

Until the Earth is Filled with His Glory 3

Habakkuk 2:14 - For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Is Filled, Is Being Filled, and Will Be Filled

- The Earth is filled, is being filled, and will be filled with the glory of the Lord
- 1. The Earth is Already Filled with Glory
 - Isaiah 6:3 - And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”
- 2. The Earth Will Be Filled with Glory
 - Matthew 16:27 - For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.
 - Titus 2:13 - ...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ
- 3. The Earth Is Being Filled with Glory
 - Matthew 13:31-33 - 31 [Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” 33 He told them another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened.”
 - Daniel 2:35 - Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Things Are Getting Better

- Some Important Facts
 - Poverty
 - 200 years ago: 84% of world in extreme poverty
 - 1981: 42%
 - Today: under 10%
 - Literacy
 - 200 years ago: 90% illiterate
 - Today: 90% literate
 - In past 30 years, 2.6 billion additional people secured access to clean water
 - Over 85% of world has electricity
 - Internet
 - 30 years ago: no internet
 - Today: over 50% of world online
 - War
 - No open war between great powers since 1945
 - Civil wars have declined since 1990
 - Terrorist attacks down since 1990

Article “State of the Planet: Better Than Ever” by Stephen Moore of Heritage Foundation (May 7, 2015)

- Quote: Stephen Moore – “There is no time in the history of mankind that would be a better time to be alive than today.”
- When would be a better time?
 - Middle Ages?

- Pioneer times?
- 1950s?
 - McCarthyism, the Red Scare, constant threat of nuclear annihilation
 - Smoking, alcohol, drug addiction were big problems
 - Drugs openly used at work
 - Smoking was everywhere
 - Lung cancer deaths doubled in 50s and is only now nearing pre-1950s levels
 - Marijuana, heroin, cocaine increased dramatically
 - Women had fewer rights and protections – abuse legal
 - Cars were unsafe, poor gas mileage, needed heavy maintenance
 - Divorce rates doubled in 1950s
 - Statistically, marriages from the 1950s -1960s have highest rate of eventual divorce
 - 22.4% of Americans lived in poverty
 - Fewer medical advancements than today
 - Life expectancy was 68 years vs. 78 years today
 - Inner-city violence rampant
 - Real racism, segregation, Jim Crow laws, lynchings (last one was 1955)
 - No rock-n-roll until mid-50s
- The lie that the world is getting worse and worse is “the single greatest misinformation campaign in world history.”
- 6 Statistics That Show How Well We’re Doing
 - 1. Natural Resources
 - More affordable and more abundant than ever before in history
 - Price of almost all natural resources is cheaper today (in real terms) than 50, 100, or 500 years ago
 - This has happened even as the world population has tripled
 - The technology to use our resources more efficiently has far outpaced the amount of resources we have
 - 2. Energy Resources
 - US alone has hundreds of years of oil and 300 years of coal
 - 3. Air and Water
 - Air and water are cleaner than ever in US
 - Air pollutants have plunged since late 1970s
 - Lead pollution down by more than 90%
 - Carbon Monoxide, Sulfur Dioxide, Ozone, Nitrogen Dioxide all down
 - 100 years ago... 1 in 4 deaths in US was from water contamination
 - Since 1971... under 3 people per year died from water contamination
 - 4. Population
 - No overpopulation problem: in last 50 years, birth rates have fallen by 50%
 - Average incomes have increased substantially, especially among the poor
 - From 1981-2011, number of people in extreme poverty fell by 1 billion, even as population grew by 1.5 billion
 - 5. Food Production
 - Per capita food production 40% higher today than 1950
 - In most nations, the problem is obesity... not hunger or malnourishment
 - Number of famines and related deaths fell in past 100 years
 - 1920s-1960s: 12 million died each decade from famine
 - 1960s-Today: Under 4 million per decade
 - Price of food has fallen for 200 years
 - 6. Deaths from Natural Disasters

- Rate of death from natural disasters or severe weather has plummeted in last 100 years
- Deaths from hurricanes, floods, heat, droughts, freezing temps are at record lows

It's Not Dominion Theology

- Dominion Theology: Essentially states that the church will grow more powerful, hold political power, subdue all enemies, and solve every world problem as everyone lives according to the Laws of God
 - But Jesus promised there would be tares with the wheat, right up until the end, and that we would always have the poor

The Glory of the New Covenant

- 2 Corinthians 3:7-11 - 7 Now if the ministry of death [the Old Covenant under the Law, which brings death to all law-breakers, all of us], carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? 9 For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. 10 Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. 11 For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.
 - Hebrews 3:1-6 – Jesus has more glory than Moses.

The Glory of the New Temple

- 2 Chronicles 7 – The glory of God fills the Temple
- Ezekiel 10 – Many years later, Ezekiel sees a vision of the glory of God leaving the Temple
- Ezekiel 43-44 – Ezekiel sees another vision, this one of the glory of God one day returning to a future, rebuilt Temple
 - Haggai 2:4-9 – God promises that the glory that is coming upon the new Temple will far exceed the glory that was on the old Temple
 - Hebrews 12:25-29 – Applies the prophecies of Haggai about the surpassing glory of the new Temple to the surpassing glory of the Kingdom of God, the Church, the living Temple
- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 – 16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.