

The Earth Is Never To Be Destroyed

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Following the flood that occurred during Noah's time, God promised that as long as the earth remained "seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease" (Gen. 8:22). By prefacing that "as long as the earth remains", God made it clear that there may be a time in the future when the earth, as we know it, will be transformed. If the earth does change, it does not mean that it will no longer exist. Instead, it would still exist but in a different form. This is central to a correct understanding of the scriptures that are supposed to contradict each other,

You (God) who laid the foundations of the earth (founded the earth upon its bases), so that it should not be moved *forever* (*SHD 5769* – for a long duration, time long past, old, ancient world) (Ps. 104:5; Ed. notes in parentheses; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

Depending on which word or phrase is chosen to describe the meaning of "forever", it could be a reference to the earth being around for a long duration of time, or that the earth was founded a very long time before King David wrote the book of Psalms. Either way, it is not a statement that the earth will never undergo a future change, especially given its history which has seen multiple transformations over billions of years. The next scripture supports Genesis 8:22 inasmuch as the earth will continue to go through its cycles as long as it remains in its current form,

One generation passes away, and another generation comes; but the earth abides forever (*SHD 5769* – for a long duration, time long past, old, ancient world) (Eccl. 1:4; Ed. note in parenthesis).

The Apostle John was given a vision that revealed what the earth will look like after the second resurrection of the dead,

And I (John) saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea (Rev. 21:1; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Apparently, Jesus Christ explained that the earth would undergo a change to his disciples prior to his death because Peter mentioned it in the next scripture,

But 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 a fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be *burned up* (NU laid bare; Lit. found) (2Pet. 3:10; Ed. note in parenthesis).

Peter's statement indicates that the old way of doing things on this earth will be removed and replaced by a new creation that will be in complete harmony with every

word of Almighty God. The writer of Hebrews confirms this, and when it finally occurs Paul's prophetic words will be fulfilled (cf. 1 Cor. 15:28),

And: 'You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands; ¹¹They will perish (SGD 622 – put an end to), but You remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; ¹²Like a cloak You will fold them up, and **they will be changed** ... (Heb. 1:10-12a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The physical creation will no longer resemble its original form. Instead, everything will be changed and replaced by a completely new "earth" (cf. Rev. 21:1),

Then I (John) saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them (Rev. 20:11; Ed. note in parenthesis).

So there is no contradiction in the scriptures regarding the present earth and a future "earth" because neither Psalms 104:5 or Ecclesiastes 1:4 state that the earth, as we know it, will never be changed. Peter described the changes that would come to this earth following Christ's return as a period of "refreshing" when compared to the way it has functioned under the influence of the Deceiver (cf. Rev. 12:9),

But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore and be converted (go in the opposite direction), that your sins may be blotted out, **so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord** (Ac. 3:18-19; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

When this occurs the petition of God's people will be fulfilled, which is "Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor. 11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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