

Wednesday, 29th April 2020



THE CANDLESTICK

The earth is the Lord's ... (Ps. 24:1)

What beautiful weather we have been having! Through all that's been happening, how good it is *the earth belongs to the Lord!* That is what the Word of God makes abundantly clear, **Ps. 24:1** The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. **2** For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

This world is because God has created it. Without Him, it would never have existed, and here is a flavour of the overwhelming evidence His Word provides, **Gen. 1:1** In the beginning *God created* the heaven and the earth. ... The prophets proclaimed it too, for example, **Is. 42:5** Thus saith God the LORD, *he that created* the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein ... And Jeremiah, **Jer. 32:17** Ah Lord GOD! behold, *thou hast made the heaven and the earth* by thy great power and stretched out arm.

The Psalmist sang the same song, for example, **Ps. 33:6** *By the word of the LORD were the heavens made;* and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth ... **Ps. 95:5** The sea is his, and *he made it;* and *his hands formed the dry land* ... **Ps. 8:3** When I consider thy heavens, *the work of thy fingers,* the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained ... **Ps. 121:2** My help cometh from *the LORD, which made heaven and earth.* ... The suffering Job acknowledged it also, **Job. 12:10** In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

The disciples taught this great truth to the early church too, **Jn. 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** The same was in the beginning with God. **3** *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.* ... Paul told it to the idol-worshipping Athenians, **Acts 17:24** *God that made the world and all things therein,* seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth ... and also to the Colossians, **Col. 1:16** For *by him were all things created,* that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: *all things were created by him, and for him:* **17** And he is before all things, and *by him all things consist.* ... And the writer to the Hebrews summarised it, **Heb. 11:3** Through faith we understand that *the worlds were framed by the word of God.*

Even when the world 'puffs out its chest' and boasts how it reckons it can manage the climates, the forests, and the oceans, we already know the earth is *not* in the hands of men for *the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof.* It belongs to the Lord for He created it, and He keeps it. ... At the beginning of time, He gave instructions through our first parents to be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. ... He told them, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat (**Gen. 1:28-30**). ... *That* is our assurance this world belongs to the Lord, - *it is His,* as Nehemiah reaffirmed before his people, **Neh. 9:6** Thou, even thou, art LORD alone; *thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all* ... There is no need to panic, wrote the psalmist ... **Ps. 46:2** Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; **3** Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. ... **7** *The LORD of hosts is with us.* ... And "He has the whole world in His hands" ... not only now, but also in the future for He tells us to be still, and know that I am God ... and He adds, *I will be exalted* among the heathen, *I will be exalted* in the earth (v.10).

What a promise which points ahead to the bodily, visible, personal reign of His Son the Lord Jesus Christ when He will be *exalted* on this earth during His Millennial reign! ... That is why His Father is preserving this planet! And then at the conclusion of the one-thousand year reign, Peter prophesies, **II Peter 3:10** ... the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ... This present world will be consumed, **12** ... wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. The apostle John prophesied the same, how this 'first heaven and the first earth' in which we now live will pass away and be replaced with the glorious 'new heaven and new earth' (**Rev. 21:1**). ... It will be the perfect and eternal abode of God with His Redeemed forever, **Rev. 21:3** Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. **4** And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things [*of the first heaven and the first earth*] are passed away ... And that is how Peter was anticipating it too, **II Peter 3:13** we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

That is the confidence of all God's people, even in these times when the unbelieving world is uncertain and fearful. We *know* our God is in control for, as His Word affirms, the earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof ...

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
 Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
 Join with all nature in manifold witness
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

*In all things we are more than conquerors
 through Him Who loved us!
 Rom. 8:37*

PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY ... To join us, check out our *Facebook* page where you will find the instructions to join us via *Zoom*. ... Gordon Stewart will be leading our meeting on Thursday evening, from 7 – 7.40 pm.

CHURCH WEBSITE ... At <http://www.kirkcaldy-pathheadbaptist.co.uk/>, you will find links to our 'Coronavirus' page where there are sermons for each Sunday. Also, check out our *Facebook* page for daily readings and studies.

*Safe in the arms of Jesus,
 Safe on His gentle breast ...
 Here let me wait with patience,
 Wait till the night is o'er,
 Wait till I see the morning
 Break on the eternal shore.*