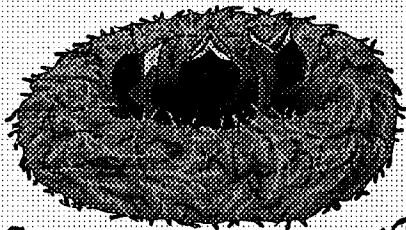
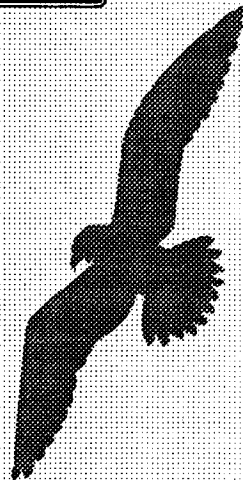


*'They shall
mount up...*

ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings
as eagles."
Isaiah 40:31*



AERY NUGGETS

THE MAKER OF THE UNIVERSE

As man for man was made a curse,
The claims of Laws which He had made,
Unto the uttermost He paid.
His holy fingers made the bough
Which grew the thorns that crowned His brow,
The nails that pierced His hand were mined
In secret places He designed;
He made the forest whence there sprung
The tree on which His body hung.
He died upon a cross of wood,
Yet made the hill on which it stood.
The sky that darkened o'er His head
By Him above the earth was spread,
The sun that hid from Him its face
By His decree was poised in space,
The spear that spilled His precious blood
Was tempered in the fires of God.
The grave in which His form was laid
Was hewn in rock His hands had made,
The throne on which He now appears
Was His from everlasting years,
But a new glory crowns His brow,
And every knee to Him shall bow.

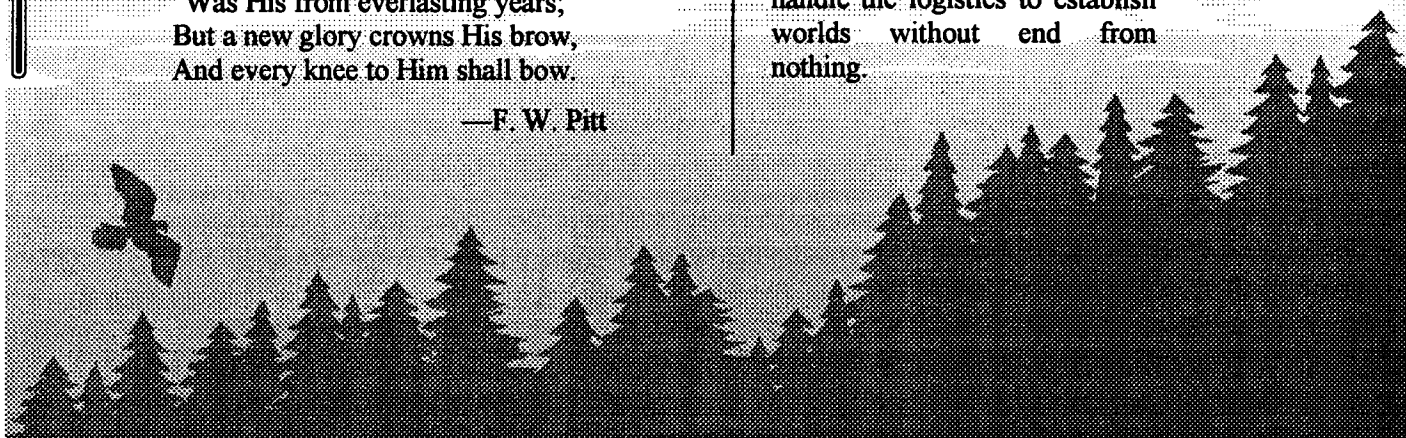
—F. W. Pitt

Dear Peace of Minders,

Not to worry! As you sit in your rocking chair or meditate in other ways, do the changes in the earth's environment give you cause for concern as to the far-reaching effects of man's existence on the earth?

We are alerted to acid rain from factory fume discharges, water pollution of lakes and streams due to industrial discharge and farm run-off, smog caused by auto exhaust, trash along the highways, and, on top of all that, the greenhouse effect supposedly raising the average temperature of our climate, contributed to, of all things, by the aerosol propellant in your can of hair spray. Where will it all end, and can man destroy the earth by his unwise use of the materials at hand?

Again I say, "Not to worry!" The earth is in good (God's) hands. "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth." (Gen. 1:1); "He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing." (Job 26:7). Without man's help and intelligence God was able to handle the logistics to establish worlds without end from nothing.



"The Lord God took man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress (till) it and to keep (guard) it" since "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's: but the earth hath He given to the children of men." (Ps.115:16). From the time that God, so to speak, put a hoe in Adam's hand and gave him the responsibility to till and tend the "garden" man has treated the earth as his own. His first act was to appropriate fruit that was not his. This started the "disputed ownership" contest and the entrance of sin, along with its various effects.

Coming out of the ark after the flood, Noah was assured by God of two things, one, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease" (Gen.8:22)... "and I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth." (Gen.9:11). The earnest of God's covenant with every living creature, the rainbow, still appears frequently at the close of a rain shower, and is as much for God's benefit as man's. (Gen. 9:16.).

Do we question the authority of God's words? Think what happened when He spoke. "Through faith we understand that that worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Heb. 11:3). Again, we read of the Lord Jesus, "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." (Heb. 1:3). Doesn't it bring a sense of awe to our hearts when we realize the capabilities of the One whose earth we tread?

When watching waves pounding the shoreline, especially those driven by stormy winds, we tremble at their power, but God asks, "Will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it." (Jer. 5:22).

We have explanations as to the cause of winds and waves, and these may be essentially true, but we also read, "For he (God) commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof." (Ps.107:25). What a graphic record we have of an opposite effect on these elements when we read of Jesus, "He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm." (Mk 4:39).

The foregoing accounts of what God has done and is able to do have been given to show in a small way that He is well able to counteract whatever adverse effects man's doings have on the normalcy of His creation if and when He so chooses.

In Ps. 24:1 we read, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Forgotten has been the fact, for the most part, that we

have been placed here to dress and keep the garden for its Planter, rather than take possession of it for ourselves.

While the Lord was on earth, He spake a parable (Matt 21:33-38) containing a spiritual application. A certain landowner, after planting a vineyard, and equipping it with the necessary things to protect it and make it productive, let it out to some sharecroppers and moved a considerable distance away. At harvest time after several unsuccessful attempts to collect the rent through his servants, the owner sent his son, thinking, surely they would respect him. Instead the so called sharecroppers, said, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance."

Can't we see in this parable a picture of God, separating a sample of the people of the earth to bring joy to Himself? Hedging them about, setting over them spiritual leaders, only to be denied what His claims over them called for, and in the end, sending His Son, of Whom they said, "We will not have this man to reign over us... Crucify him?" (Lk. 19:14; Mk 15:12).

But this is not the end of the story. Since that rejection, all who receive this rejected One as their Saviour, have a place reserved for them in heaven, and in a soon coming day will be translated there by the Lord, according to I Thes. 4:13-18. Following this looked for event, those who are left behind will have but a short time before "this same Jesus" shall return to set up His earthly kingdom. Great changes are in store for the earth, such as

1. Strong nations "shall beat their swords into plowshares." (Micah 4:3).
2. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose." (Isa. 35:1).
3. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid...and a little child shall lead them." (Isa. 11:6).

In view of the dramatic erasures of these and other effects of man's sin, by the visible presence and ruling of great David's Greater Son, need we fear what changes man can cause on the earth and to our environment while we are left here?

As an aftermath of this millennium of man's final test, God Himself will shake the heaven and earth; removing them in fiery judgment. (Heb 12:26,27; I Pet 3:10-12), but replacing them with "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. (II Pet 3:13).

Looking for His coming and our celestial home going,

Leslie L. Winters

For address correction or free new name addition, write to:
Leslie L. Winters or Christine Albury