

Letter of saint Clement to the Corinthians

Clement was Peter's third successor in Rome, from the year 90 to about 100. Because of certain tensions in the Church of Corinth, he wrote them a letter. This letter is contemporary to the last writings in the New Testament. Of the 61 short chapters, the 20th is interesting from the point of view of ecospirituality.



Chapter 20. The Peace and Harmony of the Universe.

The heavens, revolving under His government, are subject to Him in peace. Day and night run the course appointed by Him, in no wise hindering each other.

The **sun and moon**, with the companies of the stars, roll on in harmony according to His command, within their prescribed limits, and without any deviation.

The fruitful **earth**, according to His will, brings forth food in abundance, at the proper seasons, for man and beast and all the living beings upon it, never hesitating, nor changing any of the ordinances which He has fixed.

The unsearchable places of **abysses**, and the indescribable arrangements of the lower world, are restrained by the same laws.

The vast unmeasurable **sea**, gathered together by His working into various basins, never passes beyond the bounds placed around it, but does as He has commanded. For He said, *Thus far shall you come, and your waves shall be broken within you.* The ocean, impassable to man and the worlds beyond it, are regulated by the same enactments of the Lord.

The **seasons** of spring, summer, autumn, and winter, peacefully give place to one another. The **winds** in their several quarters fulfil, at the proper time, their service without hindrance. The ever-flowing **fountains**, formed both for enjoyment and health, furnish without fail their breasts for the life of men. The very smallest of living beings meet together in peace and concord.

All these the great Creator and Lord of all has appointed to exist in peace and harmony; while He does good to all, but most abundantly to us who have fled for refuge to His compassions through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom be glory and majesty for ever and ever. Amen.