

6 MAY 1961

SPACESHIP EARTH

D.B. KNOX

"THE CHRISTIAN FAITH"

MOORE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE LIBRARY



3 2042 00092277 7

Moore College
Library

When the American space programme was sending men to the moon, one mission, Apollo 13, had to be aborted after blast off and all the world waited to see whether the spacecraft could get back to earth safely. It did this, to everyone's relief, helped by the prayers of millions as I judge, but it was very plain as we watched the threatened spacecraft that its resources were very limited with regard to oxygen, food and so on, and we realised in a way we hadn't before that the earth itself is really a spacecraft rushing through the universe and that it also has limited resources. If we imagine a person in outer space watching the earth in the way we watched Apollo 13, the earth would present a very strange scene. No one in the spacecraft earth appears to be aware of its limited life. The onlooker would see a lot of people on earth starving, for example in Bangladesh; others living in affluence in the great cities of western civilisation; others fighting one another apparently without any purpose in the Persian Gulf; others digging up the earth in great mines and exporting it overseas; others discharging all their sewage into the ocean and so poisoning it little by little. No one seems to take any account of the fact that the resources of the earth are limited and that consequently its time is limited.

In thinking about the earth and our life in it the first thing to do is to put it into the perspective of eternity. The earth had a beginning and will have an end. The Bible has a very clear view of the world; God is the creator and God is the judge and our present human activity is understood in terms of conflict and rebellion against God our loving creator. Forces of evil led by the devil are in control of humanity, organising human society in opposition to God and persecuting God's people. Experience confirms this world view. Human

society left to itself without the influence of the Bible or of the Spirit of Christ is hard and cruel. Organised human society is under the influence of evil unless it is redeemed by our saviour Jesus Christ who has overcome satan and evil in his life and death. He is now rolling back satan's control over humanity through Christians following his example and suffering as witnesses to what is right and true. The Bible has a wonderful picture of this in the Book of Revelation. Satan is depicted as a dragon who gives his authority to organised godless society depicted as a beast and which is also supported by organised human religion and these three beasts, satan, dictators and religion persecute God's people. But at the same time the Book of Revelation has a picture of Jesus as the lamb of God, followed by his faithful 144,000, the perfect number, clashing with this sinful humanity and overcoming it by the word of the gospel of God so that in the end God's power is supreme and the spaceship earth moves into the new heaven and the new earth where God dwells as a friend among his people and where right reigns supreme. This is how the Bible sees reality and we should yield ourselves to Christ and join his army. He has triumphed at Calvary and will ultimately triumph when earth has run its course.

Moore College
Library

THE CHRISTIAN FAITH
is broadcast every Sunday
at 7.10 p.m. over Radio 2CH

Copies of these weekly broadcasts may
be obtained (\$5 per year posted) by
writing to The Christian Faith, c/o
2CH, York Street, Sydney N.S.W. 2000

15/2/81 7/81