

**“The Last Earth Day”  
Genesis 1:20-31**

**Hyattstown Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
April 26, 2020**

If you are somehow hearing this testimony, that in itself is a miracle. You will understand why as you continue listening.

Let me first thank you for finding my recording, however that occurred, and thank you also for trusting that this account is the factual truth about “The Last Earth Day” in the world in which I lived.

In fact, this report to you is not just about “The Last Earth Day”, but about what I have reason to believe might be “The Last Day of Earth”. The words you are hearing from me may quite possibly be the only accurate, existing account of what happened on that day—a day that was tragically fateful, and at the same time, sadly inevitable.

I think it would be helpful for me to provide you with some context. I have no idea, of course, just when in the future you are hearing my voice. Perhaps time is not a factor for you anymore. But just in case it is, let me cite a few significant influences in my lifetime.

For about 150 years, the world experienced what was initially known as “the industrial revolution”. It brought a lot of progress, but it caused problems, too. For example, some people became very wealthy, while a lot of other people only sank deeper and deeper into poverty. The gap between the rich and the poor got wider and wider, and the anger of people in the poor countries toward people in the rich countries only grew greater. The resentment of poor people toward rich people gradually increased.

These geographic, social and political differences had everything to do with drastic changes in the environment. A book entitled “Silent Spring”, written by a woman named Rachel Carlson in 1962, started people thinking about what they were doing to what God had created. That concern led to the first Earth Day in the United States in 1970, and then the first international Earth Day in 1990. There was a meeting in Kyoto, Japan, in 1997 that sought the commitment of all the nations to save the Earth’s environment by reducing carbon dioxide emissions to healthy levels. That meeting resulted in the Kyoto Accords, but unfortunately there was never complete consensus about the seriousness of the problem, or whether it was caused by human behavior or by the natural cycle of the climate. Some of the most powerful nations, which were also contributing the most to the problem, were often reluctant to admit that human behavior could cause so much damage to their very long term existence. In the United States, for example, politicians could not even agree on the evidence cited by scientists, or on whether to call the problem “global warming” or call it “climate change”.

In the year 2014, a report was issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was sponsored by the United Nations. It was written by hundreds of experts from all over the world, who said that the human family had better join together in the effort to save our planet, or soon enough there would be no planet to save! But even that report was discredited by some politicians, and by some industries that were most responsible for the problem. I guess that was not really so surprising.

Of course, there were some genuine efforts to make the world a better, healthier, safer place for the generations that would follow. The recycling of paper, plastic, and glass, for example, became rather broadly organized, but not enough people did it. And

though the automakers fought it for a long time, cars with lower emission of carbon dioxide were finally manufactured and marketed. But they were more expensive to buy. Wind power and solar power became viable alternatives to our uncontrolled consumption of fossil fuels. But again, some politicians and coal companies fought against change.

As it turned out, these well intended, genuine efforts were not influential enough to stop the inevitable. It was too little, too late! The damage done to the earth was irreversible!

Species of animals, birds, fish, and insects that had been around from the beginning began to risk extinction. Forests that had been plentiful were depleted, or ravaged by increasingly frequent fires. Highways became choked with traffic that could not move. Cities all over the world became smothered in smog. Seas became clogged pools of discarded plastics. Polar ice-caps melted away so rapidly that whole islands disappeared, and towns on coastlines were submerged into the oceans. Other villages further inland were obliterated by violent storms that resulted from changes in the earth's weather patterns. The atmosphere around the earth got hotter and hotter, so life on the surface of the earth got more and more difficult.

It was interesting that while nations were embroiled in political conflicts, and bickering back and forth about this and that, they did not pay attention to the fact that there would not be a future for any of them if they did not fix the environment deteriorating around them. They had lost sight of the importance of the stewardship of what God had created for them in the first place! They had lost a sense of responsibility for what God had given them! Adam and Eve's Garden of Eden was more like a Garden of Garbage

That's why you are hearing my words some time after the Last Earth Day: The earth itself became exhausted. The earth got tired of all the arguing and bickering, all of the abuse and neglect, all of the empty promises and unfulfilled responsibilities. The earth decided that the only ultimately effective way to break through the impasse on the environment would be to teach a hard lesson. The earth decided that it was only "tough love" that would have any hope of succeeding.

And that's why the "Last Earth Day" might have been the "Last Day on Earth".

Of course, if you are in fact listening to this report, that obviously did not happen. But let me say why I think it may not have happened. If the "Last Day on Earth" hasn't happened yet, as you hear my worries, it will be because the God who created everything in the first place has continued to be more faithful to the human family, than the human family continues to be to God!

On the record, I'll confess that the very fact that you are listening to my testimony about what I foresaw as the "Last Earth Day", is evidence that you, at least, are enjoying yet another God-given day on Earth!

I just hope that you may come to a greater appreciation of that gift from God, and that you might find a way to convince whoever is there with you that now is the time to start paying forward what God does for you every day on Earth!