

Our World Belongs to God: A Contemporary Testimony (para. 14-18)

*Early in human history
our first parents listened to the
intruder's voice.
Rather than living by the
Creator's word of life, they fell for
Satan's lie and sinned!
They forgot their place;
they tried to be like God.
But as sinners they feared
the nearness of God
and hid from him.
Apart from grace
we prove each day
that we are guilty sinners.
Fallen in that first sin,
we fail to thank God,
we break his laws,
we ignore his tasks.
Looking for life without God, we
find only death; grasping for
freedom outside his law,
we trap ourselves in Satan's
snares;
pursuing pleasure, we lose the
gift of joy.*

*When humans no longer show
God's image, all creation suffers.
We abuse the creation
or idolize it.
We are estranged from our
Creator, from our neighbor,*

*and from all that God has made.
All spheres of life—
marriage and family,
work and worship,
school and state,
our play and art—
bear the wounds of our rebellion.*

*Sin is present everywhere—

in pride of race, in arrogance of
nations,
in abuse of the weak and helpless,
in disregard for water, air, and
soil, in destruction of living
creatures, in slavery, deceit,
terror, and war,
in worship of false gods, and
frantic escape from reality.
We have become victims of our
own sin.*

*In all our strivings
to excuse or save ourselves,
we stand condemned
before the God of Truth.
But our world,
broken and scarred,
still belongs to God.*

*He holds it together
and gives us hope*

