

'The One enthroned in heaven laughs'

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In the beginning God made man, male and female, and gave them dominion over His creation. But man did not obey God. He decided he knew better than God. Man decided he could rule over the creation without reference to God; in fact, he thinks he can do the job better than the Creator himself.

God reminded Job of his creation power by way of rhetorical questions: "Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that an abundance of water may cover you? Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, and say to you, 'Here we are!'" (Job 38:34). God also asked Job, 'Who shut up the sea with doors?' God reminded Job that He said to the waves and to the sea, 'This far and no further' (Job 38:8, 11). Yet lots of people think that by stopping the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere they can stop sea levels rising. We have a generation that thinks they can change the climate when the Bible says that God sends the rain and withholds the rain (Deut 28:24, Mat 5:45). The only person in the world who has ever stopped a storm is Jesus of Nazareth (Mat 8:26). The prophet Elijah did not make it rain but he did pray to God and saw a huge, drought-breaking downpour (James 5:18).

When rulers or anyone plot against the Lord and his Anointed, the Bible says that he sits in heaven and laughs (Psalm 2:4). He laughed at those who built the Tower of Babel, and he laughs at people today building a world that originated with a 'Big Bang', and world in which they are controlling the climate- a world that ignores the Creator and Sustainer of all things.

In their rebellion and ignorance (Romans 1:20-25) people turned away from God to worship the creation. They made images of animals and birds to worship. They worshipped the trees. They locked up forests because these were 'paradise'; this was their heaven on earth. And then came the bushfires that burned up their 'paradise'. They had to run from 'paradise', not unlike Adam and Eve had to run from the Garden of Eden when they refused to obey God (Gen 3:23, 24).



A teenage girl refused to fly across the Atlantic Ocean because of the carbon dioxide emitted by aeroplanes. In England the courts have stopped the building of an extra runway at Heathrow airport because more planes would lead to dangerous climate change. What does the Lord think of such rebellion against his authority as the Creator-remember his words to Job; 'Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?' (Job 38:4). Suddenly, without warning, a deadly virus strikes nation after nation, and stock markets crash. International airlines are cancelling hundreds of flights. Heathrow may not even need the runways they already have as people fear to travel because of this virus.

God sits in heaven and laughs. But this is not all: 'He shall speak to them in his wrath' (Psalm 2:5). God has come down from his throne in heaven to speak to a world of clever but confused people. Going through the towns and cities of this world, Jesus saw harassed and helpless people (Matthew 9:36). He saw people having, 'no hope and without God in this world' (Ephesians 2:12).

Jesus had compassion on such people. His compassion led him to offer himself as a sacrifice for their sin. It is sin that cuts us off from God, leading to a life of darkness and futility. When you humble yourself before the Lord, as Job did, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, as the apostles and millions of other people have done, you will emerge from the darkness and the futility into a life of hope, of love, and of joy in the Lord. Why not do this now by calling upon the Lord Jesus in prayer?