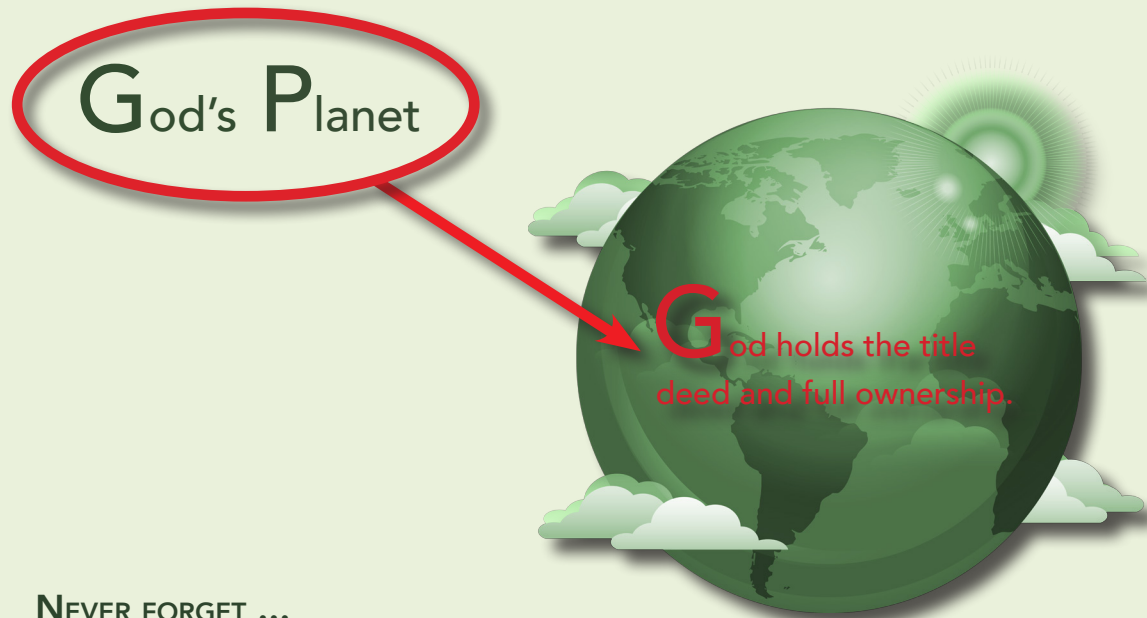


In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.



NEVER FORGET ...

- This is God's planet ...
- Earth is his creation, his handiwork, the work of his hands ...

SO WOULD HE EVER ...

- Give up, or surrender the planet to the devil?
- Sign the title deed of the universe over to the prince of darkness?
- Let his "very good" craftsmanship completely fall into the hands of the rebel, the usurper, the deceiver?

NOT GOING TO HAPPEN ...

- In Revelation we see God taking back his planet and providing hope to the very end for those who will give him the glory.

- However, the eternal gospel of v. 6 must be understood in light of v. 7. The urgency of this final appeal of the eternal gospel is based on the need for men to fear God and give him the glory, and that is particularly true because the hour of God's judgment has come. Men are called upon to worship him who is the Creator God. **There is a sense in which Genesis 1:1 is the most important verse in the Bible. The simple statement, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," establishes not merely the origin of all things but as such establishes both the ownership and the purposes of him who is the Creator.** If that verse is unreliable and does not represent the truth about human origins, then all moral and spiritual mandates are rendered tentative at best and are little more than personal (existentialism) or community (postmodernism) ethic and spirituality. If, on the other hand, God is the Creator and owner of all that exists, then the only appropriate response of any human is to worship God, fear him, and give him glory. [Patterson, P. (2012). *Revelation*. (E. R. Clendenen, Ed.) (Vol. 39, pp. 290–291). Nashville, TN: B&H.]
- The judgments already revealed in the opening of the seven-sealed scroll and the sounding of the seven trumpets will soon be followed by the outpouring of the bowls of God's wrath. Judgment is at hand, but even in judgment God is merciful and loving; and this fact is poignantly portrayed in the angel's crossing the heavens once again with the eternal gospel for all who live on the earth. [Ibid.]

STRONG DELUSION ...

(2 Thessalonians 2:1–12 ESV)

- **Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him,** we ask you, brothers, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by a spirit or a spoken word, or a letter seeming to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.
- **Let no one deceive you in any way.** For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God.
- Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And you know what is restraining him now so that he may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way. **And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.**
- The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because **they refused to love the truth and so be saved.**
- **Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.**