

Earth Liberation Front  
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The Associated Press reported on Friday that Justus A. Ireland pled guilty to a charge of arson stemming from a lumber-yard fire he had started in June. He admitted to placing lighted flares under a pallet containing cardboard and wood. The ensuing blaze spread through the yard doing \$1.5 million in damages.

Ireland readily took responsibility for his crime—no lies, deception or denials involved. He did state, though, that he was not acting on his own behalf; he was acting on behalf of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). ELF is an eco-terrorist group. Such groups resort to acts of terrorism to hinder industry in an effort to “save the earth.”

The idea that the earth needs saving is a misguided one. Mankind may, through poor stewardship, misuse, waste and abuse the earth, but destroying it is simply beyond man’s ability. The earth is under man’s stewardship, but it doesn’t belong to man. It belongs to God.

The Psalmist says to God, “The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours; the world and its fullness. You have founded them” (Psalm 89:11).

The LORD confirms the words of the Psalmist, saying in Psalm 50:12, “If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the world is Mine, and all its fullness.” Will the Lord let man damage the earth? Certainly, and evil stewardship will be judged. Will He let man destroy the earth? Certainly not. The LORD is in control, and He has other plans.

Peter tells us that the earth will be destroyed, but it will not happen through the industry of man. He writes, “But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men” (2 Peter 3:7), and “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).

Sadly, groups like ELF labor in ignorance, in vain—The earth cannot be saved. This realization should not lead man to despair but to action. When disasters such as hurricanes come our way, we do our best to prepare, stocking supplies and boarding windows. If necessary, we flee. So it is with the day of the LORD.

Peter continues, “Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:11-13).

You cannot prepare your house for the day of the LORD, no amount of boarding will do, but you can prepare your life. You cannot weather the storm, but you can escape the corruption of this world and claim your place in the new heavens and new earth.

You cannot save the earth, so do something of even greater importance, obey God and save your soul.