

Love Not the World

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.
Romans 12:2 Be not conformed to the image of this world.

The world in this context refers to an order, course of things, or system of power, or government upon the earth, whether physical or spiritual.

1st appearance: 1 Samuel 2:8 – He sets the world upon the earth.
1 Chronicles 16:30, Psalm 93:1-2, 96:10 – Stable government

This Present Evil World

God calls this present world evil (Galatians 1:4)
After you got saved, you came to realize how evil this world was (John 16:8, 1 John 5:19)
Brings a whole new meaning to John 12:25.

Characteristics of this Present Evil World:

The World hates God, hates Christians, hates the Bible, hates righteousness:

Psalm 17:13-15 If you are of the world you are wicked.
*God says to a saved man you are not of the world anymore (John 15:18-19).
The world is the enemy of God and those that are friendly with it (James 4:4).
The world hates Christ and Christians (John 15:19-19)
The world rejoices at the fact that Jesus was slain (John 16:20)
The world would bring tribulation and persecution on Christians (John 16:33)
The world hates the word of God (John 17:14).
The world doesn't understand Christians (1 John 3:1)
The world is concerned about this world only (1 John 4:5)
They love money and prosperity (1 Timothy 6:10).
Ungodly people tend to prosper in this world and increase in riches (Psalm 73:12)
They love evil and darkness more than light (John 3:16-21).
They would crucify Jesus Christ again if they could (Nahum 1:9, Revelation 17:12-14, Revelation 19:19-21).

What God's plans are with this present evil world:

Jesus doesn't pray for this world (John 17:9)
God will punish the world for their evil (Isaiah 13:9-11)
He will remove the wicked from this world when he comes to establish a new world order and burn them in fire (Matthew 13:36-43, 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9)
God is behind the gathering together of all nations and a one world government and one world religion, but not in the way you might think (Revelation 16:10-14)

What Governs this world?

The lust of the flesh, eyes, and pride of life (1 John 2:15-17)
Ungodliness and worldly lusts (Titus 2:12)

Unbridled lust brings corruption (2 Peter 1:4)
Satan and his angels (more on this shortly)

YET God loved the world equal to his love for his only begotten Son (John 17:23).

The Two Ends of the World in Scripture

The Bible says we are in the ends of the world (1 Corinthians 10:11).

Satan had dominion over the earth a long time ago (Genesis 1:1-1:2) but lost it because of his sin (Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28). But he savors the things that be of men (Matthew 16:23) (the kingdom has been given to men now) so he immediately sought to ruin Adam and Eve by getting them to question, doubt, and rebel against the word of God. He was successful, and in so doing, dominion was transferred back to Satan (Ephesians 2:2-3, Luke 4:6-8). So then cometh Jesus to restore that which he took not away (Psalm 69:4). He took back from Satan the keys of hell and of death, and took back the spiritual dominion Satan had over men, and will surely and very soon take back the physical dominion that Satan has over men.

1. At Calvary (Hebrews 9:24-26)

On the cross, Jesus judged this world (Satan's world, Satan's power, Satan's dominion) – John 12:31 and bruised the serpent's head while the serpent merely bruised his heel (Genesis 3:15).

What order or system of power ended on this day?

1) The spiritual dominion Satan had over man.

All of us before salvation were children of Satan and therefore under his power.
- See John 8:44, Ephesians 2:2-3, Genesis 5:1-3, Colossians 1:12-13, Acts 26:18.

At salvation we received the Spirit of God, not the spirit of the world (1 Corinthians 2:12).

2) Satan's power over death and hell (Hebrews 2:14-15, Revelation 1:17-18)

That is why when Jesus rose from the dead he said all power is given unto me (Matthew 28:18).

2. At the Day of the LORD (Matthew 13:39)

What order or system of power will end on this day?

1) The physical dominion Satan has over man.

Jesus said NOW by kingdom is not from here, but it will be one day (John 18:33-36)

Right now, Satan runs this world, he is the prince and power of the air (Ephesians 2:2, 2 Corinthians 4:4, John 14:30, Luke 4:6-8).

The Principalities and Powers and Spiritual Wickedness in High Places rule with Satan now - Ephesians 6:12, Colossians 2:13-15

But soon and very soon Christ will come back and establish his holy government and rule in the midst of his enemies (Isaiah 9:6-7, Psalm 110, Daniel 7:25-28)

The New World Order, The Reestablishment of the Kingdom of Heaven on the Throne of David

JESUS HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD! (John 16:33)

Isaiah 45:17, Ephesians 3:21, Ephesians 1:21 – World without end
We have tasted of the powers of the world to come (Hebrews 6:4-6).

The LORD will come and rule in righteousness over the whole world and his kingdom will never pass away, it continues for ever and ever and ever!

Concluding Thoughts for the Christian:

Some Christians don't bear fruit because they care for the world too much (Mathew 13:22)
Demas loved this present evil world more than the world to come, so he backslid (2 Timothy 4:10).

In light of what the world is and what God thinks of it, and what God plans on doing with it, we should not love the world and be like the world. He has saved us from it and out of it, and made us new. Now lets shine as lights in this dark world and compel the world to repent and believe on Christ.