

The Battle for Truth?

Part 11 – Conservation

1

INTRODUCTION

We have all heard about the environment. We hear the warnings of climate change and how we are going to destroy the earth. At the same time, I truly enjoy nature. I enjoy a walk in the woods and seeing the wonders of all that God has made.

There are so many voices, some of them shouting, all competing for our attention.

What does God say about our relationship to His creation?

2

A VIEW OF DESPERATION

Those who have rejected God and a “Biblical” view of life have a sense of desperation deep in their souls. For them, there is no God who can watch over, protect, and meet their needs. Our fragile planet is all they have to anchor their life to reality. The world’s resources become rare and finite and must be possessed and/or preserved at all cost.

3

A VIEW OF DESPERATION

There is a false view that man is in control of this planet. It is true that man is responsible to how we use and leave creation, but man does not possess the knowledge, power or wisdom to manage all of the interconnected systems of nature. It seems that the more man does to fix things, the worse they become. Plug into this man’s sinful drives for power and possession and things really become a mess.

Let’s look a little deeper.

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SATAN'S DESIRE

Satan may have been Lucifer, one of the most powerful high-ranking beings of the angelic realm. Lucifer became puffed up with pride and wanted to be like God. Jesus was "preordained" from before the foundation of the world to be Messiah and to rule and reign here on earth. Lucifer desired this for himself. He wanted a kingdom to rule but did not have the power to create.

The solution, He deceived Adam and Eve and became the "pretender prince" of this world.

5

SATAN'S DESIRE

When man rebelled, they moved under Satan's authority and so did creation. Satan has a problem too. He also does not have the the knowledge, power or wisdom to manage all of the interconnected systems that govern creation. When sin entered the world, all of creation was cursed and fallen.

Romans 8:20

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope.

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SATAN'S PRIZE???

Satan had already discovered the "First Law of Thermodynamics" also known as the "Law of Conservation" which states that "energy can neither be created or destroyed." Satan could not create his own kingdom because he did not have the power to create energy!

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SATAN'S PRIZE???

Make no mistake, God is still ultimately in control of all He has made. As a result of the fall, He withdraw much of his sustaining power. God introduced a new law into creation as part of the curse. This is the "Second Law of Thermodynamics" or the "Law of Entropy."

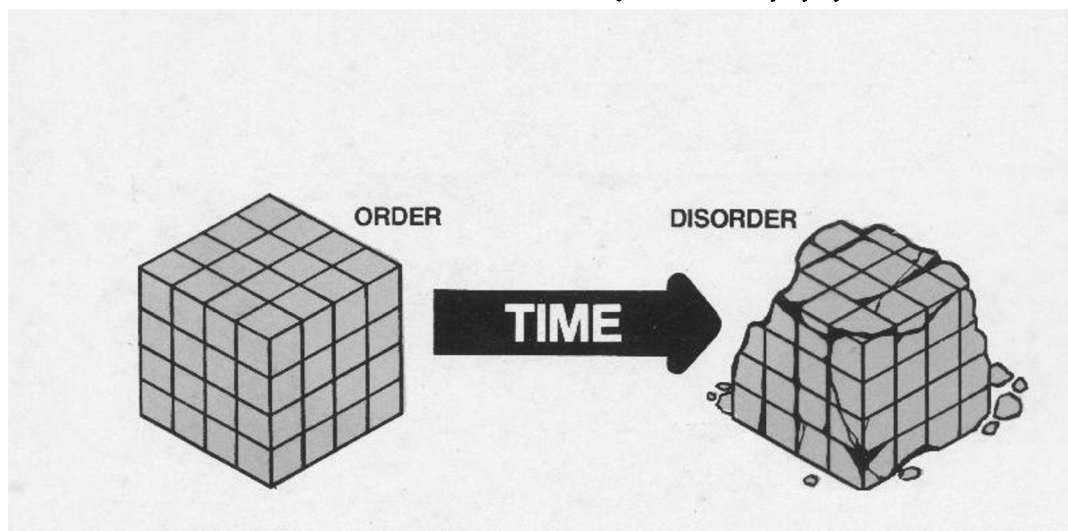
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SATAN'S PRIZE???

Entropy is that the “sum total of usable energy (able to do work) is diminishing.” We might better understand this as when creation fell because of sin, God’s removed some of His sustaining influence, and everything is in the process of running down and wearing out.

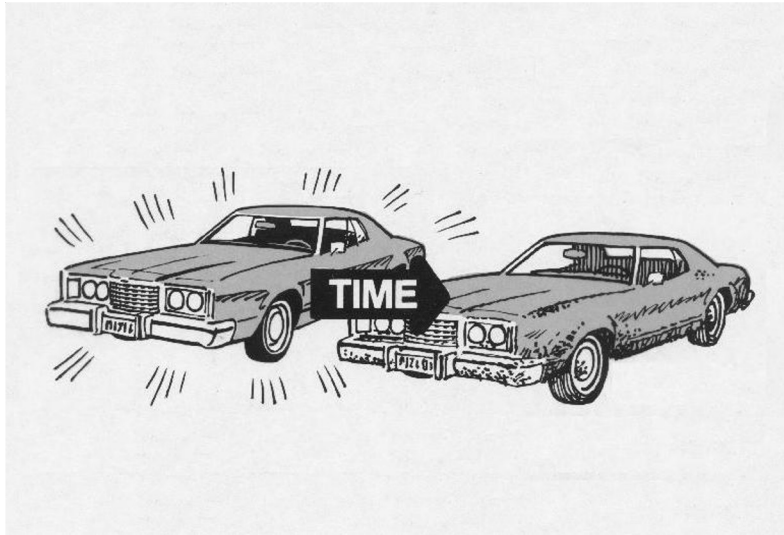
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SATAN'S PRIZE???



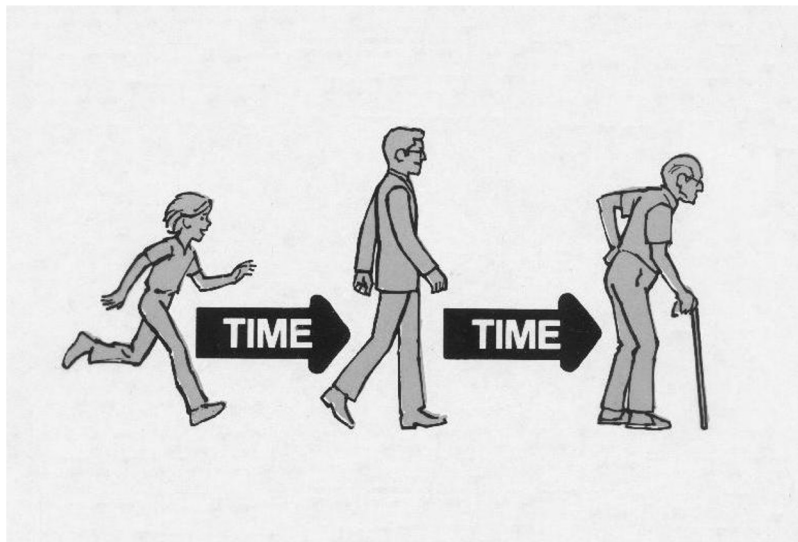
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SATAN'S PRIZE???



11

SATAN'S PRIZE???



12

SATAN'S PRIZE???

All sin results in death, even for creation. I wonder if Satan saw this coming? He got his prize, but it was empty and hollow. A temporal kingdom at best. The instant sin entered into the universe; the countdown started towards its destruction.

I do not mean be be depressing, but there is NOTHING man or Satan can do to stop the process. Apart from Jesus, all that can be done is just an attempt to slow the process.

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HERE WE ARE TODAY

As I look at the world today, I admit that I am conflicted as to Satan's purpose...

If he does not attempt to slow the process of decay, his kingdom will turn into a cold, dead, lifeless prize.

On the other hand...

Creation ultimately belongs to God (whom he hates) and he knows Jesus is coming back to set up His kingdom. Like all the things of God, Satan wants to destroy it.

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HERE WE ARE TODAY

Today we see and extreme push towards “Environmentalism.”

Environmentalism is a view that Earth’s resources and environment must be protected at all costs. Even if that means that people suffer. Though many in this movement are sincere, their attempts to preserve resources and save the environment seems futile at best. The more that man attempts to solve earth’s problems, the worse things seem to get. The problem is that environmentalism worships the creation and places its trust in the works of man – NOT GOD!

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GOD OWNS CREATION

Sometimes we get a false idea that we own creation. As human beings, we live in this physical realm for a time. We can buy houses and property, accumulate wealth, and various assorted things. We can plant trees, and gardens and try to make our small area beautiful. Yet our life is short. We are unable to take our “things” with us. They are left behind for others to use, have, or throw away. Our real “inheritance” and “rewards” are not in this temporal life, but the permanent one waiting for us (2 Cor. 4:18,5:1; Ps 103:15).

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GOD OWNS CREATION

God created the universe in six literal days. On Day 6, He created man. Mankind was given “dominion” over Creation (Genesis 1:27). The concept of dominion is not the idea of selfish domination. Man was not designed to be a dictator.

A better understanding is that man was to be God’s representative or “steward” over His Creation. God owns the universe. This is seen in His decrees and judgments. This world is God’s property, and we should treat it as such.

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CREATION MANDATE

Genesis 1:28 states the mandate given to Adam (and us) at creation.

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

This mandate is much different from environmentalism. It is not preserving the earth where no one is allowed to use it but governing wisely over the earth as a good steward!

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CREATION MANDATE

Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. We use this verse to talk about the stars, but it can be applied to everything God has made. It all declares His glory!

Romans 1:19-20

because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

Everything God made declares who He is in a unique way. Every time a species is driven to extinction, that light is lost and we proved to be poor stewards!

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CREATION MANDATE

While Satan fights to maintain his kingdom, Jesus has already claimed it as the rightful heir. God gave dominion over creation to man in Adam. Adam sinned and all creation came under the curse. Jesus stepped into human history as the perfect man – the 2nd Adam and He claimed ownership of all creation.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

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CREATION MANDATE

Creation will be delivered from the curse when Jesus returns. He as the Creator of the Universe, will restore things to they way they were designed to be.

Romans 8:20-22

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; ²¹ because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

Notice that when creation is delivered it will be to the children of God. That is us! We will take our rightful place in God's created order.

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SO WHAT ...

I am not an environmentalist however I am a conservationist. I see this world as God's property. We have been entrusted as stewards to use earth's resources wisely, so they are passed from generation to generation for them to use.

Man will not destroy this world, God has reserved that for Himself, but we can make it an ugly place to live.

Our king is returning. Let us live for Him!

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