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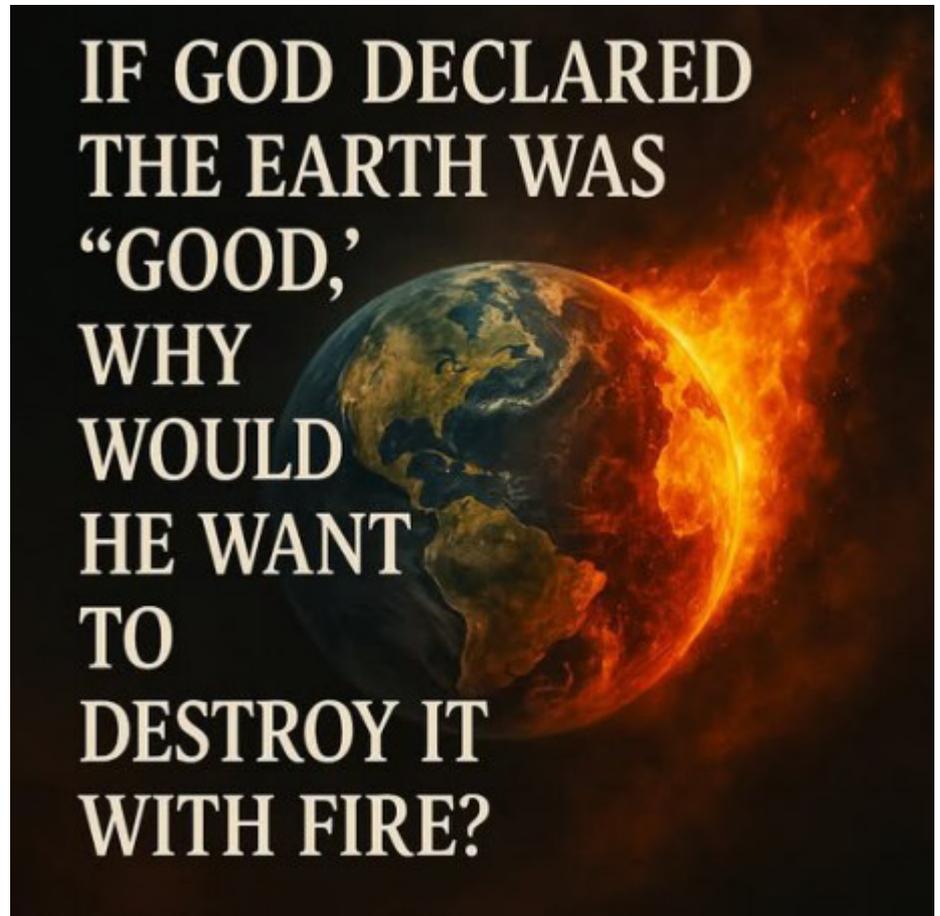
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2 Peter 3:10 - If God Declared the Earth Was Good, Why Would He Want to Destroy It with Fire? 2 Peter 3:10



By Dan Maines

If God Declared the Earth Was Good, Why Would He Want to Destroy It with Fire?

Introduction:

Many Christians today believe that God will one day destroy the physical earth with fire. But is that what scripture really teaches? If God declared His creation "very good," why would He want to obliterate it? As a Preterist, I believe the Bible teaches a different story, one rooted in covenant, not cosmic

destruction.

Genesis Declares the Earth Was Good

Genesis 1:31: God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

God's creation was not flawed or evil. It was very good. There was no reason for Him to later decide it must be annihilated.

The Fire Judgment Was Not Cosmic, But Covenantal

2 Peter 3:7: But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly people.

The "heavens and earth" here refers to the Old Covenant system. Peter was not speaking of literal planets and stars, but the world of the Mosaic order.

Hebrews 12:26-27: And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven." This expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removal of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

The shaking was the removal of the Old Covenant system, not the physical globe.

The Earth Abides Forever

Ecclesiastes 1:4: A generation goes and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.

The physical earth is not destined for destruction. Scripture plainly states it will remain.

Psalm 104:5: He established the earth upon its foundations, so it will not totter forever and ever.

God's intention is for His physical creation to endure.

What Was Burned?

Malachi 4:1: For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace, and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze, says the Lord of armies, so that it will leave them neither root nor branches.

The fire was a judgment on people, not nature. This was fulfilled in the judgment of AD 70.

The Elements That Melted

2 Peter 3:10: But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be discovered.

The word “elements” (Greek: stoicheia) refers to the basic principles of the Law (Galatians 4:3, Colossians 2:20). These were the elements that were destroyed, not the periodic table.

New Heavens and New Earth = New Covenant

Isaiah 65:17: For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.

This is covenantal language. God was promising a new order, not a new planet.

Revelation 21:1: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

This is the full establishment of the New Covenant, where God dwells with His people.

Conclusion:

God did not create the world only to later destroy it. He declared it good, and it remains good. The fire judgment in scripture refers to the end of the Old Covenant world, not to the annihilation of the physical planet. The Preterist view restores harmony to scripture and exalts the enduring purpose of God's good creation.

Final Thought:

Psalm 119:89: Forever, Lord, Your word stands in heaven.

If God's word stands forever, and His creation was called good, then what was truly destroyed in fire was not creation, but corruption. The earth remains, and God's redemptive plan continues, not through destruction, but through restoration.

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