

World

Definitions

-Note the variety of ways we use the word

-What is constant about each of these is we think of the world as man knows and sees it.

The Bible uses the word with same variety of definitions, but from different perspective **Psalm 24:1**

The Order of Creation

1. Genesis 1 emphasizes that the world began in such a way that God by His Spirit and Word brought order out of chaos. Can you give examples of God's creative ordering?
2. God has created the boundaries for mankind as well as for oceans (Ps. 104:9; Acts 17:26)
3. The WORLD as created is naturally (good ; evil). Which? Prove your answer.
4. The WORLD was not intended to be man's home. True / False ? (Genesis 1:28; 2:15; Psalm 8)

The Disorder of Rebellion

1. Once sin entered the world, the entire 'kosmos' or order of creation was infected and affected.
 - a. The world of creatures—they now groan and long for deliverance from decay (Rom 8:21)
 - b. Man's work in the world is cursed and chaotic (Gen. 3:17-19)
 - c. The world of humanity is polluted and totally depraved (Genesis 4; Romans 1:26-31)
2. The New Testament often uses the word 'world' to describe fallen mankind, or even to describe the world of unbelievers, in contrast with those who are children of God, children of light, rather than in the world of darkness. The Apostle John uses this special meaning for "world" in the four books of the Bible he authored.
 - a. The 'world' in this sense is ruled by three evil influences (1 John 2:15)
 - b. When we understand world as the spirit of this passing sinful age, what should the Christian's relationship be with the world? (James 4:4)
 - c. What is the role of Satan in this world of sinful humanity? (John 12:31) For the Christian, what role does Satan have over us? (Heb. 2:14 ff.)

The New Order of Redemption

1. "World" in John's writings never means "every single person." It refers to quality, not quantity. It is a moral term, not a statistic. John 3:16, thus, does not teach that Jesus needed enough love for every human, but He needed a kind of love that could die for a rebellious people.
 - a. In other words, in the writings of John "world" means bad people everywhere. Whether those bad people are future elect or not depends on other things in the specific context.
2. Because of Redemption, Christians are not OF the world, but remain IN it, to bear witness TO it. (John 17:14-18)
3. In this new order, the Christian is to have compassion on the world, understanding we have a responsibility not to be like the world, but to shine Jesus' light in the world (Phil. 2:15-16)

The Reordering of Chaos

1. God will start over with the world, both the physical and spiritual world. READ 2 Peter 3:10-18 slowly, with faith! This is our glorious future, which calls us to diligence in the present, trusting in the patience of God Who will cause us to grow in the grace of Christ.