

"The time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth." Revelation chapter 12 verse 18

There are people who complain that God never does and never will do anything about the evil and wickedness that blights our world. This verse tells us that they are mistaken. It speaks of a time of judgment that God has planned at some future time at which he will judge all wrongdoing once and for all.

When I look at the world around me today I often wonder whether humanity really has what it takes to mend the damage that we have done to it. In our greed we take the world's resources and refine them into products we can sell for profit. We destroy the habitats that support entire races and species in the process, and fill our waterways, seas and the very atmosphere itself with pollutants. When we have no more use for the things we have made for our comfort and convenience, we discard them into landfill and pour plastic waste into the oceans, where it remains for centuries contaminating the food chain and killing wildlife.

Refugees are driven from their homes because of wars started by western powers, and they find their way to our shores through long, dangerous and costly journeys, but we turn them away and treat them as criminals.

Corruption and self interest infests governments and financial institutions worldwide, and the gap between the richest and the poorest can only be described now as obscene. There is enough food produced in the world to feed everybody, but not enough profit in doing it, so millions of tons of excess is simply wasted while multitudes starve.

Jesus said that as the time of his return approached the love of many would grow cold, and we do indeed live in a time when personal convenience and comfort is the priority of so many of us, even at the expense of the lives of the unborn and the proper care of the elderly, the disabled, the sick and the dying.

Each one of us needs to consider two things in the light of the return of Christ to judge the world for its wickedness. We all need to ask what our own contribution, however small, has been towards the condition of the world today. And we all need to ask ourselves how we will fare in that judgment. There is only one place of safety and that is in Jesus Christ. He died for us as a sacrifice of our sins so that, if we give our lives in to his hands, there will be no condemnation for us. I urge you as Peter urged his listeners in the New Testament "Be saved from this corrupt generation!"

Prayer

Father, this is a sobering thought. I acknowledge that the condition we find the world in today is caused by the activities of humanity, and I have no choice but to number myself as one of them. Please show me where, in my life, I contribute to the harm that is done in this world and help me to live differently. It is quite right that wickedness in this world should be judged one day. Thank you that Jesus gave his life so that I might be saved from this judgment. Help me to put my faith and trust in him. In Jesus' name, amen.

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