

Kingdom Report

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It's A Wonderful World

I am going to make a case for you which will get a strong resistance from a lot of evangelicals. It is this: Over time world conditions for human flourishing is dramatically improving and this is an important part of God's prophetic plan for the ages.

As part of the "end time" eschatology pervasive in our evangelical churches there is a necessity to find how bad things are in the world in order to make a case of the soon return of Jesus Christ. This is key to the narrative of "end times, rapture, seven year Great Tribulation, Antichrist and Armageddon". An improving earth and global conditions can only improve in the coming Millennium. Before that it is bad news all the time.

I want to show you some important data points across a vast number of metrics that show this is not true. World circumstances have gotten dramatically better over time. Because the Kingdom of God has in fact come 2000 years ago and through time it has been changing the world for good for 2000 years.

The eschatology mistake that evangelicals make is to assume that Satan is in charge of planet earth and therefore things cannot be getting better, we must wait until Jesus returns when He will be in charge of planetary affairs. The second great mistake they make and not doing proper historical study along with Bible study is to see that all the prophecies of Matthew 24, end times, Great Tribulation, Antichrist have all been already fulfilled.

So how does a flourishing improving earth form part of the God's prophetic plan for mankind?

I repeat : God has given us 2 Great Commissions....

- 1) The Genesis 1:26-28 to subdue the earth and make it productive for growing families and populations.
- 2) The Matthew 28 : 19-20 Go into all the world and preach the gospel and disciple all nations.

Here is my take.....

The church has been phenomenally successful in a world wide revival and church planting making the Christian faith the world leading faith confession. Likewise as the Lord has been blessing the Matthew 28 world effort so has He also blessed the Genesis 1:26-28 Dominion Mandate. The world is being subdued in order to produce wealth and health and knowledge for all mankind to grow into billions.

Here are the challenges for the Church:

We do the Matthew 28 Commission through faith and power of the Holy Spirit.
We do the Genesis 1 Commission through God's gift of creative reason.
The first operates in the Spirit realm through the power of "Rhyma".
The second operates through understanding the laws of Logos by which Jesus the Logos of God created the world. They require study, wisdom and work.

Whereas only the church can and is responsible for preaching the gospel of the Kingdom to all the world....God has given all mankind the responsibility of fulfilling the great commission of Genesis 1:26-28

My problem with our current church vision is that we have only really concentrated on Matthew 28 but it is time for us as a people of God to get involved seriously in the Genesis dominion mandate to create a better world.

But always remember that as Sovereign the Lord can choose to work through anyone to fulfill His purposes and we must acknowledge that there have been great advancements in world growth through some very unlikely people. And we can enjoy the fruits thereof.

What I want to emphasize in this week's blog is to emphasize is that we need to acknowledge and rejoice that God loves the world and the poor of the world and the Lord is actively working to redeem this world from its fallen state because Genesis 1:31 "And God saw the world he had made and behold it was very good".

We need to be positive about the world God has created and work with the Lord to make it a wonderful productive place for the blessing and prosperity of all who live here while at the same time ensuring we care properly for God's earth for future generations to prosper and enjoy.

I acknowledge that there are a lot of bad things happening in the world. And we have a job to do of many things still left undone. But in the meantime let's rejoice in some of the things going right.....

Healthcare and Life Expectancy

One of the most remarkable improvements in the world has been in the field of healthcare and its impact on life expectancy. Global life expectancy has increased dramatically, rising from an average of 31 years in 1900 to over 72 years in 2019. This significant increase can be attributed to several factors, including: **Advancements in medical science:** The development of vaccines, antibiotics, and other medical treatments has greatly reduced mortality rates from infectious diseases. **Improved sanitation and hygiene:** Access to clean water and better sanitation practices has significantly reduced the spread of waterborne diseases.

Better nutrition: Increased food production and distribution have led to improved nutrition in many parts of the world, contributing to better overall health. The world is producing large surpluses of grain. Through governance reforms and technology application. Where Russia under communism and China under cultural revolution were food starved and food importers:

China in the last three annual harvests produced 659 million mt of grains harvests and Russia produced 156 million mt of grains and the worlds largest exporter of wheat.

Education and Literacy

Education has seen remarkable progress globally, with literacy rates rising significantly over the past century. In 1820, only 12% of the world's population could read and write. Today, that figure stands at over 86%. This improvement in education has had far-reaching effects: **Economic growth:** A more educated workforce has contributed to increased productivity and economic development in many countries. **Gender equality:** The gap in education between males and females has narrowed considerably, promoting greater gender equality in many societies. **Technological advancement:** Higher education levels have fueled innovation and technological progress, leading to further improvements in various aspects of life.

Poverty Reduction

Despite ongoing challenges, the world has made significant strides in reducing extreme poverty. The proportion of people living in extreme poverty (defined as living on less than \$1.90 per day) has decreased from 36% in 1990 to 10% in 2015. This reduction in poverty has been driven by:

Economic growth: Many developing countries have experienced rapid economic growth, lifting millions out of poverty.

Global initiatives: International efforts, such as the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, have focused attention and resources on poverty reduction.

Technological advancements: Innovations in agriculture, communication, and finance have created new opportunities for economic advancement in developing regions.

Technological Progress

The rapid pace of technological advancement has transformed nearly every aspect of human life. Some key areas of improvement include:

Communication: The internet and mobile technologies have revolutionized how people connect and share information globally.

Transportation: Faster and more efficient modes of transportation have made the world more accessible and interconnected.

Energy: Advancements in renewable energy technologies are helping to address climate change and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Environmental Awareness and Conservation

While environmental challenges persist, there has been a significant increase in awareness and action regarding environmental issues:

Protected areas: The amount of land and sea designated as protected areas has increased substantially, helping to preserve biodiversity.

Renewable energy adoption: Many countries are transitioning to cleaner energy sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

International cooperation: Global agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, demonstrate a growing commitment to addressing environmental challenges collectively.

Health and Child Mortality

Child mortality has seen one of the most dramatic improvements in human history. The global under-5 mortality rate has declined by 51% since 2000, with the annual number of under-five deaths dropping to 4.9 million in 2022. . This represents millions of young lives saved through improved healthcare, nutrition, and living conditions.

Disease Control and Healthcare

Significant progress has been made in controlling infectious diseases. Vaccination programs have led to the eradication of smallpox and substantial reductions in polio and measles, saving 2-3 million lives annually. Access to HIV/AIDS treatment has expanded dramatically, with approximately 15 million people receiving antiretroviral therapy globally

Sanitation and Infrastructure

Basic sanitation facilities access has increased by over 30% globally since 2000, significantly reducing waterborne diseases.. This improvement in infrastructure has had far-reaching effects on public health and quality of life.

Democracy and Governance

As of 2023, 74 out of 167 countries and territories are classified as democracies. While the global democracy index shows some recent challenges, 45.3% of the world's population lives in some form of democracy. The number of "full democracies" stands at 24 countries, with an additional 50 countries classified as "flawed democracies".

Crime

Despite perceptions to the contrary, many forms of crime have decreased in recent decades: The global homicide rate fell from 7.4 per 100,000 people in 1990 to 5.8 per 100,000 in 2015. In the United States, violent crime rates declined by 51% between 1993 and 2018.

In conclusion, while the world still faces numerous challenges, it is undeniable that significant improvements have been made in various aspects of human life. From healthcare and education to poverty reduction and technological advancements, these positive changes have contributed to a better quality of life for millions of people around the globe. As we continue to address ongoing issues and emerging challenges, it is important to recognize and build upon the progress that has been made.