

# Is Death Coming to the World?

Recently, a news headline from msn.com declared:

“Scientists think we all may be dead in 2050.”

The fear is not of AI (Artificial Intelligence), but ASI (Artificial Super Intelligence) usurping the human race.

This prognosis may be out of whack with the petrifying reality of the world today – the reality that we may all be dead well before 2050, if President Duterte was prescient in his claim a few days later: [North Korea](#) “wants to end the world.”

How would North Korea end the world? The fear is not mere nuclear weapons, but “super-nuclear” (thermonuclear) power potentially let loose without moral responsibility.

Do we really have to fear that the end of the world is nigh? The Bible tells us:

“When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed.

**Such things must happen**, but the end is still to come.” – Mark 13:7

“Such things must happen” tells me two things:

- Firstly, wars and rumours of wars are to be expected.
- Secondly, when such things must happen and they do happen, then we are indeed closer to the approach of the end times even though the end is not yet.



The first-generation Christians had fears of wars. 2000 years later, the present generation Christians still have fears of wars – at least for the humongous catastrophes that the wars threaten.

In the context of the first-generation Christians, Jesus said that these (wars, earthquakes, famines) are just the beginning of birth pains. (Mark 13:8)



The birth pains were indeed painful, entailing persecutions of believers, disintegrations of families, betrayals, etc. Yet, the pains did not kill off the birth of the church and the birth of new believers. Instead, we learn from the Book of Acts that the church gained from the tragedies suffered by the believers, with the strengthening of their faiths and a rapid growth with increasing numbers in new believers.

Everybody wants peace. Sadly, peace is elusive in a sinful world. We can have peace only in Christ. This “peace in Christ” is not a superficial experience of “no war, no natural disaster, no famine ...,” but a calmness that Christians feel in-depth despite the turmoil encircling. An analogy would be the feeling of being in the eye of a typhoon as violent winds whirl around.

The “peace in Christ” – if we understand it, want it and seek it – confers on us the ability to keep still, neither being troubled nor creating trouble as other forces create the wild turbulence around. Eventually, the forces of turbulence self-destruct. People who want peace but don’t understand peace tend to project their energy sinfully in ways that spiral out of control, drawing themselves into mayhem.

How was it that to the first-generation Christians, despite the mighty hostile environment, they were able to grow the church? I would very much agree if you say that it defies human logic. Faith in Christ is indeed founded much on non-human logic; precisely, divine logic. Divine logic rises to the fore of our consciousness only when our first propensity to use our sin-corrupted human reason fails us. While sufferings expectedly bring despondency, they open up great spiritual vistas. Readers who have opportunities to view videos of testimonies on YouTube from new believers who come to faith in Christ will know how unmitigated disasters work against the devil as despondencies create extraordinary opportunity for witness to the nations. This witnessing is not necessarily by mere human evangelical effort. As we see needs for solace outstripping the scarce human means to render hope, and we feel pained in our hearts, the Holy Spirit moves in to fill the void of our human power. If we focus on human logic, we will feel that a lot of things are impossible to accomplish. However, if we focus on divine logic, a lot of things are possible in the ultimate to accomplish God’s glory!

Christians today face heartbreaks in an upside-down world, and many may also contend with the same fears that the first-generation Christians had. The message of “birth pains” that Jesus shared with His people then are as valid for children of God today.

Wars and rumours of wars are not for us to be alarmed, but for us to recognize that things happen when they must happen because man does not compre-

hend peace but stirs chaos by his sinful nature. Mark 13:7-8 should not lead us to invent theories about how and when the world is going to end. However, importantly, it is a cogent reminder to us of this instruction:

“Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.” – 1 Cor. 16:13-14

Do you fear death coming?

The Good News is that:

“[God] will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth.

The Lord has spoken.” – Isaiah 25:8

*John Lee*