

Then & Now

by Bill Crews

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Man's potential for good must have been obscured, and man's potential for all that is vile and evil must have been reached. Heaven must have been ridiculed, and hell must have been scoffed at.

Now take a close look at our day. How far are many people today from the fatal condition reached by the ante-deluvians? How many have already reached that wretched state? How many philosophies, voices, influential individuals, books, magazines, movies and television programs are leading boys and girls, men and women into that very moral state? In our great nation and in other "leading" nations of the earth people need to pause and take inventory. To what extent is the Bible being allowed to mold men and nations? How many righteous souls (in God's eyes) could be found in this generation?

We can say, positively, there will not be another catastrophic flood (**Genesis 8:20-22; 9:11-17**). God has promised. But there will be a sudden, unexpected end, and there will be a day of reckoning, and there will be an eternity awaiting all men. *"But the heavens that now are, and the earth, by the same word have been stored up for fire, being reserved against the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But forget not this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering to you-ward, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall be dissolved with fervent heat, and the earth and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing that these things are thus all to be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness, looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, by reason of which the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? But according to His promise, we look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for these things, give diligence that ye may be found in peace, without spot and blameless in His sight"* (**2 Peter 3:7-14**).

Everything Is Mine!

by Wayne Goff

"For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills" **Psalms 50:10**.

Take the time to read **Psalms 50** in its entirety. God's point in **verse 10** is that God owns the universe since He created it. Those who bring sacrifices to Him should not think they are giving Him something He needs. Instead, sacrifices are to make man aware of **his** deficiencies in contrast to **God's** perfection! Israel was living in sin while offering sacrifices, and God would have none of it! He didn't **need** their sacrifices *"for every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills."*

God accused them of **forgetting God** — by practicing stealing, adultery, deceit, slander, etc. — and then thinking that God **needed** their sacrifice! God's response was *"These things you have done, and I kept silent; **you thought that I was altogether like you**; but I will rebuke you, and set them in order before your eyes"* (**v. 21**).

Be sure that your concept of God is biblical and sufficiently expansive. Too often man's concept has whittled a "God" down to a size much like themselves, and in doing so, they make their own character and soul too small. God is much bigger than that — **and don't you forget it!**

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