion against God's Word and choosing to believe Satan's lies.
    - God gave Adam and Eve His Word - they rebelled and disobeyed.
    - God gave Israel His Word (the law) - they rebelled and disobeyed it.
    - God gave Israel the Word of Life (Jesus Christ), and they rebelled and said, "*Away with him, crucify him.*"
  12. It was prophesied that when Israel and the nations took God's Son and crucified Him, God would send wrath and judgment to this earth.
  13. Instead of doing this immediately, God graciously, once again, gave the world His Word. He raised up a man named Paul and revealed to him a glorious message.
    - It is the message that God will extend grace, mercy, and forgiveness to every sinner on this earth on the basis of what His Son did on the cross.
    - Christ died on the cross (having never sinned), and there He made a full and complete payment for the sins of all mankind. **Romans 5:8**
    - If a person will simply believe and trust in what Christ did, God will grant full forgiveness and give that person eternal life. **Romans 5:1, 6:23**
  14. We are living in the time of grace (use chart). God is allowing evil to continue and He is withholding judgment in order to give sinners a chance to turn to Jesus Christ in faith and be saved. He is giving to this evil world a grace period before judgment comes.
  15. But is there any hope for this sinful earth? What will God ultimately do? Next week we will answer these questions from Psalms 7-8.

### **Is there any hope for this earth?**

1. This is a subject in for you will get a variety of answers.
  - Some say that education is the answer. They reason, "If people are better educated, they will behave better, and the earth will become a nice place."
  - Some say that religion is the answer. They conclude, "If everybody has some form of religion, they will behave better."
  - Some conclude that environmental consciousness is the answer. Some say that if we eradicate poverty, this holds the key. Some believe that better government will provide the answers. Some believe that the hope of this earth is a global economy and peace initiatives between the nations.

2. All of these things are man's opinions and they have all been tried in various ways and failed. No matter how hard man tries to solve the problems of evil, war, and injustice on this earth, he cannot seem to solve it. The issue is this: what does God's Word say?
3. David knew all about evil and injustice on the earth, but he also knew that there was an answer. The answer was direct intervention from the Lord Himself.  
6:4, 7:1, 6-7
4. Psalm 7 is a prophetic psalm that prophesies of a time when the Lord will return and bring judgment upon the wicked. All of prophecy points to this day.
  - When Christ came the first time to the earth as a Lamb, He died upon the cross and laid down His life for all of mankind. **1 Timothy 2:6**
  - Christ will one day return to this earth, not as a gentle Lamb, but as a furious Lion to judge and make war with the ungodly. **Revelation 19:11; Jude 14-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**
5. When Christ returns, notice what happens in Psalm 7:
  - The wickedness of the wicked comes to an end. vs. 9
  - The just are established. vs. 9, cf. vs. 11
6. Verse 12 is a key verse. *"If he (the wicked) turn not, he (God) will whet his sword; he hath bent his bow, and made it ready...."* Read verse 13 also.
  - God, in His grace, gives mankind space to turn to Him. Did you know that God has made a way for us to be just (or justified) before Him today?
  - It is through the cross-work of His Son, Jesus Christ. **Romans 3:23-24, 28, 5:1**
7. Let's go back to our original question. Is there any hope for this earth we live on? Absolutely! And that hope is a person - Jesus Christ. The hope of this earth is the glorious return of the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

### **What is God's ultimate plan for this earth?**

1. Psalm 8 has the answer and is a wonderful psalm that is referred to several times in the New Testament. It is about the *"son of man"* being crowned with glory and honor. vs. 4-5
  - Psalm 6 - the righteous are suffering and being oppressed on the earth.
  - Psalm 7 - the return of the Lord and the judgment of the wicked on earth.
  - Psalm 8 - *"O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!"*
2. God has glorious plans for this earth. God's plan is that the entire earth will center on and glorify His Son, Jesus Christ. **Isaiah 11:9** declares that *"the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord."*
3. God gave Adam authority over the earth and wanted him to subdue it and govern it in a way that would glorify the Lord. Adam failed miserably, and Satan brought chaos, confusion, and rebellion to this earth.
4. But one day Satan's rule will be subdued, and the earth and the lower creation will be delivered from the bondage of corruption that sin has brought. **Romans 8:21-22**
5. Psalm 8 is a prophetic psalm that tells us how God will accomplish this. He will subdue all things through the Son of man. This is a title for the Lord Jesus Christ. He was the Son of God, but also the Son of man. He was fully God and fully man.

- “Son of man” is a title that refers to His legal right to come and take full control and authority of this earth. The governorship of the earth was given to man and he lost it, and only man can gain it back. **Hebrews 2:5-6**
6. So God became flesh. Christ was made a little lower than the angels (vs. 5). How? **Hebrews 2:9** - "...for the suffering of death." Angels are spirits and cannot die.
  7. But Christ did not stay dead. He defeated death, and thereby defeated Satan. He ascended to heaven where He was granted all power and authority. **Hebrews 2:14-15, 7**
  8. Hebrews 2:8 is a key verse. All things have been **placed** under Christ's subjection, but all things have not been **brought** under His authority yet. Read the morning newspaper and you can clearly see this is true.
    - God is allowing wickedness to continue in order to give man time to turn to Him.
  9. But one day this rejected King who has been crowned with glory and honor will return to this earth as the Son of man. He will return as the Second Man to do what the first man was supposed to do, but failed.
  10. Christ will bring His glory and honor to this earth and establish a righteous and just kingdom on this earth. The wicked will be punished, and righteousness and justice will prevail. Creation will be delivered from the bondage of corruption that it is under.
    - Verses 5-9 describes this blessed future state.
  11. Let's end this message by reading a portion of Scripture that deals directly with the future rule and reign of Jesus Christ on this earth! **Isaiah 11:1-9**

### **In Conclusion:**

1. As you look around at the wickedness on this earth and you think, "This earth is a mess. Where is God?" Don't be discouraged. God has a glorious plan and He invites men and women to participate with Him in this plan.
2. Today we are living in a time of decision. Will you place your faith in Jesus Christ or will you reject Him?