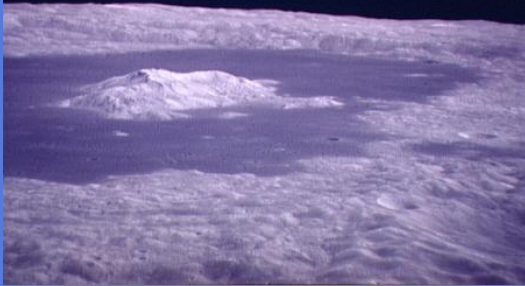


**More important than
reaching the Moon...**



The Higher
Perspective:

*Why
Catastrophes
Happen*

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**More important than
reaching Mars...**



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Do you know the MEANING of all these CATASTROPHES and the personal CALAMITIES that you have been seeing on Earth?

Here are some clues that may guide you to a better understanding of God's point-of-view concerning catastrophes on the Earth . . .

Today we live on an Earth of **unending catastrophes**, with **calamities** and **disasters** surrounding us on all sides. . . and the calamities that come upon us daily are only being **multiplied**, year by year, with an ever-increasing **frequency** and **severity**.

Has the poor planet Earth always been so dreadfully beset by calamities and disasters as it is today? No, the truth is that things have been **getting worse** year by year — for almost all of the decades since the last half of the 20th century! Our modern technology has made some aspects of life more pleasant and comfortable, but in spite of this, life on Earth is **more stressful and unsafe** than it has ever been before in the history of the world.

It is a time-period of **the most severe testing** that our world has ever yet seen! In the midst of all these disasters and the seemingly chaotic conditions here on Earth, Christians (and even pastors!) are not immune from these trials, but are forced to **suffer equally** with all the other persons living on this troubled Earth. We can expect things **to get worse before it gets better!**

This may come as a shocking new revelation. . . but here's some **more bad news** for you. The Bible and its authorities teach us that **these terrible catastrophic conditions**, now seen worldwide and easily visible to everyone on Earth, are going to get **more and more severe**. . . that things are going to get **worse and worse** — until **finally the whole Earth is destroyed in a cataclysmic series of awesome catastrophes!**

In this present tract, we will briefly discuss the current **devastation** of the Earth. . . we will consider **why God is allowing such horrible catastrophes to overwhelm the entire Earth.** . . and then we will reflect on whether you may find any small degree of **safety** in such a world as this one in which you now exist.

Did you know that Jesus Christ actually **predicted** these current catastrophes **nearly 2,000 years ago**? He did so when he declared of this future time that **"Then there will be a great tribulation on Earth, a time of distress unequaled from the beginning of the world until now. . . and it is never to be equaled again."** [Mt. 24:21-22]

This world of ours has long been **deteriorating**, has been **degenerating** for countless centuries, and soon it will come crashing down around us when the frightful **Final Catastrophes** come upon the Earth.

We might say that the Earth is like a **defective** motor vehicle that is careening wildly and heading for a horrendous crash. Spaceship Earth is also rather like a **malfunctioning space vehicle** — it is like the Space Shuttle *Challenger* heading out with a defective structure, hoping to reach the starry heights, but it is actually doomed to be **a burning fireball** in the **tragic catastrophe** that will be its end.

Now a hard question which is continuously troubling all the peoples of the Earth is this: **Why does God allow all these horrible plagues, disasters, catastrophes, and calamities... which are now overwhelming the entire Earth?**

THE MEANING OF ALL THESE CATASTROPHES:

1. Natural disasters, catastrophes, and calamities are meant to show us that this world is **rejected by God** and **doomed to destruction**.

This world is not what God wanted, and He will not tolerate its evil ways forever.

2. Catastrophes and calamities are meant to show us that our world is **sick and corrupt**, condemned by God, and **under God's judgment**.

This Earth will pass away, but God's words will never pass away.

3. Catastrophes and calamities are meant to show us that our world is being **destroyed from within** and **thoroughly devastated** by its sinful condition.

4. Catastrophes and calamities are meant to show us that our Earth has been **moving toward chaos** and a **degenerate immorality -- that it is not progressing** by any natural means toward order, nor by evolution toward a superior consciousness.

Rather, our ancient Earth has been deteriorating over many centuries as it falls farther away from God. The Catastrophic Momentum of this Fallen Earth is making it fall always into an ever-greater blindness and wickedness.

5. Catastrophes and calamities are meant to show us that we should **fear God and His power to judge the world** -- that we **should therefore repent** of all our wrongdoing and **seek the rescue and safety** that is possible in the protection of God's love.

6. Catastrophes and calamities are meant to remind us that this present Earth has **rejected all of God's messengers**, has **rejected all of God's prophets**, and has even **rejected His own supernaturally-conceived Son Jesus Christ...** and these should let us know that God will therefore **soon dispose of this Earth** and **replace it with a New Earth that honors Him.**

God is angry with this world for all its rampant wickedness.

7. Catastrophes and calamities can remind us that just as God had **power enough** to destroy the world of Noah with a flood of water, and **power enough** to destroy the immoral cities of Sodom and Gomorrah with a rain of fire, **so God also has power to destroy our present Earth** when He can abide its wickedness no longer.

After Noah's Flood, God promised never again to destroy the world with water, but He later on revealed that our present Earth would one day be destroyed by fire!

8. Catastrophes and calamities are meant to remind us that there are **dark forces in our world** that **wish to injure and destroy the people of Earth.**

There are also demonic powers that exist in our world, who may sometimes be more directly responsible for certain kinds of catastrophe. Yet most biblical authorities believe that these can only assault us when God Almighty is willing to let them carry forth their attacks.

9. Catastrophes and calamities can remind us that **those whom God has loved and removed** from the Earth are **far better off there in the Heaven of God's Presence** than are all the living humans who must remain longer on the horrendous battlefields of the Old Earth.

The martyrs of God, being brought into the Heaven of His Presence by the passage through death, will surely be among the most loved and honored of all those who are gathered into that Heaven.

10. Catastrophes and calamities can also offer us a clear reminder of **a possible inner conflict** which may be **raging somewhere within God's consciousness.**

As He beholds the many evils and afflictions that torment the surface of the Earth, God must make a choice: Should He cut the reign of Satan short by annihilating the Earth now and replacing it at once, or should He forbear a while longer?

On the one hand, God loves us dearly and wishes to protect and preserve us. But as a God of Perfect Righteousness, He might also have a strong urge to eliminate this degenerate and evil world which has rejected His laws and His loving offer of reconciliation.

This will finally happen when the time of the Great Tribulation begins with a cataclysmic series of Final Catastrophes.

We should know from this turmoil in God's behavior-pattern that the destruction of the Earth and its final judgement may be very near.

11. Catastrophes and calamities should remind us that **our world is not what it ought to be**, and that **it must be transformed by God** into what He wants it to be.

This will happen when the present Earth has been annihilated and replaced by God's New Earth.

Jesus has given warning to the people of our Earth: "Be careful, or **your hearts will be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness, and the anxieties of life, and that day will then close over you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole Earth. So be always watchful, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be still able to stand before the Son of Man.**" [Luke 21:34-36]

To accomplish this **GREAT ESCAPE** from the Fallen World, one must seek salvation through **the only "lifeboat"** that God has provided — *one can find safety and deliverance in Jesus Christ.*

In this present world we find death and destruction, but in Jesus Christ we find **life**. Jesus really is the only way of escape; He is the truth, and He is **life** for a great multitude of people who desperately need rescue.

**YOUR PRAYERS TO GOD
CAN BRING YOU RESCUE only if
you are praying correctly through
Jesus, God's Son, in accord with a
designated "LINE-OF-COMMAND"
WHICH GOD HAS APPOINTED
FOR THIS VAST UNIVERSE.**

JESUS is **THE DIVINE INTERFACE** that makes salvation possible. God made Him a Savior who can **rescue** you from the punishment of sins.

God **reveals His Son** Jesus and Himself to us **whenever we read or hear** the truths that He has planted in the Holy Scriptures of the Bible. A **seed of His truth, buried in you now**, can start to **grow in His Light**, or perish in your darkness.

You can see it grow by placing Jesus Christ, **who in the Trinity of God created our Universe**, upon a throne at the center of your heart! *He deserves that position and that kind of respect.* He was first **God The Son**, but when born in human flesh He became the only sinless and righteous person who ever lived. Yet He sacrificed Himself on a cross for your sake, taking all guilt and sins upon Himself, in order that you and I — that all people — **that whoever wishes for salvation might be rescued from the due punishment of sins.**

If you choose to accept Jesus Christ and pray to receive His illumination, then His Holy Spirit will come to reside within you forever. He will be a fiery energy-force inside you that will burn eternally and will give you a perpetual guidance. He will stay with you in all Earthly trials, and beyond.

By doing this, you will gain a new contentment and inner peace as you accept God's organizational plan for the Universe . . .

because you'll be letting God be the Ruler of All Things in this world . . . and in your own life.

All it really takes is a simple but sincere little prayer -- one that you should make up in your own words. The prayer for deliverance and for God's leadership should come from your own heart!

Some important elements that you might include are:

- 1) your desire to turn away from the wrongness or evil of your past life, and your remorse over the sins of your previous life,
- 2) your desire for God's forgiveness and mercy through the act of sacrifice of His Only Begotten Son (Jesus Christ),
- 3) your desire to know God's leadership in your life,
- 4) your desire to learn more of God's truth through Bible study,
- 5) your desire to find fellowship with genuine believers.

Jesus said of Himself, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. I and the Father are One."

Jesus said also of Himself, "Truly I tell you, before Abraham was even born, I AM." (Moses had long ago learned from God that God's name was "I AM.")

Jesus said of the people of God that "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a **net** that God has cast into the sea, and it gathers of every kind: When it is full, it will be pulled up on the shore, where they will sit down to sort the catch, and they will **collect the good fish in baskets, but the bad things will be thrown away. This is the way it will be at the end of the world:** The **angels** shall come forth, and they will **separate** the unrighteous persons from among those justified by God . . ."

Excerpt from the book of Matthew, who was a constant companion of Jesus and his devoted disciple [13:47-50].

Jesus spoke of the people of God as being like a seed that is growing secretly, saying, "As for the Kingdom of God, it is as if a person should cast seed into the ground; and then he sleeps, and he rises up night and day to see that the seed is springing forth and always growing up, although he knows not exactly how. The Earth is bringing forth fruit from itself; first the blade, then the ears of corn, and after that the fullness of the ears of corn. And when all the **fruit of the Earth** has come forth, immediately God will use the sickle to reap the fields, because the **harvest-time** has come."

Excerpt from the book of Mark [4:26-29].

It's also important for all of us to remember this:

1) **WE SPEAK TO GOD** by our prayers.

2) **GOD SPEAKS TO US** by the words of Holy Scripture.

So we must try to read His words and His Book just as often as we possibly can!!

God wants to bless you for all your long efforts to understand this very confusing and difficult Universe in which we live-- so let Him reward your search with the grace of His forgiveness and enlightenment!

THIS GUIDE WAS WRITTEN FOR YOU BY. . .
Ken Street, a baptized follower of the Way.

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*Do you know the MEANING of
all these CATASTROPHES and
the personal CALAMITIES that
you have been seeing on the Earth?*