

THE Monarch

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THE ELEMENTS SHALL MELT WITH A FERVENT HEAT. DON'T YOU BELIEVE IT!!

THERE MUST BE
DEEPER MEANING HERE



GOD HAS BETTER THINGS IN STORE FOR US...

We're going to talk this time about the destruction of the earth. THE ELEMENTS SHALL MELT WITH A FERVENT HEAT. Did you ever hear that one? Preachers have a hayday with it. Lord willing we're going to show you that the elements are not going to melt even though it says they are. There is much deeper meaning to these words in II Peter. God has better things for us to look forward to than the destruction of the world.

Ever since I was a small child I remember listening with dread to stories about God putting an end to this old world, just letting the whole thing go up in smoke. I was horrified. The stories remained as an unpleasant thought in the back of my mind. I accepted them as fact and for a long time waited subconsciously (and in bad moments consciously)

for the big BIFF-BAM-BOOM and the end.

As I grew older I heard stories of "OVERKILL." I knew that with the development of atomic and nuclear weapons it was now possible in a very real sense for the inevitable to take place. The U.S. and U.S.S.R. have amassed enough explosives to blow up the whole world a few times over.

**WE ARE
PROPHETS
OF HOPE.**
(NOT DOOM)



Thoughts like that don't make me feel very good. I know there's no place on earth I can go to escape a catastrophe like that. It brings some comfort to know my trust is in the Lord but as yet He's sent no instructions to build an ark as Noah did or a bomb shelter as some have done more recently. The "rapture" theory doesn't help much cause it just doesn't make sense once you start to study the Bible. I need a better and surer hope and I believe the scriptures give it.

THE BIBLE GIVES US A BETTER PLAN.



Now if you like to scare yourself and everyone listening with stories of the world burning up or tilting or being blown off its axis or even out of its orbit, fine - stick to it. But I would like to suggest that the Bible does reveal an alternative plan for us.

IF YOU LIKE TRYING TO SCARE PEOPLE INTO HEAVEN, KEEP IT UP.



Through much serious Bible study - checking word meanings and usage - it has become clear to some Bible teachers that there is a great possibility God has no plans whatsoever for setting a match to this old ball we live on. Changing the order of things? Yes. Physically destroying plants, animals and people? No.

GOD'S NOT GOING TO BURN IT.



Bear with us, read on and you will see emerge from scripture a future that is much more in line with the ways of a God of love, a God who revealed His name to Moses as "The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin (Ex. 34:5-7).

We'll start our Bible study in Genesis, move on to King David and the Psalms, then we'll pay particular attention to the word 'element and its use by Peter and Paul. We'll read of three worlds; one that was and already perished, one that is and one that is yet to come. We'll see that we have hope and can overcome the tribulation set before us. We're not saying there won't be trouble ahead but we are saying we ought to be prepared for the right kind of trouble and be able to meet it, deal with it and totally overcome it.

First to Genesis. Now I've always been taught that God destroyed the world once with water and that He promised never to do it again, at least not with water. Next time, I was told, it would be with fire. Very considerate I thought. Well let's turn to Genesis and see what God actually said.

GOD PROMISED IN GENESIS NEVER... BY ANY MEANS... OR IN ANY WAY TO DESTROY THE WORLD... WE THINK HIS WORD IS GOOD!

GENESIS 8:21&22 "And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in His heart, I will not again curse the ground for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; **NEITHER WILL I AGAIN SMITE EVERY LIVING THING AS I HAVE DONE.** While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease."

This was right after the flood. What did God say? Not just that He wouldn't destroy every living thing with water but that **HE WOULDN'T DO IT AGAIN IN ANY WAY OR BY ANY MEANS.** Phew! **NOW I CAN LOOK AT A**

RAINBOW AND REALLY ENJOY IT.



What a relief! Now when I look at a rainbow I can have real peace. What comfort is it to think "well no more big flood but look out for that fire?" Now I can know the world is established and will not be moved (Psalm 93:1; 96:10). That will bring us to King David.

KING DAVID REVEALED THIS TRUTH WHEN HE SET THE ARK OF THE TESTAMENT IN THE TABERNACLE HE PREPARED FOR IT.



This isn't a lesson on the Tabernacle of David, we'll have that for you soon. The restoration of the Tabernacle of David has much to do with New Age truth. It was when David was setting the Ark of the Testament in the tabernacle he prepared for it in Jerusalem that he wrote these lines, "The world also shall be stable that it shall not be moved" (1 Chron. 16:30).

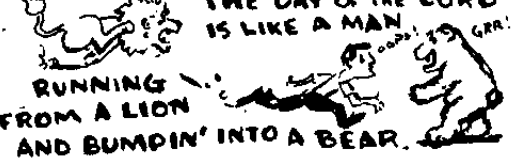
Now that is neat. David was a man after God's own heart. It's from David's Psalms that we learn much about the mercy and longsuffering of God, it just seems right that we should learn from them that God is not going to destroy the world.

THE TREES SHALL REJOICE AT THE LORD'S JUDGMENT (Ps. 96:12).



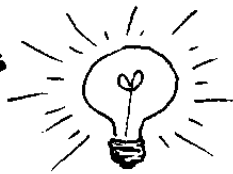
(NOW NO TREE IS GOING TO REJOICE IF IT'S BURNING UP.)

It's good to know the judgments of the Lord are true (Psalm 19:9). We can rejoice at the thought of his judgment, we don't have to live in fear and dread of the destruction we have been taught it will bring. There are two sides to the coin and we have a sure hope of triumph and victory set before us.



Yet the scriptures do tell us the day of the Lord is not to be desired. Amos says "Woe unto you who desire the day of the Lord! To what end is it for you? The day of the Lord is darkness and not light. As if a man did flee from a lion and a bear met him; or he went into the house and leaned on the wall, and a serpent bit him. Shall not the day of the Lord be darkness and not light? Even very dark and no brightness in it?"

**LIGHT DISPELS DARKNESS!
WE MUST BE READY FOR THE RIGHT KIND OF TROUBLE.**



Yes, it will be darkness and confusion for those who are not prepared for it. But we are children of light and light dispels darkness. Many will be lost and misled in the day of the Lord because they cannot understand what is happening. Many will stumble and fall as their traditions and rules crumble around them, only that which cannot be shaken will stand (Heb. 12:27).

We believe the whole subject in Hebrews 12 and later as we shall see in II Peter is not literal destruction of trees, grass, mountains, homes, etc., but the crumbling and tearing apart of manmade traditions, rules and laws, ways of living we have been secure in and have thought and taught were God's ways.

We now see God crosses all cultural and historical barriers. Things our grandmothers thought were terribly sinful (short dresses, men with long hair) are now taken for granted. Dress codes, marriage codes, socially acceptable conduct all change from culture to culture and throughout history. In many societies it is perfectly legal for a man to have more than one wife - here in the United States it is illegal.... we call it bigamy. When our missionaries have gone to foreign countries to spread the gospel, many times they carried along our societies rules and imposed them upon the people they were evangelizing so as to imply these rules were ordained by God.

THE "ELEMENTS" ARE ACTUALLY RULES AND TRADITIONS.



We must see that our rules and standards of conduct have nothing to do with righteousness. God looks on the intent of the heart, not outer show or appearance.

ELEMENTS MELT

We've been talking about our religious and social traditions falling apart. We have said this is what Peter was talking about in his second epistle, rather than the earth we live on burning up. So we ought to turn to II Peter 3 and see what it is really saying.

PETER TALKS ABOUT 3 HEAVENS AND 3 EARTHS.



Peter talks about three heavens and three earths. Let's read it in II Peter 3:5-13. "By the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: where by the world that THEN was being overflowed with water PERISHED:" but the heavens and the earth which are NOW, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. ... "Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for NEW heavens and a NEW earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."

PETER SAYS THE HEAVEN AND EARTH ALREADY PERISHED.



According to Peter the world has already perished. But has it? There are still trees, animals, people. What perished was a whole system of government. We would suggest that the heavens and earth refer to the government and the governed.

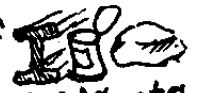
**HEAVEN = GOVERNMENT
EARTH = GOVERNED**

Surely God's throne is not going to be burned up and His throne is in the heavens. We are not going to have a new God. Heaven is symbolic for the seat of government. We will have a new system of government.

As for the destruction of the earth, we just read

in Genesis that God promised not to curse the ground on account of man or to destroy all living creatures as He did at the time of Noah.

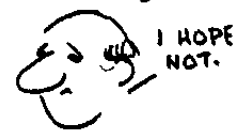
PETER IS NOT TALKING OF IRON, TIN, ROCKS, GAS, etc.



Let's read on a bit more in Peter: II Peter 3:10 "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and **THE ELEMENTS SHALL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT**, the earth also and the works therein shall be burned up.

Just casually reading this verse certainly makes it sound as if there is going to be a terrible, physical holocaust, with real hot fire, smelly smoke and mass destruction. Now, either there is a contradiction with what God already promised in Genesis or Peter, is talking about something else, altogether. We believe he is talking about something else.

DOES GOD CONTRADICT HIMSELF?



We've already discussed the symbolism of heaven & earth. Let's take another phrase from verse ten. **THE ELEMENTS SHALL MELT WITH FERVENT HEAT.** The subject in II Peter is not the 100 elements the scientists have discovered and labeled, but rather the basic (elementary) principles of religious thinking - the law of Moses.

'ELEMENTS' IS STOICHEION IN THE GREEK

The Greek word used for 'elements' is STOICHEION. It comes from the word STOIC which means hard and unyielding. The word is used only seven times in scripture. Twice in II Peter it is translated 'elements'. Twice in Galatians (4:9) it is also translated 'elements'. It is translated 'rudiments' twice (Col. 2:8, 20) and 'principle' once (HEB. 5:12).

ELEMENTS MELT

WE'LL LOOK AT EACH PLACE STOICHEION IS USED IN THE BIBLE AND SEE THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IN EACH CASE IT IS REFERRING TO THE LAW.

GALATIANS 4:3-5 "Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage, under the ELEMENTS (stoicheion) of the world." But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

GALATIANS 4:9 "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggerly ELEMENTS (stoicheion) whereunto ye desire to be in bondage?" Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you lest I have bestowed labor on you in vain.

COL. 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the RUDIMENTS (stoicheion) of the world, and not after Christ."

COL. 2:20 "Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the RUDIMENTS (stoicheion) of the world, why, as though living in the world are ye subject to ordinances (Touch not; taste not; handle not; which are to all perish with using) after the commandments and doctrines of men?"

HEBREWS 5:12 "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first PRINCIPLES (stoicheion) of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk and not strong meat."

There we have covered every instance in the Bible where the word STOICHEION is used. Is there any doubt that in each case it is referring to rules and laws rather than iron, tin, copper, oxygen, helium and so on?

SINCE 'ELEMENTS' ARE RULES AND LAWS WHAT IS THE FIRE PETER SPEAKS OF?



The Bible itself establishes that the 'elements' are actually rules and laws of men, including the law of Moses. What then is the FIRE Peter is talking about? If we interpret part of this verse symbolically, we must then interpret it all symbolically.



JESUS SAID HE CAME TO SEND FIRE UPON THE EARTH...

You'll recall that Jesus said He came to send fire upon the earth. Luke 12:49 "I am come to send fire on the earth and what will I if it already be kindled? But I have a baptism (in His mind He is connecting the word fire with the word baptism) to be baptized with and how am I straightened until My baptism be accomplished."

What is baptism? It's a separation, a division. Getting rid of dirt, washing, is a separation. Baptism is a division. In the verses following what Jesus just said He shows He was talking of division. Luke 12:51 "Suppose ye that I have come to bring peace on the earth? I tell you nay, I have come to bring division."

FIRE EQUALS DIVISION.

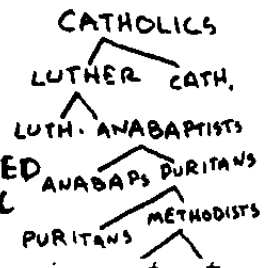


FIRE = BAPTISM - DIVISION

When you take a match and set fire to something the elements separate. You get various gases, carbons & so forth. Baptism also causes a division. It separates you from the old so the new man can come forth. This baptism or fire was the same fire Peter, was talking about. FIRE IS DIVISION.

We will enter into the new heaven and new earth through much division. We will come in to it by obeying what Jesus teaches not what Moses taught, or for that matter what our church rule books teach.

THE CHURCH HAS BEEN DIVIDING EVER SINCE LUTHER DIVIDED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.



This is a very important lesson. As you know we are not expecting a 'rapture' to save us from the tribulation to come. We believe the Bible teaches plainly that we will remain right here on earth 'til God has completed the work He's begun in us.

Jesus said the time of the coming of the Son of Man is going to be like the time of Noah. Tribulation removed the bad guys and gave the title deed of the world to the good guys. We'll go through the same process again. Noah went through the tribulation victoriously, won out over it in every respect and ended up KING OF THE WORLD. Everything was his.

NOAH BECAME RULER OF THE WHOLE WORLD.



HE OWNED IT ALL.

According to Jesus, the meek shall inherit the earth. I always wondered how that was possible. Well, the story of Noah shows us one way. Noah inherited the whole earth. He got it all. He didn't have to fight and scheme for it, climb over other people, push 'em down, walk on 'em. He was a meek man and he found favor in the eyes of the Lord. God gave him the whole world.

We believe there is conclusive evidence in the Bible to show that the world we live on is not going to go up in smoke. But that the religious rules and laws, the social codes and ways we have been taught are "correct," are going to soon crumble around us. It is already



YEP, EVERYTIME IT'S TALKING ABOUT THE LAW.

happening.

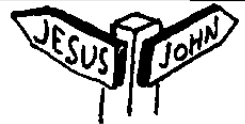
The old standards we used to judge good and evil are just falling apart and it's causing many good Christians to stumble and fall. We must be aware of what is happening and realize our righteousness is as filthy rags, the only righteousness we have is in Jesus Christ.

**JESUS SAID...
LEARN MERCY MATT. 9:13**

We can't afford to spend time judging our brother or the world. We have to learn a new way. We must learn of love and mercy. The world's systems may crumble around us but God has promised us a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. Our focus should be on it.

We have no need to get entangled in the social decay and turmoil around us. The Bible has told us it is going to happen. We can't fight it but we can come out of it the winners. One day, after the smoke clears, this earth is going to be ours. ☐

TWO PATHS....



There are two paths you can take in view of the social decay going on around us. The paths are illustrated by Jesus and John the Baptist.



JOHN POINTED OUT HEROD'S SIN.

Remember Herod had taken his brother's wife and married her. Now this was wrong, we don't deny it. John felt it his duty to point out Herod's sin. He told Herod right to his face that he had done wrong in God's eyes. Well, doing this cost John his life. Herod had his head chopped off.

IT COST JOHN HIS LIFE,



Now Jesus could have done the same as John. But he remained silent about Herod's sin. He didn't even try to rescue John from prison. Jesus had another mission and He put all His effort into it.

JESUS PUT ALL HIS EFFORT INTO HIS MISSION (HE DIDN'T EVEN RESCUE JOHN)



We believe the path Jesus chose was more correct for us. If we waste time fighting all the crazy things going on around us, pointing out all the wrong, it's going to cost us our lives. God has not intended that for us. We're to focus on our mission, to learn mercy and obedience to God, to be conformed to the image of Christ.

You see, the elements are melting. Throwing water on them won't save them (Matt. 12:20). What's hardest to see is that they're not even supposed to be saved. God has called us to a higher calling. It has not been God's way to try to change the existing order of things. Rather He replaces it with something altogether new.

We're told that new wine shouldn't be poured into old wineskins, because it will crack or burst them. You cannot attack the old system and expect to save it. God is teaching us new ways and He needs people who are pliable enough to change and learn His ways.

OUR GOAL IS TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST.



Over and over and over again in scripture we're told not to return to the law. Yet we continue to impose stiff rules upon ourselves and believe then that we are holy.

No wonder Paul called the Galatians fools. (Gal. 3:1f2) There is a new order. We are to be led by the Holy Spirit as Jesus was. We are not to follow the example of John the Baptist who was still bound by the law of Moses.

Only by following the anointing of the Holy Spirit will we come into life and experience the fullness of our joy. ☐

A THOT... GALATIANS 5:13



Ye have been called unto liberty only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh but by love... serve one another.

AN AFTER THOT... I COR. 6:12 & 10:23

All things are lawful but not all things are expedient... I will not be brought under the power of any... ALL things are lawful but all edify not...