

THE REIGN OF JUSTICE

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for moral and social uplift. Published monthly

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Who owns the Earth?

TO become the owner of something is the ambition of every human being. Many people, when they marry and wish to set up a family, decide to put money aside until they can buy a house, a patch of land etc., to have nothing to worry about for the future, and to provide as much prosperity and happiness for their children as they can. On those things, they found all their hopes, and work for their ends with great perseverance. However, even when their hopes are realised after long periods of effort, there are always dark clouds on the horizon, and in many cases, bitter disappointment awaits them. In all cases, death comes without remission to cause grievous partings and empty places in the home. Unavoidably, man has to depart one day, as everyone had to do. For that reason, to imagine that one is the owner of anything at all is self-delusion, and to lead anyone into that belief is to make a fool of him, as time will show.

When you compare the rival claims of a property and of its owner, you discover that the owner is always the loser, because, while the property stays, the owner disappears. Yet when he acquired his property, there were deeds established, and they were signed, witnessed, stamped and recorded. But what use is all that when the hand that signed and that paid for the land or for the house, has become motionless, and when the eyes have lost their shine, and the person himself has become the victim of death, the Grim Reaper? Well may one then say: "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity."

A profound truth

That of which mankind is totally unaware is that in reality, the real and sole owner of the Earth is the Almighty, Whom it does not know, and Whose very existence some people even deny. People who call themselves Christian know Him no better than the others do, for if they did, they would do as his Son teaches, and they would agree. This is what our dear Saviour says: "By this, everyone will know that you are my Disciples, if you love each other." Instead of which, there is quarrelling, dissension, and wars of every kind, even religious wars, in the course of which, men fight one another bitterly. All that abundantly proves that all those people know neither the Lord God nor his Son.

To his Disciples, our Lord Jesus said: "Unless you change and become like little children, you shall not

enter the Kingdom of Heaven." He still says so today. So, the question is to acquire the dispositions of a true child of God. That is the programme set for everyone. It is a matter of loving God above all and one's neighbour as oneself.

In the Beatitudes, our dear Saviour says: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth." That is an explicit promise given by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. The various Christian denominations — called Catholic and Protestant, and all their branches — promise everybody Heaven, Hell or Purgatory. Our Lord Jesus, on the contrary, teaches that the dead go into the grave, from which they shall return at the "Resurrection of the dead". Nominal Christians have no faith at all in Christ's promises. They take them only for their personal advantage, picking out a few Bible texts to set them up as doctrines.

The immutable law by which the Universe is regulated, demonstrates that one can only reap what one has sown. Now, mankind sow selfishness but expect that they are going to reap something good, which will be of advantage and give every satisfaction. They do not know that selfishness is poisonous seed, whose fruit is disappointment. That profound truth becomes demonstrative in practice for everyone in his own time: "The wages of sin is death." It awaits one and all, after a more-or-less long series of pains, troubles and tears. Whether or not one has been reputed as a named owner, today or tomorrow, one will have to go down six feet below ground, or be placed in a funeral urn in the form of ashes.

The Son of God came to Earth, bringing the light. That light is divine love displayed in lovingkindness, goodness, faithfulness, patience and mercy. Divine love never turns sour, it is always sweet. It appeared in its most sublime expression in our dear Saviour who came to lay down his life to save mankind. He then called some Disciples who wish to follow in his footsteps, in their turn, laying down their lives as a ransom for sinners, they themselves being justified by the blood of Christ. Without that power lending them assistance, they would naturally not be able to do a thing. Being thus justified and set afresh on the road to life, they are invited to love like their Master, to bless those who curse them, to pray for those who persecute them, and to not reclaim their belongings when they have been robbed, since they give up everything, so that they may

pay the Ransom of men with their Master and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The Little Flock, the organised members of Christ with Jesus as its Head, is formed during the Gospel Age. It stands outside the limits of every religious sect, be it Catholic, Protestant or anything else, great or small. The world has never known it till today. It was a hidden mystery. That is shown in Revelation, in which, of the whole Christ, only the Head is visible.

The Body is described as being covered by a long robe, which hides it completely. The feet, on the contrary, which stand for the last members of the Body of Christ, are visible because they have a very special mission to accomplish, that is to introduce the Kingdom of God on Earth. They have to appear as the Revealing of the Sons of God, as we are told by the Apostle Paul. That will be a visible demonstration of great power.

As a matter of fact, a very particular message is delivered at that time, so that those who fear the Lord and wish to serve Him, might understand what is taking place before their eyes, namely, the introduction of the Reign of justice, of peace and of happiness on Earth. That message imparts knowledge of the Universal Law. It is addressed to all humanity, and delivered by God's Messenger, as Malachi the Prophet foretold. It also gives the Constitution of the Kingdom of God on Earth. The Universal Law is to govern all people who make an alliance with the Almighty, an alliance sealed by the blood of Christ. The people who come into contact with the Almighty through that alliance by the Law and the Constitution of the Kingdom of God, are regarded as sons to be trained by the divine Law. They are ruled by Christ: Head and Body.

Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the Earth

The Little Flock lay down their lives as a Ransom with their Master. Therefore, at the Resurrection, they cannot receive any human life again. That is why, in return, they receive life on the heavenly plane. Symbolically, it is described as the New Jerusalem. That Little Flock is trained during the Gospel Age, which has now reached its close. The last members of the Body of Christ are still in the flesh on Earth. They have to introduce the Kingdom of God and to call up the Host of the Lord, who are meek and among those mentioned above who will inherit the Earth. That Host is made up of people who, in disciplining their hearts with obedience to the Universal Law, receive from the Lord the guarantee that they are going to be among those who will inherit the Earth. They are going to be the owners.

Good is stronger than evil

WHAT is this, Stephen? You have the audacity to come home late! I won't have it, do you hear me? Do not let it happen again! This will be the first and the last time!"

Held up on his way home by a road accident, and grieved by the harshness of his father's words and the wrathful look with which he is greeted, Stephen takes his place at the table without a word of self-justification. He knows it would be useless. After a long prayer by his father, in the course of which the lad's fault is brought up, the meal goes forward in a heavy and painful atmosphere.

Yet the lad's parents are honest people, but they are afflicted with great religious fanaticism which weighs heavily on Stephen's heart, for he is treated with a severity that sickens him. At the least fault or omission,

his father boxes his ears most brutally. Thus, he lives in constant fear.

Mother is quite gentle and kind by nature, but is unable to stand up to father's fanatical and extreme religious strictness. She is forbidden to show affection or mercy to Stephen. Hard-line discipline reigns in the house.

Stephen has never had any real affection from his parents. That makes him suffer a great deal, for he is naturally friendly and affectionate. He thinks a lot and cannot help making some comparisons in his heart. For instance, every evening, father reads several verses out of the Bible, in which the love of God and the kindness of the Lord Jesus, are highlighted. But father takes no notice of that. He only speaks about the punishment, vengeance and everlasting torments that await those who do not strictly follow the religious ritual he imposes on his family.

So, Stephen is very unhappy indeed. He is looking forward to the time when he will be apprenticed, when he will be able to leave that painful atmosphere. When the time comes, his father does not ask him what trade he would like to learn. He places his son with one of his religious friends, who is as narrow-minded as he himself is. So, poor Stephen again finds himself in the same unhappy atmosphere. That lasts a good while. But one day, his employer has to take to his bed, and after several months, he is carried off by a relentless disease. Circumstances rule that it is the brother of the deceased who takes over the business.

Stephen dares not hope that things will be any better, for he is sure that the boss's brother will be just like him. However, the young apprentice soon perceives that that is not the case. His new boss is much more friendly and approachable. He readily chats with his workmen and always has a kind word

for everyone. So, Stephen begins to breathe much more easily.

For his part, after a while, his employer perceives that Stephen is well disposed and displays real ability and application at his work. He is quite drawn to his apprentice. He observes him and readily enters into conversation with him, which does Stephen a deal of good. The kindness of his employer touches his heart deeply. He feels at ease in his company, glad to be able to give expression to the affectionate and devoted sentiments that he feels the need of communicating to those around him.

One day, the new employer calls him into his office. He gives him a paper and invites him to read it attentively and, after a while, to give him his impressions of it. It is a *Monitor of the Reign of Justice*. Stephen thinks to himself: "It can only be something good, since it comes from my employer." Indeed, he is deeply touched by the contents of the paper.

This is how the matter will be settled: the Son of God (our dear Saviour) and the New Jerusalem (also called the Little Flock, the Church, and the Bride of the Lamb), in association together, are God's heirs, as shown in the Bible. So, they have the authority to bestow the Earth on the meek, that is to say, on the people capable of behaving in a manner worthy of terrestrial sons of God.

The Host of the Lord is actually coming forward. So far, they constitute a body of several thousand people. That is just the beginning until millions and hundreds of millions fall into line. The Bible shows that the Host of the Lord does not fight with lethal weapons, but with the truth. It will make justice, gentleness, love and right, triumph.

Since the time has come for that, everyone can now come forward to become a member of that Army and to inherit the Earth. For that purpose, one has to depart from the way of selfishness and to follow that of altruism. In that way, one ceases to be a slave and becomes a son of God, able to inherit the divine promises.

Mankind at present is in a very sorry state. People build houses but others live in them. They plant vines but others eat their fruit. They have children, only to see them perish. All such unnatural things are going to come to an end forever with the introduction of the Reign of Justice on Earth. That Reign started with a spark of faith which subsequently took the form of light. That light is growing brighter and will become the dazzling "sun of righteousness" which lights the whole Earth with its splendid and beneficial brightness, bringing deliverance in its rays.

When the prisoners of death return into the Kingdom of God through the Resurrection, they will find very different conditions on Earth to those existing today. They will be initiated into the Universal Law, and as they put it into practice, they will be able to become part of the meek and of the New Earth, heirs to the divine promises.

The formation of the Little Flock, of the New Heaven, has been going on all through the period of the Gospel Age, owing to the sacrifice of true Disciples under the direction of our dear Saviour. We have now come to the close of that period, and that is why the Host of the Lord is being called up. It must become part of the New Earth where justice dwells. That New Earth is already beginning to make its appearance in our small Test Stations of the Reign of Justice. The power of the Spirit of God is making itself felt on the people who dwell there, in the measure in which they make efforts to faithfully live up to the Law.

At present, these are only small beginnings, but they will one day become worldwide. The Earth then will become the New Earth where justice dwells. The results will be that the meek will inherit the Earth, because, as sons of God, they will have acquired the same dispositions as God Himself. They will have become his children and consequently his heirs.

The truth about the Big Bang

From the Swiss French-language weekly *Migros Magazine* No. 36 from the 3rd of September 2018, we quote the following article that answers this question from 10-year-old Leonard:

What was before the Big Bang?

The question of what was before Big Bang, is frequently asked. Astronomers have long tried to answer it with varying success.

Some say that the universe came from a void, from nothing, and that this question makes no sense, because everything is defined since the birth of the universe.

There is no "before", because time was born with the universe. It is like asking what is north of the North Pole.

It is also possible that the universe has always existed, that it beats like a pulse and that we are in an expansion phase (of which we are also convinced).

Others imagine that there are several universes and that we are in one of them or that our universe might be contained within another universe.

The question of the beginning, however, remains an unsolved problem. Most astronomers say that our scientific theoretical knowledge has not progressed enough to explain this birth.

Finally, believers claim that God created the universe, to which non-believers answer that this is a very simplified answer and that science will eventually find an explanation. But I would like you to think about this question: "If God created the universe, why did He do it 13.8 billion years ago, and what did He do before?"

Little Leonard's question is very interesting and merits our complete attention. "What was before the Big Bang?" We will answer that question with another question: "Was there a Big Bang?" Can we imagine that the universe is the product of an explosion? Because the Big Bang is defined by scholars as a type of rapid expansion of dense and hot initial matter that progressively gave birth to the universe as we know it. Has anyone ever seen an organized entity like the universe — with stars and planets that revolve around them, and with natural satellites (moons) that orbit the planets — and has anyone ever seen, as we would say, such an interaction come from chaos that was caused by an explosion?

That is the basis of all the theories from the scholars from all institutions, who believe that the universe came from nothing. Can something come from nothing without the intervention of a Creator? Others say that the universe always existed, which means that something could exist for ever without being maintained by a source of life. Other views are also mentioned, and the author finally suggests the creation of the universe by God. He apparently does not share that theory, but it is the only right one.

In fact, the universe did not always exist. It is not the product of a Big Bang, and it did not come from nothing. Only God has always existed. The question of why He created it 13.8 billion years ago and what He did before that, cannot be answered by a human being. It is though one wants to reduce God to the image of a human being.

Holy Scripture teaches us that Almighty God created the universe. But the work of Creation began long before the appearance of the universe. God's Word tells us that the first and only creature that the Almighty Himself created was his beloved Son, the Logos. The creation of everything else was entrusted to him. Firstly, the heavenly beings of a countless number. Then, the universe appeared with all its stars, planets, natural satellites and other bodies of infinite quantity. Finally, the living beings on the Earth's surface: plants, animals and humans. All those numerous and various creations are the work of God by means of the Logos and took place over so many years that the human brain cannot comprehend them. As we see, time is not limited by the universe, because other events preceded Creation.

The universe was therefore created by the Logos according to the will of God, his Father Who is Love. And he created everything out of love. All heavenly beings and humans on Earth, were created solely to enable the Almighty to pour out his love, which is also infinite, on them. He subjected all these creatures and creations to the Universal Law, which says that every being and thing in the entire universe exist for the good of each other. For the creations without a will of their own, the Universal Law is automatically observed. But human beings, who have a personal will, also have a free choice and should therefore freely observe this

Law. We know that that was not done and that sin is precisely the transgression of the Universal Law.

From the above mentioned, we also understand that the answer to that question cannot be given by scientists, but only by a person of faith. In fact, it was reserved for the last Messenger of our age to bring us the knowledge of God's plan, which foresees the Redemption of humankind by the Ransom paid by our dear Saviour. The result of that work of Redemption, will be the Restoration of All Things and the establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth, in which humankind will regain its destiny: eternal life.

Zoological curiosity

Reported by Trémolin in the French magazine *Point de Vue et Images du Monde*, No. 2002, the following bird story does not lack originality:

The hornbill's widow

I was wandering through the Congolese forest [in Africa] with a zoologist friend who was praising the marital qualities of the male hornbill. This bird is as large as a turkey and has a fantastic beak.

"He is the best husband in the world!" he said. "Just think, he walls his wife into the hollow of an old tree as soon as she settles there to lay her eggs, which is the habit of this species."

"He walls her in? That's scandalous!"

"That's amazing! At the time when she lays and incubates her eggs, she completely moults. She uses all her feathers to build the nest in which the chicks will hatch from her eggs. If he were to let her run around in the forest, she would die in a few hours."

"But what does this 'prisoner' eat?"

"Her husband provides everything. The wall — which is made of mud, droppings and small debris, and which he built to seal her in — has a window where his wife can poke her beak through. During the entire incubation, he feeds her with astounding heroism. We have calculated that he brings her a total of 24,000 nuts during this period."

My friend handed me a nut. As I was about to eat it, he stopped me:

"Don't try it! It's full of strychnine."

"Not only does he imprison her, he also poisons her? Strange husband!"

"You're wrong again. A hornbill can digest a dose that would kill an ox."

I was thinking about this strange bird while we were walking under some trees. Suddenly, my friend stopped:

"Look at this trunk. Can you see the huge beak coming out of it? It is a female waiting for her lunch."

The beak was impressive, but it nevertheless seemed dissatisfied. Its upper and lower mandibles were clapping together, which means that it was hungry. We stood and watched for an hour, but the beak kept clapping because no male had come to bring the expected meal.

"This female's husband seems very uncaring," I said.

My friend looked a bit troubled: "In this forest, there are monkeys and snakes that like to hunt hornbills."

"What happens if the husband dies? Does his mate starve to death in her prison?"

"Let's wait and see," said my friend.

Three hours later, we were still here. The prisoner was undoubtedly widowed... As we were going back to my friend's home, we saw several young male hornbills walking around under some trees.

"They're single," said the zoologist. "They're too young to mate, but they might get her out of trouble."

We went back to the tree where the female was still clapping her beak. Well, I saw an incredible scene: one of those young hornbills went to the "tree-trunk prison", saw the clapping beak, looked around for a moment, and then brought some nuts to the widow.

"She's saved!" said the zoologist triumphantly. "That

He thinks: "Now I can understand why my boss is so kind! It is because he reads those magnificent things which make such splendid impressions and encourage one to do good and to be kind. And what a sublime God is described there! What a difference between Him and the one preached and served by my poor parents! They know only a god who punishes and wreaks vengeance. So inevitably, they do as he does, thinking they are doing well. But that paper tells of a God Who is good beyond all imagination, Who does not scold, Who does not punish, Who does nothing but good and Who takes infinite compassion on those who are unfortunate. I would like to subscribe to that paper."

The next time he sees his employer, he is asked, with great interest, what he thinks of *The Monitor*.

Emboldened by the particularly kind manner of his employer, the young man unbosoms himself, relating his childhood life, his woes,

his difficulties, and the dislike he feels for everything religious, because of the impressions received at home.

"But then," he says, "the God described in your paper, I feel I could love with all my soul. May I subscribe to it?"

Immensely glad about the sentiments of his apprentice, Stephen's employer speaks to him about God's plan, about the divine programme, the wonderful prospect of the Resurrection and of the Restoration of All Things on Earth, of Paradise which is to be restored. Stephen takes it all in with overflowing joy.

"Since your heart is so wide open to these magnificent truths," his employer goes on, "I must invite you to come with me to the meetings held in this town by the people who are spreading this precious message. As for me, I am only a beginner in the knowledge of the divine programme, and cannot tell you much about it. But at these meetings, you will find

all you need to develop in the knowledge and in the practice of these sublime truths. Every Sunday, we have a meeting in the morning and one in the afternoon, and another on Thursday evenings. You may come and call for me, and we will go there together."

Stephen realises that a new way is opening to him. He catches glimpses of infinitely wonderful things to gladden his heart. But there is, besides, an immense problem arising for him. He goes home every evening, and his father makes him go with him and with mother to the meetings he attends. Father will not tolerate his spending his evenings outside his home. So, the situation is becoming very difficult. But he is quite determined to follow the ideal of the Kingdom of God. He is looking forward, with great gladness, to knowing those wonderful friends of whom his employer has told him, and to attend one of their meetings.

Thus, on Thursday evening, he goes with

his employer. There, his heart expands completely. He truly feels he has found the way to happiness. He spends an unforgettable evening with the Divine Family. But afterwards comes the painful moment when he must face his father's pronounced displeasure. However, he feels he has the power to face the situation, having asked his new friends to sustain him with their prayers.

His heart is beating hard when he gets home. His father receives him with bitter reproaches. The young man allows the storm to blow over his head. Then, as soon as he can get a word in, he tries to explain what he feels about *The Monitor*.

At sight of the paper, his father leaps up and says: "Either you destroy that poisonous literature at once, or you leave this house immediately, never to set foot in it again. That is my last word."

Stephen tries to protest, but his father is furious and shows him the door with a

bachelor will feed her until she can come out with her new feathers and her chicks. And he has settled in. She will become the faithful wife of the one who prevented her from starving... What do you think of that?"

I just felt that nature is wise, but that it sometimes has strange ways.

Strange habits indeed of this bird with its long and powerful beak and its way of nesting.

That "walling in" — in which only a window remains for the prisoner's ventilation and for her to pass her beak through — seems odd at first glance, but is then justified by understanding that she completely loses her feathers, which then becomes part of the cosy nest for the chicks to hatch in... A featherless bird that is therefore unable to fly and that wanders around in nature, would not be a pretty sight. It would also be easy prey for carnivores and humans. Hidden in her nest, the female can quietly fulfil her role, protected from the cold and the bad weather.

One can only marvel at the male's unflagging zeal to meet his mate's food needs throughout the incubation period and her care of the young chicks. He brings her 24,000 shelled nuts! An almost unbelievable figure! And what seems even more incredible is the amount of strychnine consumed! A strong poison for humans and mammals in general, but the ideal food for these hornbills, so named because they have a rhinoceros-like horn on the top of their beak.

The specific case highlighted above, is the possible death of the male, as the victim of an animal attack during his intense activity. It will take a while before a young male hornbill responds to his hungry fellow creature. That time that will undoubtedly convince him that she really is a "widow" and that he needs to act now to resupply her and her brood. The hornbills' habits seem odd, but together with those of other animal species, they all speak to us about the infinitely varied wisdom that governs life in all its many forms. A wisdom that often shames our own, which has degenerated through selfishness and all its derivatives.

What will future humans be?

The modern world in which we live produces new technologies every day, and those people who invent them certainly do not lack imagination. The following article appeared in the French online newspaper *Futura* on the 21st of July 2019:

"Neuralink", the brain-machine interface (BMI) by Elon Musk, is ready to be connected!

The brain implant developed by Elon Musk's company, which has already been successfully tested on monkeys, will eventually allow paralyzed people to control a computer with their brains. The recruitment of human test subjects has been launched with the first tests planned in 2020.

Elon Musk, the famous manufacturer of the Tesla electric car, presented this brand-new technology live on YouTube, created by his startup company Neuralink, which intends to enable the human brain to interact directly with computers. This brain implant, which has not yet been tested on humans, should allow paralyzed people to control a computer.

The final envisaged system would be in the form of an invisible implant under the skin, composed of one or more electronic chips linked to many electronic threads connected to the brain. An external box would be placed behind the ear and would be connected wirelessly to the implant and then communicate wirelessly to another device, such as a smartphone.

Threads, ten times thinner than a human hair

The first brain implant on a paralyzed person took place in 2006 on Matthew Nagle, who was then able to play the game Pong. That technology used is called Brain-

Gate. It has since allowed other feats, such as robotic arm control. Neuralink researchers have managed to create a much more advanced implant than current technologies.

The first advance is at the level of the threads that are implanted. They are made of a very flexible polymer [plastic], which will allow them to move with the natural movements of the brain, unlike the rigid needles used by BrainGate technology. The threads are only 4 to 6 microns (micrometers, μm) thick, which is 10 times thinner than a human hair. Each thread can hold 32 electrodes to create a system of up to 3,072 electrodes per matrix, distributed over 96 threads.

A robotic implantation system

The disadvantage of flexible threads is the difficulty of implanting them in the brain. The second advance of Neuralink is a machine that automatically implants them at a speed of 6 threads per minute, while avoiding damage to blood vessels. Researchers hope to one day use lasers to create much finer holes.

Currently, researchers are working on a prototype, mainly on rats, that works wirelessly with a USB-C port. The final product, called the "N1 Sensor", should transmit the data wirelessly. The researchers plan to implant 4 sensors: 3 in the motor area of the brain, and 1 in the sensory area.

A human-machine symbiosis [a mutually beneficial relationship] one day?

The CEO said that even in the best scenario, humans will be overwhelmed by Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the future, and that this technology will merge with AI. In the meantime, researchers have more concrete goals, such as allowing paralyzed people to write text at 40 words per minute.

Elon Musk said his presentation was not just an announcement. "The main reason for doing this presentation is recruiting," he said, prompting people to apply for a job at Neuralink. The company hopes to have authorization to conduct human trials before the end of 2020. Meanwhile, Elon Musk surprised his own researchers by announcing that a monkey had already managed to control a computer, a result they had not planned to address in this presentation.

One must certainly be able to present good reasons, apart from humanitarian reasons, to accept such a project and to obtain the authorization required for such tests on humans... Some people, who certainly are capable, have their own view of the future, which they would like to convey to all society. A society that is unfortunately all-too ready to accept that which brings danger, and to mostly reject that which is wise, natural and in harmony with the true needs of humankind.

The passionate followers of technology only see the world from their point of view and continue in their unbridled race of "progress". Is humanity therefore happier? When we consider the current situations in many countries on Earth, we cannot answer with "yes". We rather see that technological progress in recent years — in the form of computers, tablets and smart phones — has been a support for very bad things, disputes, slander, treason, violence and many forms of temptation. That leads to disunity, to separation and often to addiction, which are the source of numerous mental disturbances, and which lead many young people to depression, confusion and even to suicide. That applies to those who, in social networks, are the object of humiliations or other pernicious influences.

Until now, in the history of humanity, there has been no comparably quicker decline of the human race observed, and we will certainly experience it in the near future. Through the practice and the use of unnatural things, humankind is weakening itself mentally and physically. And we have not spoken about the spiritual aspect... Apart from the connection with the Internet —

which is increasingly powerful, quicker and intrusive — there is almost no more connection between human-kind and God. We are currently living in the time about which God's Son spoke when he said: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on Earth?" Luke 18: 8.

In another article from the same newspaper, published on the 2nd of April 2017, the following is stated:

For Elon Musk, we are already cyborgs in the sense that a part of us is projected in digital form by computers, mobile terminals and the Internet, which give us superpowers. According to him, the limit of this human-machine interaction lies at the level of the input-output interface, that is to say, our capacity to receive and transmit volumes of information at high speed. The digital overlay [Neuralink] that Elon Musk is talking about would be there to blow up that bottleneck and to put people in direct contact with machines.

From there, such a neural interface would help us, for example, to not let ourselves be overtaken by the development of Artificial Intelligence, by increasing our intellectual capacities at will. It would also give us the opportunity to save our memory and thoughts. That vision, which is part of the "transhumanism" philosophy, is not unlike that of Google's leaders.

Why should a human-machine symbiosis [a mutually beneficial relationship] be created when it is not machines that can make people happy? Why should we increase our intellectual abilities when we do not understand how to use them for the good? Today's world very clearly shows us that people do not understand how to live in peace and harmony with each other. This is what we urgently need to learn and develop: to increase our ability to live in symbiosis with our fellow people, rather than our intellectual ability. And we should also learn to live in symbiosis with nature, because, if it is destroyed by the "intelligence" of humankind, then humankind's existence is seriously threatened. Floods, droughts, heatwaves, earthquakes, large-scale forest fires, hurricanes, etc., are becoming more powerful and frequent. Will a symbiosis between humans and machines help us? Certainly not.

On the contrary, we should recognize that we have taken the completely wrong path and should resolutely leave behind us everything that is useless and even harmful. We should concentrate our effort on that which has value and which corresponds to the true needs of humankind and to humanity as a whole. In contrast to that, machines cannot only not replace interpersonal relationships, but they even separate people from each other. Television has already begun that sad work. Previously, people met each other after work to spend a pleasant and friendly evening talking together, even among neighbours. Then, the television arrived, and people withdrew to their homes. And how dare anyone open their mouth during a movie. They were quickly told to be quiet!

Today, in the time of the smartphone, division has increased further. One often sees people who, although they are together, do not talk with each other, because they are all focused on their little screens. All so-called progress has certainly done the work of God's great Adversary, Satan, who has succeeded in distorting the ideas of people to such a degree that they love things that harm them and do not bring true happiness.

In today's digital high-tech world, full of amazing technological progress, we are paradoxically experiencing an unprecedented moral, social and humanitarian degeneration. Everywhere, there is division, corruption, wars, violations of human rights, exploitation, sexual violence against women and children, and disastrous politics that cause inequality, persecution, famine, refugees fleeing to other countries... On Earth, violence, anarchy and chaos are progressively establishing themselves with increasing speed. It is certainly not technology, no matter how highly developed it is, that is going to save us. Technology, among other things, represents a

threatening gesture. Knowing that he will not go back on his decision, the lad leaves his parents with a few last words:

"I want to follow the ideal of the Kingdom of God at all costs, and I am sure that one day, you will be very glad about my decision."

Then, he goes to his employer, and his employer's wife receives him with open arms, being glad to welcome him, from now on, as the child of the house.

With the Truth making ever-more headway in his heart, one day Stephen declares to his employer that he wishes to join two brother evangelists of the neighbourhood who are setting out to carry the message to a new region. His employer answers: "I am very glad indeed that you have decided to do this. As for me, I have not yet been able to develop the faith necessary for giving up my business and placing myself entirely at the Lord's service. But I am working on my heart to succeed in taking that final step. I am

deeply moved and encouraged by the thought that the Lord granted me the privilege of making the message of the Truth known to you and of thus having found a collaborator on the Kingdom of God. You can count on my full support and affection."

With his heart completely full of joy and enthusiasm, Stephen joins the noble body of evangelists of the Kingdom of God. Being sent to a distant town, several hundred kilometres away, he writes a letter full of affection to his parents, but gets no answer. For several years, Stephen keeps on with his mission of an evangelist, which takes him to various countries. From every place, he sends an affectionate and respectful letter to his parents, and each time gives his address, but there is never an echo.

At last, one day, this young evangelist and another brother are appointed to evangelise in the town where Stephen's parents live. It gives great joy to his former employer to

see him again. Stephen has made wonderful progress in divine ways, having had all sorts of experiences in faith, which have given him magnificent spiritual composure and dignity.

Through a former co-worker, the young man learns that his father is in a very painful moral and financial situation. An economic crisis has arisen in the business in which he works, and his employer (a man as religious as himself) has just told him that he will have to dispense with his services, because of the crisis. This man, who is exceedingly rich, could easily have kept Stephen's father in his employment, since he is advanced in years and cannot find other employment.

All that has deeply affected the poor father, who, having gone through various painful experiences with his fellow religious people, is utterly disappointed and disillusioned. His faith is rocking on its foundations. A great transformation is taking place in his heart.

Comparing all the wrong done to him and

the hardness and indifference shown to him by his employer, with his treatment of Stephen, he realises how unyielding he himself has been towards his son. As he reads the very kind lines written by the young man, especially in his last letter, he feels moved to the bottom of his soul, but his pride prevents him from answering.

Stephen tells his former employer about his father's wretched situation. He responds: "But I can make use of your father. Listen, I will go straight to him and offer him a job with me. That will be a good preparation for your visit..."

So, it happens that that very evening, as Stephen's father grieves with his head in his hands, he is startled by a knock on the door. He is astonished to come face to face with someone unknown to him, who says: "I know you do not know me, but I am Stephen's former employer. He has become my friend and my brother in faith. He has just been at

first-class support for terrorist groups, because it helps them coordinate their cruel attacks.

Our dear Saviour announced an unprecedented Tribulation (Distress), whose first signs we can observe today (Matthew 24: 21). The Tribulation will certainly sober up humankind from its love of artificial things and will lead it back to the path of truth and reality. A reality that will be painful at the beginning, due to the condition of humanity and the planet after the Tribulation, but simultaneously also a reality in which every hope is allowed, because Christ paid the Ransom for all. With infinite love, he offered himself to atone for the sins of the world, in daily sacrifice that was completed on the Cross. There, he forever sealed divine forgiveness for the benefit of the human race, through these words of sublime nobility: "Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing [for they know not what they do]." Luke 23: 34.

Those who will then have a heart to understand, will feel that that is where their salvation is, the source of their restoration, and the only way to receive help as an individual and as a collective. After they have wholeheartedly humbled themselves, they will feel forgiveness and receive faith. Faith will be the embryo of a new being, a new person, who will develop into resemblance to their Creator (Colossians 3: 10). Under the influence of God's Spirit, which can finally touch them, people will change their hearts and sentiments in order to become beings of wonderful nobility, who are perfectly altruistic and earthly children of God. Close communion with their heavenly Father will lead them to their destiny for which they had been originally created: eternal life.

Humankind will joyfully dedicate itself to the restoration of the Earth, in order to give it back its beautiful vegetation, its paradisaical condition and its beneficial climate for all earthly beings. Humankind's abilities, sentiments and intelligence, which have not been fully explored until now, will then prodigiously increase and broaden, because humankind will be capable of using them for the good. Technology, which has been provided to humankind by the Adversary, will then be seen as toxic smoke that has been blown away to make room for much greater and undiscovered abilities, which have been naturally concentrated in the human body and brain by the infinite wisdom and science of the Creator. Future humans will be happy people, perfectly happy, free and viable, and in harmony with each other, with nature and with their Creator.

Climate catastrophes

From the Belgian-French magazine *En Marche* No. 1613 from the 20th of September 2018, we quote the following article that attracted our attention:

Climate anger

After the summer of 2018, more high-intensity heat-waves are predicted. Apart from the forecast of a "beautiful summer", there is a reason, in view of climate change, for feeling powerless and discouraged. But many people refuse to accept defeat. And after depression, they are overcome with exasperation.

A picture says a thousand words. A recent example (published on the French website Reporterre): a sketch of a man sitting slouched in a chair in the sunlight, calmly sipping a refreshing drink. Behind him is a picture of death and destruction: a boiling-hot desert landscape. That man's comment: "Climate change? You're exaggerating! It has always been like this. Don't complain about the beautiful summer!"

Complain, no. Examine, yes. The most worrying thing is not all of the record high temperatures recorded in many geographical areas: from Sweden to Japan, and from the Sahara to California. It is rather the fact that these record temperatures do not come from our current Greenhouse Gas [GHG] emissions. These temperatures come from our previous GHG emissions over the last decades. Our previous GHG emissions, stored in the atmosphere, have not dispersed, and they will not either...

Today's GHG levels are the reason why we will soon be heading towards even more brutal extremes: 43 to 45°C in France in less than 10 years' time. And an even 50°C (or more) in various places of the Mediterranean Sea region in the second half of this century if our GHG emissions are not brought under control. "We have been repeating the same message for about thirty years now: global warming is unavoidable if we maintain a development model based on fossil fuels," said the somewhat weary eminent French climate scientist Mr Jean Jouzel.

Denial and inflexibility

The alarm bells have not been enough for the problem to stick in our minds or for it to kindle the ambition of the politicians. So, nowadays, we seek understanding from behavioural neuroscientists to explain this indifference/laziness/blindness (delete the inapplicable). And straight away, we see people who talk about denial, inflexibility, avoidance, the feeling of powerlessness, unshakeable faith in technological solutions, etc.

In step with the seriousness of the situation, a conversation is developing about the "death-bringing logic that involves Europe and the entire planet", in which high-level and world-famous personalities this summer urgently demanded that a European Climate Bank be established to create millions of jobs in Europe and Africa to support "energy transition" (to use less fossil fuels). The French philosopher Mr Michel Serres, who is not regarded as a global pessimist, classifies today's situation as "tragic". He partly jokes about introducing a "nature examination" in addition to the "entry examination" for the respected National School of Administration (ENA) in France. He said: "This would certainly revolutionize things! It would especially allow leaders to better understand the word 'climate'."

Fight fever

In addition to that fundamental assessment, there is a new emotional factor: anger. As a long-term observer of social and environmental challenges, the French philosopher Mr Dominique Bourg wrote, as a consequence of this year's summer temperatures, that "we are now beginning to feel what we know about climate change... The change will accelerate, but people will not immediately protest in the streets, they will begin by criticizing their leaders. I would not be surprised if, in a few years, environmental terrorism emerges".

*Let us hope that he is wrong... The organizers of *Maintenant* [French for Now] — a festival for change, held in the Belgian city of Louvain-la-Neuve — make no secret of the increase in "a new form of anger and stronger discontent" among former environmental activists. "The resignation of Nicolas Hulot [the former environment minister in France, who 'quit the government' due to an 'accumulation of disappointments' there] shows that it really is time to get very angry. Those who have been observing these things for a long time, nowadays believe in war": they are fortunately still restrained by two types of emotional pressure: firstly, by the strong pacifist ideal, and secondly, by joyful and creative activity, which was shown in the French environmental documentary film *Demain* [French for Tomorrow]. But*

how will this anger be in the year 2050 in an overheated world of 9 to 10 billion inhabitants?

They are sensible realizations by the author of the article, and we can certainly understand the "climate anger". It is justified on the part of the "former environmental activists", otherwise said, those who are aware enough and who ring the alarm bell in view of a "consumer society" that only wants to enjoy, profit and consume with disregard for the damage that it is doing to itself and to nature, which is starting, and has been for a long time already, to show the consequences of this line of conduct. One could actually be flabbergasted at the lack of reaction by the responsible governments in view of the current catastrophes. There are expected temperatures of "43 to 45°C in France in less than 10 years' time" and of "50°C (or more) in various places of the Mediterranean Sea region in the second half of this century if our Greenhouse Gas emissions [from industry, heating, transport, etc.] are not brought under control". That makes us think! And even more worrying is the explanation in the article, according to which, our record temperatures do not come from our current Greenhouse Gas emissions, but from those over the last decades. And in view of these facts, some people talk about "denial, inflexibility, avoidance, the feeling of powerlessness, unshakeable faith in technological solutions, etc.". Now, enough is enough, and Dominique Bourg is right when he says that "people will not immediately protest in the streets, they will begin by criticizing their leaders. I would not be surprised if, in a few years, environmental terrorism emerges".

No, he is not wrong! In fact, discontent is felt in various places. Holy Scripture also refers to discontent as "painful sores", or "malignant ulcers", because it can quickly change into hatred, and history shows what people in such circumstances are capable of. Many countries have already been the scenes of bloody revolutions! Of course, the causes of this discontent are not only the above-mentioned climate problems. There are various causes, but it is certain that environmental problems can be a significant aggravating factor.

Faced with such situations, governments are powerless. Of course, governments mainly seek their own interest and are not greatly worried about environmental or other social problems. But one must recognize that even if they wanted to, they are not able to fix things. The damage is already too severe, and humankind does not have the remedy for it. It is not defeatism or resignation that leads us to this opinion, but rather reality and faith. But we do not have a pessimistic message in this situation: on the contrary, we are announcing Good News, which is that deliverance will come out of the chaos that the current situation is leading us into, as the result of the Salvation Work that the Almighty has done through his Son, our dear Saviour, and his faithful Church (the Little Flock).

Humanity will be faced with two equivalents that will occur at the same time: firstly, the harvest of what humankind has sown, which is the unprecedented Tribulation announced in the Bible — and secondly, the result of the Work of our dear Saviour and his Little Flock, which is the introduction of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

No one will be able to prevent the occurrence of those events. Many people, without being able to define it, have hoped for deliverance, and they will not be disappointed by their unknown expectations. The Kingdom of God, which will soon be established over the whole world, will console all hearts. Even the climate will be restored. There will be no more scorching heat or freezing cold. There will be peace for all and for ever.

my place, having been invited to this town for his evangelical mission. He has told me about your critical situation. I have come to offer you a job with me. I would be very glad and feel highly honoured if you would accept my offer."

The poor father's heart melts, and tears come to his eyes. For a while, he is unable to speak, so intense is his emotion. Then he exclaims with a sigh: "How wonderful it is to have a son, who, owing to his faithfulness in the Lord's service, becomes such a great consolation and such a precious assistance to his family. Certainly, your ideas concerning divine ways must be the right ones, for they return good for evil, and comfort the heart in distress. They are a comfort and provide joy and blessing. You have come to me like the Good Samaritan to bind up my wounds, to straighten out the bruised reed that I am. I thank you with all my heart. I am beginning to understand and to measure all my errors and the damaging fanaticism of religiousness. I am looking forward to pressing my dear lad on to my heart and to practising with him, following the God of goodness and mercy Whom he is serving so faithfully."

News in brief of the Reign of Justice

At the General Meeting in Turin (Italy), the brethren highly appreciated the Lord's wise advice delivered by his faithful Messenger.

On the Saturday, we were shown what was meant by "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1: 27). It is denying oneself, loving, consoling and encouraging, even without the hope of receiving the approval of those around oneself, and occasionally obtaining the very opposite!

"Christ in you" is the divine anointing which sinks into us in the measure in which we live the divine programme. And "the hope of glory" is the radiant vision of the Kingdom of God.

"To obtain that result, we have to have learnt to love God with our whole being. Then, we can no longer grieve Him. Such a thing is impossible. The moment a selfish sentiment brushes over us, we at once pull ourselves together and think: 'Oh no, I don't want to grieve the Lord, not for anything in the world.' That intense affection from our

hearts is our safeguard and our wonderful protection in difficulty."

On the Sunday, we meditated on the Master's advice to his disciples: "By your patient endurance, you possess your souls." Luke 21: 19.

The dear Messenger said: "I would be unfaithful did I not tell you the whole truth, and did I not point out the dangers to you, so that you may be able to run according to the rules, so as to win the prize of the High Heavenly Calling or of eternal life." He also said: "We absolutely must apply all our might to the fight. Those who dawdle indefinitely, for months or for years, with the same lesson are in great danger of being left aside in the end. They are neither an encouragement nor a blessing."

On the Monday, we were faced with this invitation: "Be blameless and innocent, children of God without fault in a perverse and corrupt generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world," Philippians 2: 15.

We reproduce a few thoughts from the searching commentary which followed: "We are together to introduce the Kingdom. But are we doing it for our own advantage, a

selfish salvation, or for some honour, some praise or some glory? Is there some personal interest behind all that? According to the spirit in which we work, we are occupied with building the Kingdom, or else, in spite of all we may think, working with the Adversary. We can, while being occupied with the new things, be feeding our hearts on a multitude of former things. Let us therefore watch so that we may not allow the worldly spirit to stay in us.

We all have perfect success within our reach, all we have to do is to be honest with the conditions."

We esteemed the testimonies of gratitude for this precious message urging us on to the final effort for introducing the Kingdom of God on Earth.

As in other General Meetings, we received greetings from brethren far away and thank them warmly, and we also appreciated the devotion of the Family of Faith in Italy in ensuring our well-being.

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