

## **THERE IS NO MAN-MADE GLOBAL WARMING**

It is widely believed that the earth is warming because of carbon dioxide put into the atmosphere by human industry. Another common belief is that this human-caused global warming will cause famine, extreme weather patterns, coastal flooding, and general ecological degradation. **Despite decades of such gloom-and-doom forecasts, none of these dire predictions has occurred.** In fact, the global environment is actually getting better, an amazing reality in the face of so many pessimistic claims, a few of which are refuted below.

That the earth has been preserved for life should not be surprising to the Christian. **After all, Isaiah 45:18 claims that God "formed [the earth] to be inhabited."** It is God's will that the earth support life. It is not possible that human activity can prevent God's sovereign will from being accomplished. However, it is also God's will that each of us should be a good steward as He gives us opportunity.

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"One of the arguments commonly heard ... is that ... 'the six warmest years in the record are all in the past decade.'

"An interesting response can usually be elicited by asking, 'How warm were those years ...?' The common retort is that they were 2°C to 4°C (3.6°F to 7.2°F) warmer than before and that the ice caps are melting. In fact, most apocalyptics are incredulous when they learn that there has been so little warming and that the Greenland ice sheet - the largest glacier in the Northern Hemisphere - is growing. ...

"Given that minuscule warming, we must ask ... '[Is there] a deliberate attempt to mislead?'"<sup>1</sup>

## **WE NEED THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT, BUT CARBON DIOXIDE HAS LITTLE TO DO WITH IT**

"CO<sub>2</sub> actually plays only a minor role in the greenhouse effect, the essential role being played by water, both in its visible form ... in the clouds, and its invisible form, vapor. I consider as a proof of this that the greenhouse effect is maximal in humid regions and minimal in dry regions, while the proportion of CO<sub>2</sub> is exactly the same: 0.03 percent."<sup>2</sup>

## **CARBON DIOXIDE IS A MINOR GREENHOUSE GAS**

"Greenhouse gases warm the lowest layers of the atmosphere -- where life lives -- by redirecting radiation that would normally escape directly into space. The most common of those is water vapor, and its concentration does not change very much. Next most important, with about one-seventh of the warming potential of water vapor, is CO<sub>2</sub>, but its concentration has hardly been constant throughout the earth's history.

"If all [CO<sub>2</sub>] were removed from the earth's atmosphere, the drop in surface temperature would be 1.5°C (2.7°F), or only 5 percent of the total warming caused by all of the greenhouse gases. That is because the warming caused by those gases does not add up in a simple linear fashion."<sup>3</sup>

## **CARBON DIOXIDE LEVELS ARE NOW TOO LOW**

"In fact, throughout ... the past ... the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration of the atmosphere has been greater than it is today. ... Only since the

beginning of the ice [age] ... have temperatures and CO<sub>2</sub> fallen to current levels. When it was really cold, at the height of the ice [age] ... the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> fell to values that were a hundred parts per million (ppm) of being able to support life. ... The atmosphere is currently impoverished in CO<sub>2</sub>. An additional historical peculiarity is that gas bubble trapped in Antarctic ice tell us that the temperature dropped *before* the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration changed, not after."<sup>4</sup>

## **AN ACCURATE ENVIRONMENTAL FORECAST**

"The climatic history of the planet is inconsistent with forecasts of gloom and doom. ... The opposite is occurring: We are creating a world in which the winters warm and the summers do not, a world in which the nights warm and the days do not. We are creating a world in which the growing season lengthens and the great ice fields of Greenland and Antarctica change little (they may even be enlarging). The CO<sub>2</sub> we emitting to the atmosphere has an additional effect: when plants are supplied with adequate nutrients, they grow better."<sup>5</sup>

## **THE EARTH IS BECOMING GREENER**

"Plants take in CO<sub>2</sub>, and fix it in the form of carbohydrates in their roots, stems, and leaves. CO<sub>2</sub> in current concentrations is what is known as a "limiting nutrient": there is currently so little of it in the atmosphere that plants cannot get enough. Increasing the concentration increases the growth of almost all plant species, and both laboratory and field experiments have demonstrated that plants flourish as CO<sub>2</sub> concentration goes up. ... [T]here is no doubt that human industrial activity has increased the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration in the atmosphere and that most (85 to 95 percent, depending on the estimate) of that increase is a result of burning fossil fuels -- the same carbon that was deposited in the earth's crust when CO<sub>2</sub> was in excess.

"... [But the] planet is becoming greener. ... The finding, which indicates that plants are taking in more CO<sub>2</sub> than they did, should not be surprising, **because the atmosphere is merely returning to CO<sub>2</sub> levels that were characteristic during [earlier] history.**"<sup>6</sup>

## **TROPICAL FOREST IS INCREASING**

"Tropical deforestation increased from 78,000 square kilometers in 1978 to 230,000 square kilometers in 1988 while tropical forest habitat ... increased from 208,000 square kilometers to 588,000 square kilometers."<sup>7</sup>

## **GLACIERS ARE GROWING, NOT SHRINKING**

"[A] glacial record, published in 1988 by Fred Wood in *Arctic and Alpine Research*, tells a story that seems ... opposed to the Popular Vision of what is happening to the atmosphere.

"It is well known that mountain glaciers are very sensitive to slight changes in temperature. For example, paintings of the Alps in the [p 79] 17th century -- at the height of the period known as the "little ice age" -- show terminal glaciers that are a mile or more down the slope from where they are today.

"In the early 1960s park rangers at Glacier National Park in the United States, which contains a large number of very small glaciers obviously very near their summer limit,

lectured the public about dramatic recessions that could melt them all within a few years.

"Fred Wood examined a worldwide sample of mountain glaciers and found that ... between 1960 and 1980, on the basis of data for about 400 to 450 glaciers observed each year, advancing glaciers are shown to have increased from about 6 percent of observed glaciers to 55 percent. ... Preliminary data from 1981 to 1985 suggest that the mixed glacial regime is continuing.

"Because so many features of glaciers are very sensitive to slight temperature changes, it appears that there is no dramatic greenhouse warming ... "8

### THE SAHARA DESERT IS SHRINKING

"Despite the widely held impression that the sands of the Sahara are relentlessly expanding, consuming villages and contributing to famine in Africa, a new analysis of satellite images ... shows the greatest desert on earth has stopped growing and is now shrinking.

"For years, researchers and agencies have assumed the Sahara's advance was implacable, but scientists who examined 4,500 satellite pictures taken over the past decade say it is clear the Sahara essentially reversed its expansion in 1984, and has since contracted dramatically."9

### RAINFALL IS UP

"According to long-term records, global precipitation is increasing. ... The U.S. record also reveals (contrary to the blizzard of news reports about this drought or that crop failure or the pictures of dead chickens that accompany every summer heat wave) that the 1980s, followed by the 1970s, were the wettest decade in our reliable weather history."10

### GLOBAL WARMING AND POPULATION CONTROL

"The latest environmental justification for slowing or halting population growth is supposed global warming. ... A World Bank paper on the subject concludes, 'The global negative externality represented by rapid population growth in developing countries provides a strong, new rationale for developed countries, in their own interests, to finance regimes that would reduce population growth in developing countries' [Nancy Birdsall and Charles Griffin, "Population Growth: Externalities and Poverty," The World Bank, February, 1991, abstract].

"That is, the old rationales for World Bank population control regimes - economic growth, resource conservation, and the like - having been discredited, a new "rationale" has been developed on the [p 434] basis of speculative assumptions about global warming's economic effects derived from controversial climatological science."11

### ONE SOLUTION TO THE "POPULATION CRISIS": COMPULSORY STERILIZATION

"So the first task is population control at home. How do we go about it? ... **Some sort of compulsory birth regulation would be necessary to achieve birth control.** One plan often mentioned involves the addition of temporary sterilants to water supplies or staple food. Doses of the antidote would be

carefully rationed by the government to produce the desired population size. ... [But] the option isn't even open to us, thanks to the criminal inadequacy of biomedical research in this area."12

The population control agenda is also a powerful motivation driving the advocacy of abortion, or in other words, "Abortion is a highly effective weapon in the armory of population control."13 Another population control project is the -

### THE WILDLANDS PROJECT

"The Wildlands Project ... calls for a network of wilderness reserves, human buffer zones, and wildlife corridors stretching across huge tracts of land - hundreds of millions of acres, as much as half of the continent. ...

"On the Oregon coast, for example ... the Wildlands approach calls for 23.4% of the land to be returned to wilderness, and another 26.2% to be severely restricted in terms of human use. Most roads would be closed; some would be ripped out of the landscape. The plan does not specify what would happen to the nearby inhabitants. Similar alterations are called for in Vermont, Florida, the mid-Atlantic region, and the rest of the country."14 A Wildlands map for Florida is depicted in this article.

**The ultimate wildlands goal means reservations for humans:** " [The Wildlands Project] calls for nothing less than resettling the entire continent."15

### Conclusions

While it is far from certain that the goals of the Wildlands Project will come to pass as its organizers envision, nonetheless this project lays bare the wanton fear motivating the agendas of some environmental activists - in this case, the fear of too many people overrunning the earth. **But such fear is not of God, and what is not of God is sin.** We are to trust God to preserve His earth and simultaneously, we are to act as wise stewards of His creation (Genesis 1:28-30, 9:1-3) out of love for Him, not out of fear of the future. Ecological gloom-and-doom has no biblical foundation. Fears of ecological collapse due to manmade global warming are also without scientific foundation. Scientific analysis would also reveal a lack of real data to support other ecological fears.

**Notes.** Bolding in quotations is added.

1 Patrick J. Michaels, *Sound and Fury: The Science and Politics of Global Warming*, Cato Institute, 1992, p. 62.

2 R.A. Maduro and R. Schauerhammer, *The Holes in the Ozone Scare*, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science Associates, 1992; Forward by Haroun Tazieff, former French Secretary of State for the Prevention of Natural and Technological Disasters, p. xiv.

3 Michaels, op. cit., p. 9. 4 *ibid.*, p. 10. 5 *ibid.*, p. 7. 6 *ibid.*, pp. 10-12.

7 David Skole and Compton Tucker, "Tropical Deforestation and Habitat Fragmentation in the Amazon: Satellite Data from 1978 to 1988," *Science*, Vol. 260, 1993, p. 1905.

8 F.B. Wood, "Global Alpine Glacier Trends, 1960s to 1980s," *Arctic and Alpine Research*, Vol. 20, 1992, pp. 404-413, in Michaels, op. cit., p. 76.

9 *Washington Post*, July 21, 1991, p. A18, in Julian Simon, *The Ultimate Resource 2*, Princeton University Press, 1996, p. 133.

10 Michaels, op. cit., p. 90. 11 Simon, op. cit., p. 433.

12 Paul R. Erhlich, *The Population Bomb*, Ballantine, 1968, pp. 135-136.

13 *ibid.*, p. 88.

14 Charles C. Mann and Mark L. Plummer, "The High Cost of Biodiversity," *Science*, Vol. 260, 1993, p. 1868. 15 *ibid.*