

WHEN THE WORLD IS MADE NEW

Jesus replied, "I assure you that when the world is made new . . ."
— Matthew 19:28 (New Living Translation)

Earth rumbles groans to her Creator,
longing for transformation—
long-promised primeval renewal—
anxious to plunge into the furnace:
restoration's resurrecting flame!

Refining fire will purge the dross,
reshape all bentness from fallen curse,
untwist the wrangling tangle of beasts
who wrestle all in eager expectation
along with the trees not yet clapping,
the mountains not yet skipping,
the silent fields ever ready to rejoice,
reticent rocks on brink of crying out.

Angelic hosts, created alongside her,
echo Terra's groaning anticipation of
glorious regenerating newness,
as they likewise of a new Heaven,
for the two shall be one under the One,
the Human Groom and corporate Bride
in eternal one-flesh relationship.

But all this, "*when the world is made new,*"
after we, the woe-making law-breakers—
repentantly restored to abundant life
despite our lingering fruit-theft death—
follow the Firstborn from among the dead
in God's fully consummated adoption of us:
the glorifying retrieval of our star-dust bodies,
a divine hope foreshadowed by new birth.

— *David L. Hatton, 2/13/2020*