



Today this same Jesus, through His Holy Spirit, will live within anyone who calls on Him. Jesus died that we might be forgiven, and when we ask

Him to clear the past and be with us as our Lord and Saviour, He answers that prayer. He is the kind of God who will then take us through turbulent and trying times as well as good ones. He can be ours through life, death and into eternity. Heaven is not something we deserve: if we could see ourselves as God sees us we would be sure that hell was our destiny. That is why it is so important to make sure we are right with God now.

Nothing ever takes God by surprise. But that does not mean we understand all that is going on. The Bible says, 'The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and our children ...'³ There is much that we cannot explain, but what we know about God – His love, His care, His purity, His justice, etc – enable us to trust Him for all that we do not understand about our lives.

THE EARTH AS IT WILL BE

The Bible teaches that a time will come when everything will be different. There will be a day when 'the lion will lie down with the lamb' when people 'will learn war no more' when they will 'beat their swords into ploughs' and 'nation will speak peace to nation'.

What we experience today will not be forever. There

is coming a day when every person of whatever religious persuasion or none, will acknowledge Jesus as Lord. Some will do this gladly, others will recognise that they have lost out on knowing Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Jesus will reign as the Prince of Peace on earth. For some, though, eternity will be a place of eternal trouble. To be cut off from God in hell forever is an awful thought.

Whatever life is presenting to you at this moment, it is vital that you trust Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Ask Him to forgive your past, be with you in the present and one day take you to be with Him forever in Heaven. To follow Jesus does not mean that life will be easy, but God promises to be the Strength, Helper and closest Friend to those who trust Him.

¹ John 9; ² Luke 13:1–5; ³ Deuteronomy 29:29

Images: 9-11, Michael Foran / CC BY 2.0; Poverty, Valéria Rodríguez Valéria, Pixabay; Coronavirus, Tmamaximumge, PxHere

I would like to know more about Jesus Christ.

- Please send me a free DVD about the life of Jesus.
- Please send me a free copy of John's Gospel (a book of the Bible that describes Jesus' life).
- Please send me a free New Testament & Psalms
- Please send me a free booklet on how to become a Christian.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Age (if under 18): _____

Email: _____



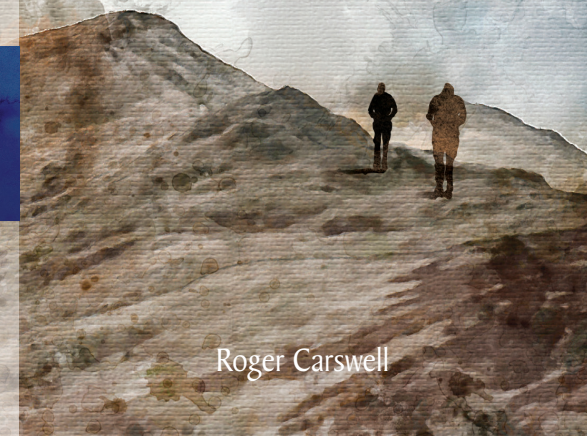
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WHERE IS GOD in a MESSED-UP WORLD?



Roger Carswell

Something has gone wrong with our world. If you are not convinced, ask anyone who has lived during a war or a genocide, has witnessed an earthquake, survived a tsunami, seen dire poverty or even starvation.

How many times has the unfairness of the world, its dishonesty and injustice, its selfishness and greed, its crime and lack of punishment made you wonder, 'What is happening to our world?' You have to have a strong constitution to be a news

addict. When one leading politician suggested on television that there is no such thing as evil, he was silenced when reminded of 9/11. To work to end poverty,

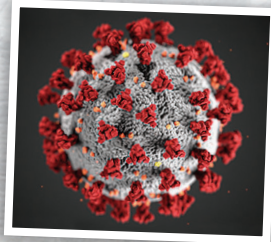
to bring world peace or even reverse global warming seem to be pipe dreams.



THE EARTH AS IT WAS

The world wasn't meant to be like this. We are told in God's message to humanity, the Bible, that when He made our world it was all 'very good'. But the world as it was has become the world as it is because very early there was a defiant, disobedient turning away from God. Sin, suffering and death became the norm as a direct result of desiring evil.

All of creation was wrecked and ruined so now bad things happen to ordinary people. It is not possible to be a bystander for everyone is bound up in this which means the world isn't always a safe place. It was said that the coronavirus pandemic was spread by rich people who travelled but it was the poor who suffered.



THE EARTH AS IT IS

Jesus explained that because one individual suffers more than another does not necessarily mean that one is worse than the other. Speaking about a man born blind, Jesus said that it was not the result of either the man's sin, or his parents' sin.¹ And commenting on some martyred worshippers and some who died when a tower collapsed, He said, 'Do you suppose that these ... were worse sinners than all others ... because they suffered such things? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.'²

God can take the worst circumstances and bring out of them great good. He has shown Himself to be a God who cares; He is

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not immune from human suffering. He knows all things; He cares and can cope with each one of us. Throughout the Bible, God shows Himself to be a loving and compassionate God whose mercies endure forever. The Bible says, 'God is love'. He loves you. He loves those whom no one else loves. His love is pure and

infinite. There is nothing you can do to make God love you more; there is nothing you can do to make God love you less.

It is hard to imagine anything worse than Jesus' crucifixion. Every nerve

in His body was seared in agony. His friends had scattered and deserted Him.

He was wracked with pain, but worse – He who was so pure, kind and good, was taking on Himself all the wrong, rebellion and rottenness of the world.

The Bible says that 'God laid on Him the iniquity [evil] of the world'. He was dying as our substitute, taking on Himself the penalty of our sin. He was cut off from His Father so that we might be united to God and never cut off from Him.

He tasted death for everyone. Jesus' body lay in the tomb for three days. But on the first Easter Sunday, He rose from the dead. He had conquered suffering, sin and death.

