

# In Our Hands

REBEKAH was graduating, embarking on a new chapter in her life. One of the speeches encouraged the graduates to ‘aim high’ – to do whatever they wanted; nothing was too hard.

But the eminent speaker also had a warning. Our planet is running out of time with regards to climate change, resources and animal life. We contribute to the problems so “in our hands lies the future of ourselves and all creatures on earth”. Rebekah was both encouraged and apprehensive: what *did* her future hold?

## Our Limitations

Many people have an honourable concern for the future of life on this planet, feeling at least partly responsible for the damage we have done. God told us to look after His creation (Genesis 1:27–29, Psalm 8:6–8) and we should always be mindful that all good things – including life itself, clothes and food – come from Him.

Mankind’s inherent selfishness has caused the problems we all face (Genesis 3:17–19 then 5:29) and our irresponsibility has contributed to problems like pollution, food and fuel shortages and global warming. While some people are optimistic that we will find a solution, others are genuinely worried about our future.

However, God is in control. He rules in the kingdoms of men (Daniel 4:17), He alone

sustains all life on earth (Job 34:14–15, Isaiah 42:5, Acts 17:25), and nothing is too hard for Him (Jeremiah 32:17). While He is not always pleased with everything we do, He could and sometimes does intervene. We cannot do ‘whatever we want’ (Genesis 20:6).

## God’s Plan for Our Future

God has a purpose with this earth which He created (Isaiah 45:18, Habakkuk 2:14). This plan cannot be thwarted by anyone or anything. The plan is for the earth to be changed to idyllic conditions full of His glory, with Jesus ruling as king (Isaiah 35, Revelation 11:15). God will intervene to stop mankind destroying the earth (Revelation 11:17–19).

So the planet’s destiny is not entirely in our hands. Things will not just continue on a path to disaster (2 Peter 3:4). We may have limited power over the planet but, like Rebekah, we do have life choices. God has commanded us to ‘repent’ (Acts 2:38, 17:29–31) and to submit our lives to Him for whom ‘all things [really] are possible’ (Matthew 19:26).

God wants us to embark on a new chapter of life accepting His promise of eternal life. *Our* personal destiny most certainly is ‘in our hands’.

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