

# When God Blows Up the Earth!

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A nuclear holocaust or apocalypse is a theoretical scenario involving widespread destruction and radioactive fallout causing the collapse of civilization, as we know it today, through the use of nuclear weapons. Many are fearful of a nuclear nightmare and cataclysmic ending to our earth.

Doomsday predictions and scenarios have been part of our society for a long time since the invention of nuclear weapons. Many are afraid that when we get pushing the buttons that unleash nuclear missiles the world will come to its end.

Our study today will reveal that man will not destroy the earth. We do not have to fear a nuclear nightmare that will wipe out human civilization. The Bible teaches that God will destroy planet earth and the entire universe. God will be the One that pushes the final button which will undue the atomic structure of the universe causing it to explode into oblivion.



God is in charge of the doomsday clock and He will destroy the earth and universe according to His timetable and schedule. The Bible gives us a clear prophetic picture of when this will occur and how it will occur. It also teaches us that God is going to recreate the universe. These are the things we want to look at in this particular study.

God is in charge of destroying the earth and universe.

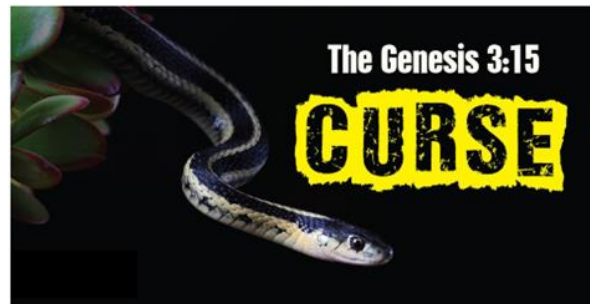
There are five questions that we need to answer.

### **1. Why will it happen?**

The Bible reveals that the earth and heavens have been polluted with sin. Therefore, God must judge them and bring them to an end.

God originally created the earth to be suitable as mankind's permanent home. However, the entrance of sin corrupted the earth and the universe, and for this reason God will destroy them someday (Rev. 20:11). The Old Testament describes the pollution and destruction of the present universe. Job 15:15 says, "the heavens are not clean in his sight." Isaiah 24:5 declares that "the earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws (the moral laws of God), changed the ordinance (the prescribed decree or statute), broken the everlasting covenant" (the Noahic Covenant). This everlasting covenant (Gen. 9:16) primarily deals with our care of God's world and the treatment of our fellow human beings (Gen. 8:20–9:17).

God's displeasure with the earth and mankind is seen in the Genesis 3:15 curse. God places a curse over mankind and the earth which would be a constant reminder that this old world is under the judgment



of God and someday this judgment is going to be unleashed upon planet earth because of man's original and continual rebellion against Him.



God has not forgotten what happened in Genesis. He also has not forgotten what happened when Satan polluted the heavens, particularly the first and second heavens (Luke 10:18; Isa. 14:12), prior to the creation of the universe. This is why He was cast out of the presence of God and can no longer directly access God's presence. Today Satan roams the heavens bringing about his sinister plans in the human race. For this reason, they are polluted sinfully and Satanically. The Old Testament describes the pollution and destruction of the present universe. Job 15:15 says, "the heavens are not clean in his sight" due to Satan's own sin and departure from God.

The defilement of the heavens and the earth will lead to a fiery end of the heavens and earth (2 Peter 3:12) which will give way to a new heaven and earth (Rev. 21:1). But before the Eternal State can commence, God must get rid of everything that has had contact with sin and anyone who still is connected with their sins (Rev. 20:15). We cannot enter the state of perfection and bliss without sin being dealt with in every area, both the physical and spiritual. In the Eternal State, God will not put up with anything or anyone that has been infected by sin.

This old world is polluted by sin (Job 15:5) and cursed by sin (Gen. 3:14-19); therefore, its doom is sure. This is why the Bible teaches it will be destroyed. The earth will go from being cursed to being cured when God creates a new one (Rev. 21:1). We certainly can agree with Scripture that the earth has been polluted by sin on every level.

On May 11, 2000, a lady found a new e-mail message on her computer, which simply said, "*I love you*". It looked innocent enough, perhaps even romantic. Like most of us would, she clicked to open the message, and the so-called "*Love Bug*" was born. With lightning speed, it raced around the world, bringing politics and business to a halt. It was a deadly computer virus that caused millions of computer software programs to crash.

One virus, with a great amount of contamination! But it's not the first time that a single virus has caused so much grief to mankind. In fact, it's a kind of replay of a deadlier virus that hit Planet Earth more than six thousand years ago polluting the first human couple, Adam and Eve. Despite God's warning not to click on to Satan's message, they did so with appalling consequences for them, and through them to all mankind. That virus is called "Sin."

This world is spiritually polluted with sin. Today many are accepting homosexuality as something that is normal and the perverted experts of our society are now telling us that children should be able to decide whether or not they want to be a boy or a girl. Our world is polluted and cursed by sin and someday it will be destroyed.

## **2. What will be destroyed?**

We have mentioned this already, but let's support our findings with Scripture. The Bible repeatedly tells us that both the earth and heavens will be destroyed.

### **a. John taught this.**

Revelation 20:11

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them."



John envisions the earth and the heaven being destroyed in conjunction with the Great White Throne Judgment. The triggering force of earth's destruction will begin with the One who sits on the throne. More on this later.

The expression "fled away" (Rev. 20:11) can only mean to pass out of their previous existence and therefore speaks of total destruction – not merely renovation or a remaking or refacing of the present heavens and earth. The verse also states, "and

there was found no place for them.” This simply means that the universe (planet earth and all of universal space), as we now know it, will be no more. They will be destroyed and cease to exist. In Revelation 21:1 it states, “and there was no more sea” in the new earth. This means the oceans were destroyed as a result of God’s judgment. In a similar way, the entire earth and heavens as we now know them will be destroyed and taken away, but they will be recreated and replaced. The fact that there is no more sea would indicate a similar fate has happened to the earth and heavens. They will cease to exist but then be recreated.

John mentions the earth and one heaven passing away (Rev. 20:11). This was likely the atmospheric heaven and Revelation 21:1 confirms this when it speaks about the earth and heaven being replaced. However, the Bible teaches that both heavens will be destroyed and replaced. This brings us to the next mention of the destruction of the universe.

b. Peter taught this.

2 Peter 3:10

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

2 Peter 3:12-13 adds:

“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

Peter mentions both “heavens” being destroyed and then gives the promise that “new heavens” will be created. Therefore, we can conclude that not only the earth



will be destroyed but also the first (atmospheric) and second (stellar) heavens which would include the entire universe that God created, which has been polluted by the effects of sin.

We will come back to Peter and discuss in more detail later how all of this will take place. For now, we must see that both Jesus and Peter taught the destruction of the earth and universe. The record of Scripture has a unanimous testimony that the earth and heavens (the entire universe) will be utterly wiped out.

a. Jesus taught this.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:35:

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.”

Jesus was teaching about the eternal nature of His own words. He reminds the disciples that His words, in relation to His predictions and the fulfillment of prophecy, would always remain true and come to pass, while the earth and heavens, as we now know them, will not remain forever. The words and promises that Jesus spoke and taught would continue on forever but this would not be true of the heavens and earth.



At one point they would be destroyed. His words would be preserved but not the heaven and earth. This is exactly what Jesus taught. We cannot wiggle out of it. When something is said to “pass away” it means to “perish” and suggest a total destruction.

The same word that Jesus used is the same word Peter used in 2 Peter 3:10 when he said “the heavens shall pass away with a great noise” (an atomic blast!).

Psalm 102:25-26 gives us this information:

“Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed.”

The Lord Jesus Christ confirmed this Old Testament teaching when He declared, “Heaven and earth shall pass away” (Luke 21:33). Yes, the heavens and earth will one day pass out of existence. The Psalmist said “they shall perish” and Jesus said that they “shall pass away.” We cannot mistranslate these words or try and explain them away without doing a great injustice to the words of Jesus and what the Bible teaches on this subject. Jesus clearly said that the present heaven and earth will be destroyed someday. However, not everyone accepts this truth that Jesus taught His disciples. Some mock at this coming judgment (2 Peter 3:3-4), while others explain it as only a renovation, instead of a recreation of a brand new earth and universe.

The witness of Scripture cannot be dismissed. Doomsday is coming! Thinking of the fullness and duration of this wonderful earthly life, W. B. Hinson, a great preacher of a past generation, spoke from his own experience just before he died. He said, “I remember a year ago when a doctor told me, ‘You have an illness from which you won’t recover.’ I walked out to where I live 5 miles from Portland, Oregon, and I looked across at the mountain that I love. I looked at the river in which I rejoice, and I looked at the stately trees that are always God’s own poetry to my soul. Then in the evening I looked up into the great sky where God was lighting His lamps, and I said, ‘I may not see you many more times, but Mountain, I shall be alive when you are gone; and River, I shall be alive when you cease running toward the sea; and Stars, I shall be alive when you have fallen from your sockets in the great downpulling of the material universe!’”

Folks, the Bible repeatedly teaches that the earth is going to be destroyed along with the heavens. Jesus Christ is going to totally destroy the universe.

### **3. When will it take place?**

2 Peter 3:7 declares when it will occur:

“But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.”

This “day” is referencing the Great White Throne Judgment which John speaks about in Revelation 20. Both scenes of judgment in Peter’s epistle and the Book of Revelation mention the passing away of the heavens and the earth. Therefore, it’s clear that the heavens and earth will be destroyed when Jesus takes His seat on the Great White Throne Judgment.

Revelation 20:11 also reveals the timing of earth’s destruction:

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”

The Bible teaches that the destruction of the earth and heavens (the universe) will occur in conjunction with the Great White Throne Judgment, the final judgment of the ages of unsaved humanity.

The prophetic timetable is clearly revealed.

- Satan’s restraint in the bottomless pit (abyss) for 1,000 years (Rev. 20:1-3).
- Satan’s release following the Millennium (Rev. 20:7).
- Satan rebellion against Jerusalem and the Jews (Rev. 20:8-9).
- Satan retribution in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:10).



Following this scene, we have the destruction of the earth and heavens fleeing out of existence from the face of the Jesus who sits on the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11). In other words, the earth is destroyed immediately after Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire. Some suggest the destruction begins back in Revelation 20:9 when fire falls from Heaven and burns up those who are trying to destroy Jerusalem and overcome King Jesus.



Apparently God's redeemed saints who pass through the Millennium will be immediately transformed, receive new bodies, and prepared for the Eternal State (Rev. 21-22), prior to this terrible judgment. However, this will not be the case for the unsaved who follow and agree with Satan's earthly rebellion against God and His Jewish people. They will remain on earth to experience the greatest holocaust of humanity that earth has ever known.

Immediately following these End Time events, described in Revelation 20 (Satan's restraint, release, rebellion and retribution in the Lake of Fire), the world of unsaved humanity, which is left on the earth following the Millennium (Kingdom Age), will experience its nuclear nightmare and holocaust. God will destroy planet earth and the heavens (the entire universe). It will be a sudden, cataclysmic event that will bring about the total destruction of the present earth and universe.

One cannot imagine the horrors and terror that will overtake the hearts of lost people as the earth explodes and begins to disintegrate before their very eyes. They will know that doomsday has arrived. They will know that God's judgment has fallen and there is no hope for them. They will be lost forever. This is because following this cataclysmic destruction, all universe of space, as we know and understand it, will become nonexistent, and the unsaved will find themselves standing before this fearful throne upon which Jesus Christ sits. They will ultimately meet their eternal fate in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:12-15).



Those who have recently died in the earth's destruction, along with the rest of unsaved humanity that has died throughout the ages, will be immediately resurrected, along with the rest of the unsaved of the ages (Rev. 20:12-14), to be judged at the Great White Throne and cast into the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:15 states:

“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”

So, the destruction of the earth and heavens (the entire universe) will occur following Satan’s demise and in conjunction with the Great White Throne Judgment.



God works according to a perfect timetable. We can be sure that time is winding down for the earth and earth’s inhabitants. The sand in God’s hourglass keeps moving and someday time will be up for this old earth and those who are unsaved and still living on the earth.

Now that we have learned about the prophetic timing of earth’s destruction, we need to discuss how it will happen.

#### 4. What causes the destruction?

This can be explained in two ways.

##### a. The source is the face of Jesus.

Everything begins with the face of Jesus!



Revelation 20:11

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.”

Note: Apparently the Great White Throne will be located neither in Heaven nor on earth but in limitless space, as suggested by the statement of both the heavens and earth fleeing away.

This description of the earth and the heaven fleeing out of existence before the face of Jesus tells us how this old earth and universe is going to be destroyed someday. The brilliant radiance of the face of Jesus will bring about the explosion that will destroy planet earth and the universe as we now know it. The face of Jesus with its majestic glory will in some way cause this old world and universe to be destroyed in a great blast and atomic noise, wherein everything in existence will pass away in a devastating destruction.

Henry Morris remarks in this way:

“The fire which had fallen from heaven to consume the multitudes following Gog and Magog seems to be nothing less than the unveiled glory, the pure, white-hot energy, of the Creator in all His ineffable brilliance. Now that same cosmic power penetrates the very atomic structure of the earth and its atmosphere, and they are vaporized in a gigantic holocaust that brings this present world to an end.”

The Creator in all of His inexpressible and indescribable brilliance will create a fiery energy flow from his face, which will penetrate the very atomic structure of the universe, vaporizing both the earth and heavens in a gigantic holocaust that brings the present universe to an end. Yes, in some indescribable way, the face of Jesus will cause the old earth and heavens to pass out of existence. A movement of divine energy will advance from the face of Jesus, as He sits upon the throne, which will destroy the present earth and universe.

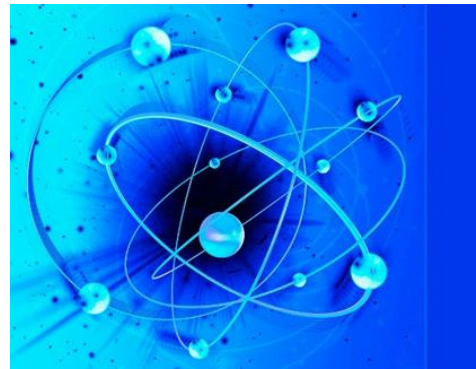
**b. The structure of the universe is disrupted.**

The energy proceeding forth from the face of Jesus, will result in an unimaginable blast and explosion that will cause the earth and the entire universe to explode into oblivion. You might say, “This is impossible.” Not if we believe in God’s power. Folks, the God who created the universe can uncreate it any time He pleases.

2 Peter 3:10 verifies that the present heavens and earth will someday be destroyed. “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

Peter uses the same terminology that John does when speaking about the total destruction of the universe (“pass away”). This means that both the earth and the “heavens” (the earth’s atmosphere and the starry sky, not God’s abode – only the first and second heaven) will pass out of existence. Peter is speaking about a termination of the present order of the old universe. A “great noise” is undoubtedly referring to an atomic explosion or blast of some monstrous proportion. The Greek word was used for the swish of an arrow, the rush of wings, the splash of water, and the hiss of the serpent. These are appropriate ways to describe an atomic blast.

The same God who created the laws of nature can break these same laws. And this is what the Bible teaches God will do when He destroys the universe. When Peter says “the elements shall melt with fervent heat” he is talking about the atomic structure (building blocks) of the earth being destroyed. The word “elements” (stoicheion) refers to something that is orderly arranged and speaks of the atoms which are the building blocks of the universe. The fundamental components of matter or the atomic building blocks of the world will be split by God who holds the universe together.



Hebrews 1:3 reveals:

“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.”

Originally He spoke to bring the worlds into being (Heb. 11:3). Today the Lord still speaks and His powerful word sustains life, holds matter together, and maintains the universe in proper order. Here is a simple explanation of a profound scientific problem. Scientists grapple to discover what holds molecules together. We learn here that Jesus Christ is the great Sustainer, and He does it by His powerful word.

Colossians 1:17 adds:

“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

The word “consist” means “to set together” and speaks how Jesus Christ holds the atomic structure of the universe in the palm of His hand. Jesus is the superglue of the universe!



Peter concludes that the building blocks or fundamental components of the universe will disappear with a roar, which in some way will involve fire (2 Peter 3:7, 12). The text reveals that the “elements” (atomic structure or building blocks of the universe) will “melt” (luo) or “be loosened, broken up, broken in pieces, untied” with “heat”

(fiery force of burning heat and energy) resulting in a cataclysmic explosion of epic proportion where the “earth also” will pass out of existence along with all of “the works that are therein” (rocks, trees, hills, etc.). This old earth will explode into oblivion and everything else that is on the earth “shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).

2 Peter 3:11-12 continues:

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness. Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”

The “day of God” is referencing the Eternal State which the Book of Revelation unveils to us after the destruction of the old earth and heavens (Rev. 21-22). Peter’s theology is the same as John’s theology or teaching. The “things” Peter is referring to is the present earth and heavens whose atomic structure will be broken down. The atmosphere and the heavens are structurally intertwined with the earth and all will be destroyed at the same time.

William McDonald correctly observes:

“In this nuclear age, we understand that matter is stored-up energy. The splitting of an atomic nucleus results in the fiery release of enormous quantities of energy. So all the matter in the world represents tremendous explosive potential. At present

it is held together by the Lord (Col. 1:17). If His restraining hand were removed, the elements would melt.”

This is what is going to occur when Jesus blows up the earth and heavens. He is going to remove His restraining hand and everything will be destroyed. The whole structure of the universe is operating on the principle of a clock which is running down. This is why Peter says the heavens and earth are being “reserved for fire” (2 Pet. 3:7).

The word “dissolved” (luo – same word translated “melt”) is used twice in these verses (vv. 11, 12) and once again means “to loosen something tied or fastened – to break something in pieces.” Peter reiterates and reemphasizes in 2 Peter 3:12 how the “elements” (atomic structures – atoms, molecules, etc.) of both the earth and heavens will be inwardly split and broken apart by some kind of fiery field of energy or “heat” (vv. 10, 12) which will “melt” (teko – “liquefy” – vs. 12) the building blocks of the universe.

In other words, a fiery energy force of some kind will break down the atomic structure of the universe. Revelation 20:11 reveals that this field of fiery energy will come from the face of Jesus! As a result, the physical earth and heavens, along with everything existing in the physical earth and heavens will be destroyed (“the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” - 2 Peter 3:10b). This is a cosmic catastrophe which will bring about the total destruction of planet earth and the heavens. There is no indication in these descriptions of merely a renovation of the previous earth and heavens.

### **c. How does it apply to our lives today?**

I would like to share some practical information which I gave in another study entitled “The Destruction of the Earth and Universe.”

Douglas Moo states:

“Christians need to remember the ultimate, ‘bottom-line,’ purpose of biblical eschatology: to make us better Christians here and now.

Warren Wiersbe once said:

“The purpose of prophetic truth is not speculation but motivation.”

Bible prophecies were written to provide us with motivation, hope, encouragement, and to keep us focused on those things which matter most.

After speaking about the destruction of the current earth and heavens, Peter makes some important notes of application. Prophecy is designed to impact our Christian living. The destruction of the earth and heavens (“seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved” – 2 Pet. 3:11) should help us to grow in our Christian life.



a. We can focus on godly living.

2 Peter 3:11

“Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.”

Peter is teaching us to maintain a consistent life of holiness since the reward that we receive for living a consecrated life will continue to exist long after the earth has been destroyed. Here is Peter’s point. We must keep perspective on what is eternal. If nothing attached to this physical universe is eternal, then we should not engage ourselves in temporal things. We should live for those things which will bring reward and richness to our lives throughout eternity. Christians should get their lives in order and start living godly lives that will count for eternity. This world is going to blow up someday and everything in it – your cars, your house, your money, your clothing! It’s going to be blown to smithereens.

Living for earthly things is like rearranging the deck chairs on the titanic. There is no purpose in them since they are going to go down with the ship. This earth is

destined for destruction. Everything that is “earthly” (James 3:15) will not last. Living for Jesus Christ is the only thing that’s going to last.

1 John 2:16-17 reminds us:

“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

The world is literally “passing away” even now as I write and as we live out our daily lives. Nothing attached to the world has any eternal valued. Don’t be a fool and live for those things which will not last. Don’t live for things which will be forever destroyed. There is no eternal value in worldly things – only heavenly things!

“With eternity's values in view Lord  
With eternity's values in view  
May I do each day's work for Jesus  
With eternity's values in view.”

Jesus taught us to live for the “treasures of heaven” (Matt. 6:19-20; Luke 18:22) and not earthly things which have no eternal value attached to them. The destruction of the earth and heavens remind us of the futility of living for earthly things such as materialism, money, and the meaningless pursuits of fame, lust, and pride. With the coming destruction of all that is in the world, we must remember to take a spiritual inventory, take time to be holy, and take living for Jesus Christ seriously. This is because we only have one opportunity to engage our life in spiritual and eternal pursuits.

“Only one life twill soon be past,  
Only what’s done for Christ will last.  
Only one chance to do His will.  
So give to Jesus every day,  
It’s the only life that pays.  
When you recall,  
You have but one life.”



b. We can get to eternity faster.

2 Peter 3:12 gives another practical lesson:

“Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”

Peter reminds us that we can speed up the start of the Eternal State (“hasting the day of God”). With the destruction of the earth and heavens, a new earth and heavens will be created (Rev. 21:1), which ushers in the Eternal State. The expression “the day of God” looks forward to the Eternal State so vividly described in Revelation 21-22. But how do believers hasten or speed up the commencement of the Eternal State? How do we get to eternity faster? It’s interesting that within the framework of the providence of God, He will often use man to bring about the fulfillment of His purposes. In other words, many times God’s providential and sovereign purposes come to pass through the involvement and acts of His followers (Matt. 6:10; 24:14 Acts 3:19-20). We see this repeated at various times throughout Scripture. God has interwoven the actions of His followers and even evil people to bring about His eternal purposes (Acts 2:23).

Richard Bauckham correctly concludes:

“This does not detract from God’s sovereignty in determining the time of the End, but means only that his sovereign determination graciously takes human affairs into account.”

The Bible is teaching that we can speed up the start of eternity, we can get to the Eternal State faster by living godly lives, praying, and witnessing. God’s people can have an impact or effect on God’s timetable. The sooner we fulfill our spiritual obligations; the sooner eternity will begin. This reminds me that I’m not just a speck in the cosmic universe; I’m part of the plan of the ages! God uses me to bring His ultimate goal to its finish which is eternity! This truth brings meaning and significance to my life. I’m part of the eternal purpose and plan of God. Before I was saved, I had no hope, true meaning and satisfaction. But when I became a Christian God gave real meaning and purpose to my life. I am now part of His eternal plan of the ages! My life has great significance for I am part of something wonderful and eternal.

“Life was shattered and hope was gone,  
Crushing the load that I bore.  
Then out of the depths, I cried, ‘O God,  
Give me something worth living for.’  
Something more than my yesterdays,  
More than I had before.  
Something more than wealth or fame,  
He gave me something worth living for.”