

# GOD'S PROMISE TO NOAH – PART 1

## GOD'S POST-FLOOD COVENANT

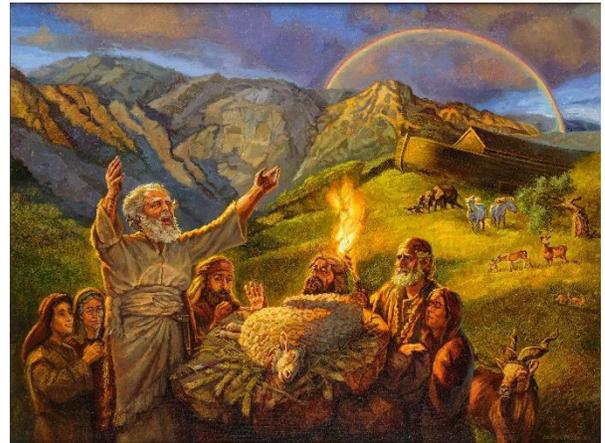
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### Noah's Worship

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**Genesis 8:20** ~ Then Noah built an altar to the LORD, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

- The very first acts of Noah upon leaving the ark were worship and sacrifice...first things first
  - Noah had abundantly seen the evidence of God's grace upon him and his family
  - He was the special recipient of God's divine favor and had escape the watery cataclysm that had taken the lives of the entire population of the world
  - He had experienced firsthand God's provision over the course of an entire year inside the ark, including all the food and water necessary to sustain the people and the animals
  - He witnessed up close and personal the covenant faithfulness of God in saving him and his family
  - His heart must have welled up with wonder, love, and praise for God's rich kindness and compassion
  - He understood the priority of worship...and he knew that God must be worshipped for all He had done
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- As soon as they had exited the ark, Noah was compelled immediately to demonstrate his heart of worship by giving God some of the best of what was His
  - The first thing he did was to build an "altar," a place of slaughter for sacrifice
  - This is the first mention of an altar in the Bible (although that is not conclusive proof that no altar existed prior to the flood)
  - Although no altar may have existed prior to this one, it is likely that sacrifices had been offered previously



- God covered Adam and Eve with the skin of an animal after they sinned in the Garden
  - Although Adam and Eve should have been the first to die physically, God provided a substitute, an animal He killed to clothe them
  - God did not create garments for them; rather, He took skin (not wool) from an animal to serve as a perpetual reminder of His provision
  - This first sacrifice pointed ahead to the sacrificial system which provided a temporary way for Israel's sin to be covered
  - More importantly, it pointed ahead to the ultimate Substitute who would redeem sinners by His sacrificial death
  - The dead animal must have been a shocking sight for Adam and Eve who had never seen anything dead prior to this!
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- In killing animals to clothe Adam and Eve after they sinned, God had set forth a pattern that there were to be blood sacrifices offered to him as sin offerings

- Although not recorded in Scripture, God likely instructed Adam (and then Adam would have instructed his sons) that an animal needed to be sacrificed to God to cover sin
  - Thus, another evidence of “sacrifice as an act of worship” was the superiority of Abel’s sacrifice to Cain’s
  - His offering consisted of “the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions” (Gen 4:4), obviously referring to animal sacrifices
  - These early blood sacrifices must have been commanded by God as they demonstrated that “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Heb 9:22)
  - Therefore, although Noah’s altar was the first one mentioned in Scripture, it is likely that the people of God at that time had a well-established system of sacrificial worship
  - It was upon this altar that Noah offered a sacrifice of representatives of each kind of clean animal and clean bird
  - Of these, he “offered burnt offerings on the altar”
  - The term “clean” at this point in God’s progress of revelation meant “suitable for sacrifice” not “suitable for eating” (as in Leviticus) since He had not yet granted permission for them to eat any animals
  - “This was probably the biggest sacrifice in history, in proportion to availability of animals. The backdrop was a world recently destroyed and just now recovering, albeit quickly.”<sup>1</sup>
  - Noah knew he had to worship the Lord and give glory to God for all He had done in sparing his family during the flood
  - He knew he had to exalt the Lord and praise Him for His sovereign control over the earth and all that happened during the events of the flood
  - He knew that his only appropriate response after stepping on dry ground was to bow before the Lord in humble reverence and give Him the honor He was due
  - This ought to be the heart of every genuine believer...a heart of worship in response to God’s abundant mercies displayed for His people
  - We are first and foremost worshippers of the living God...this is why we were created...to engage in a lifestyle of worship
  - The people of God are to be a worshipping people (John 4:24)
  - We are to give Him ascribed glory (the glory we give Him) because of His intrinsic glory (the glory He possesses)
  - He is to be worshipped by our lives:
- Romans 12:1** ~ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.
- He is to be worshipped with our lips:
- Hebrews 13:15** ~ Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.
- There is a play on words with “and he offered” (*alah* = “to go up, ascend, climb”) and “burnt offerings” (*olah* = “that which goes up”)
  - The emphasis is not so much on the animal being sacrifice as much as the smoke rising from the burning

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<sup>1</sup> Jonathan Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 592.

## God's Promise

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**Genesis 8:21-22** ~ The LORD smelled the soothing aroma; and the LORD said to Himself, "I will never again curse the ground on account of man, for the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth; and I will never again destroy every living thing, as I have done. 22 While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease."

- God reacted to the smoke which went up from the offering, showing that He accepted Noah's sacrifice
- As the smoke ascended upward, God metaphorically breathed in the smoke and it pleased Him
- God was pleased by Noah's attitude in his willingness to sacrifice a significant portion of the clean animals then alive (perhaps 6 pair?)
- In response, God resolved to do two things:
  1. To never curse the ground in this way again (the flood is viewed as another curse on the ground that was the result of human disobedience in the garden, where the earth suffered its first judgment)
  2. To never flood the earth again
- The clauses in Hebrew are parallel:

לֹא־אֶסְפָּף לְקַלֵּל עוֹד אֶת־הָאֲדָמָה  
I will not add to curse again the ground

לֹא־אֶסְפָּף עוֹד לְהַכּוֹת אֶת־כָּל־חַי  
I will not add again to destroy all living creatures

- God does not make these promises because He had remorse or second thoughts about the flood
- Although God grieves the sinful choices people make, God does not change His mind or ever regret what He does
- There are passages that indicate that God "repented"

**Exodus 32:14** ~ So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

**1 Samuel 15:11** ~ I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following Me and has not carried out My commands." And Samuel was distressed and cried out to the LORD all night.

- But these must not be taken as evidence that God regrets His actions or changes His mind
- God does respond to people with grief when people sin and choose wickedness
- "...God has emotions and passions and...he can and does respond to us for good or ill when we deserve it. The point is that unchangeableness must not be thought of as if it were some type of frozen immobility. God is not some impervious being who cannot respond when circumstances or individuals change. Rather, he is a living person, and as such he can and does change when the occasion demands it. He does not change in his character, person, or plan. But he can and does respond to our changes."<sup>2</sup>
- But God is immutable and does not change...His character and being can experience no change or mutation

**Numbers 23:19** ~ God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?

**1 Samuel 15:29** ~ Also the Glory of Israel will not lie or change His mind; for He is not a man that He should change His mind.

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<sup>2</sup> Walter Kaiser, *More Hard Sayings*, 41.

**Malachi 3:6** ~ For I, the LORD, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

- So, God did not make these promises to Noah because He regretted the flood
- He made this covenant with Noah simply out of His grace and mercy toward the human race that has no basis to continue living because of their cosmic treason
- Yet, God demonstrates profound compassion on undeserving sinners
- Interestingly, notice that God’s first response is not to Noah but to “Himself,” literally “to His heart”
- God did promise Noah that He would not flood the earth again in Gen 9:9-11; however, here the promise is not made with Noah but rather with Himself
- God committed in His heart – i.e. His mind, will, emotions, the very center of His being – to never repeat the flood
- In other words, He bound Himself entirely to this promise...He bound His character to it
- Twice in v. 21 God covenanted to “never again” send a worldwide flood
- And, although there have been plenty of destructive local floods that have even taken many lives, there has never been another global flood
- God has demonstrated that He is faithful to His promises and covenants
- However, despite God’s compassion and promise, “the intent man’s heart is evil from his youth”
- This statement is wedged between the two-fold promise and is reminiscent of the reason God wiped out mankind in the flood

**Genesis 6:5** ~ Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

- Sadly, the root of the problem which caused the flood in the first place – sin – was not eliminated
- Despite this fresh start for humanity, it failed to solve the underlying problem of man’s fallen nature
- The flood has really solved nothing in man’s fallen condition...man is not getting better as a result of the flood
- “So the continuation of man’s existence is not something man has earned by goodness; rather, it’s entirely because of God’s long-suffering and forbearance.”<sup>3</sup>
- In addition to His promise to never again send a world-wide flood, God guaranteed in v. 22 that earth’s cycles would persist
- The normal daily and annual cycles would continue uninterrupted as long as the earth endures
- This includes the seasons (“seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter”) as well as “day and night”
- These will end only when God finally destroys the present heaven and earth and brings about the new heavens and earth
- This earth will remain as it is because God is sovereignly holding all of His creation together in His hand
- Nothing will cause the earth’s destruction until God brings about the new heaven and earth with fire

**2 Peter 3:10-13** ~ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

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<sup>3</sup> Sarfati, *The Genesis Account*, 595.

- “The variable climate will not again become what it was during the Flood year. The creation’s solar cycle of day and night will continue (cp. 1:14–16). This implies that God desires to provide a climatic environment suitable to the preservation of plant, animal, and human life on the planet.”<sup>4</sup>

## WHAT ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

### Contemporary Views

#### Current Examples of Climate Change Activism

- Global warming is big news that has captured the attention of the world, igniting environmental alarmism
- Many claim today that global warming is real, is caused by man’s mistreatment of the environment, and that it will eventually lead to the destruction of the earth through intense storms, drought, and heat waves
- Some even say that global warming is the single greatest threat to ever affect man
- “Bjorn Lomborg quotes respected scientist James Lovelock as saying: ‘Before this century is over, billions of us will die and the few breeding pairs of people that survive will be in the Arctic where the climate remains tolerable.’”<sup>5</sup>
- Former Vice President Al Gore founded *The Climate Reality Project* in 2005
- “Vice President Gore serves as chairman and works with the organization to promote awareness of the ongoing dangers posed by global warming pollution and solutions to climate change. To promote global action, Climate Reality brings millions of people together to demand their leaders embrace solutions to the climate crisis...Climate Reality recruits, trains, and mobilizes people to become powerful activists...to push for aggressive climate action and high-level policies that accelerate a just transition to a cleaner and greener world.”<sup>6</sup>



- Greta Thunberg is an 18 year-old Swedish environmental activist who is known for challenging world leaders to take immediate action for climate change
- She became well-known after she protested outside the Swedish parliament in 2018, when she was 15, holding up a sign saying “School Strike for climate” to pressure the gov’t to meet carbon emission targets
- She has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times and was the *Time* Person of the Year in 2019

<sup>4</sup> William D. Barrick, *The Noachic Covenant’s Impact on Caring for Creation*, paper presented at ETS Annual Meeting, November 15, 2012.

<sup>5</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/environmental-science/climate-change/is-man-the-cause-of-global-warming/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.algore.com/project/the-climate-reality-project>

- At the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference last month in Glasgow, President Biden warned that climate change is “an existential threat to human existence as we know it”<sup>7</sup>
- Calling the climate crisis “a challenge of our collective lifetimes,” he said, “I believe there’s an incredible opportunity — not just for the United States — but for all of us. We are standing at an inflection point in history. We have the ability to invest in ourselves and build an equitable, clean energy future, and, in the process, create millions of good paying jobs and opportunities around the world; cleaner air for our children; bountiful oceans; healthier forests; and ecosystems for our planet.”
- Last month, numerous Big Tech companies (Google, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter) announced that they have made the decision to “stop monetizing content with creators that deny climate change”
- This means that those who make money off their content via ads will no longer be able to do so if they question the climate change narrative
- “Reportedly, ‘This includes content referring to climate change as a hoax or a scam, claims denying that long-term trends show the global climate is warming, and claims denying that greenhouse gas emissions or human activity contribute to climate change.’ In other words—question the narrative and big tech will make sure you can’t make a living! So, if we were to say that one has to believe in the true history of world as given in the Bible and understand the effects of the global flood and the ice age it generated as being a major cause of climate change, we could also be targeted. And if we were to quote Genesis 8:22 as true, we could also be targeted: ‘While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease’ (Genesis 8:22).”<sup>8</sup>
- An April 25, 2021 article in Vogue magazine asked the question, “Is Having a Baby in 2021 Pure Environmental Vandalism?”
- “In it, the author—a self-described ‘scientifically-engaged person’—shares how she ‘worried feverishly’ about the strain of a baby on the planet and if her child would want to live in a world where ‘we have perhaps just another 60 harvests left before our overworked soil gives out and we are running out of fresh water.’ In the end, she says she had a baby, and would like another, but she will raise her child with an awareness of ‘ecological equality.’”<sup>9</sup>
- Additionally, in a November 28, 2018 article illustrating how Canadians can “mitigate climate change,” the CBC claimed that at the top of the list of the “four biggest ways individuals can help cut down on emissions” is for parents to “have one fewer child”<sup>10</sup>
- This will save the earth from 58.7 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> annually
- Recently, the Grand Rapids Climate Coalition held a march for carbon neutrality: “The coalition demanded the city of Grand Rapids take stronger action in reaching carbon neutrality by 2030. ‘It’s a matter of environmental justice and economic benefit,’ said coalition co-chair Abigail Bartlett. ‘We have time to both avoid the worst of the kinds of rains and floods we’ve seen in Michigan and lay the basis for a clean energy



<sup>7</sup> <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/biden-calls-climate-crisis-an-existential-threat-to-human-existence-as-we-know-it-at-cop26>

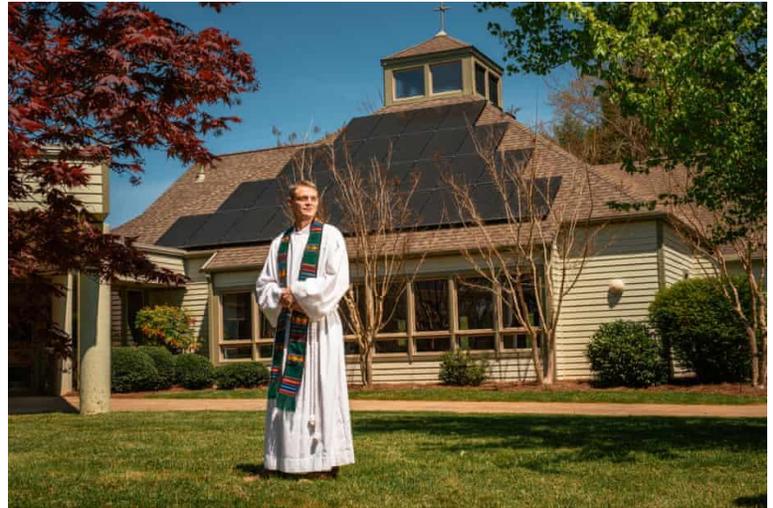
<sup>8</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/environmental-science/climate-change/youtube-google-stop-monetizing-climate-change-deniers/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/environmental-science/climate-change/is-having-baby-pure-environmental-vandalism/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.lifesitenews.com/news/cbc-tells-canadians-to-have-fewer-children-to-stop-climate-crisis/>

economy that we need, right now.’ The group believes the city has taken good first steps—like reducing its carbon footprint in municipal buildings—but they say more needs to be done, sooner rather than later.”<sup>11</sup>

- It is not surprising that the climate change crisis has made its way into religious circles, with pastors and churches using Scripture to promote climate activism
- “The Rev Scott Hardin-Nieri regularly revisits the story of Noah’s ark. ‘People look at that story fondly, because they focus on all the animals that were saved,’ the pastor says. But for Hardin-Nieri, Noah’s ark isn’t a simple story of hope; it is principally a story about human suffering amid widespread ecological devastation. ‘We forget how many people were killed in this apocalyptic world where the environment was ruined,’ he says.”<sup>12</sup>
- “Hardin-Nieri, who was ordained in the Christian church in 2003, [tries] to get congregations across the state to care about climate change. Creation Care Alliance, an organisation he has directed since 2015, aims to connect the religious with the environment around them. Across religious pockets of the south, Hardin-Nieri sees fertile ground for climate activism – and believes scripture is uniquely suited to help religious communities better comprehend the unfolding environmental catastrophes happening around them... When Hardin-Nieri conducts Bible studies with members of his church, he likes to ask: ‘How is nature being discussed in these passages?’”



### The Climate Is Changing

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2021

St. Denis

arr. Caniadau y Cyssegr, 1839

1. The cli - mate is chang - ing! Cre - a - tion cries out!  
 2. We pray for the a - ni - mals here in our midst  
 3. We thank you for peo - ple who trea - sure the earth,  
 4. We thank you for lead - ers, cou - ra - geous and brave,  
 5. You love this good earth, and you sent us your Son!

Your peo - ple face flood - ing and fire and drought.  
 who can - not de - fend their own right to ex - ist.  
 whose faith has long taught them its beau - ty and worth,  
 who know that the earth is worth fight - ing to save,  
 May we love our neigh - bors—there's work to be done.

We see the great heat waves and storms at their worst.  
 We pray for the moun - tains and fo - rests and seas  
 We thank you as well for the chil - dren and youth  
 who care a - bout jus - tice and what they should do,  
 May we, by your Spi - rit, do all in our power

We pray for the poor, Lord—for they suf - fer first.  
 that bear the harsh foot - print of our hu - man greed.  
 who look to the fu - ture and speak out the truth.  
 who lis - ten to sci - ence and work hard for you.  
 to care for your earth in this cri - ti - cal hour.

- This is an actual new hymn from the long-heretical PCUSA denomination
- It was written to support efforts to counter climate change, including at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland
- It is set to the tune of "Immortal Invisible, God Only Wise"
- Such reactions, even with religious circles, springs from the belief that many people experience eco-anxiety, defined by the American Psychological Association as “a chronic fear of environmental doom”

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/grand-rapids-climate-coalition-holds-march-urging-for-carbon-neutrality/69-0b4cf481-63ca-4836-a8ec-426cbaf9ad13>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/apr/20/the-rev-scott-hardin-nieri-north-carolina-climate-action>

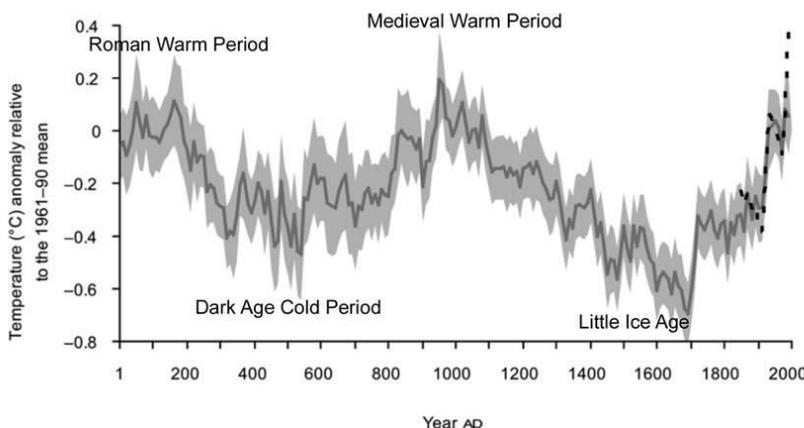
## Scientific Mechanisms for Climate Change

- Secular scientists believe that Earth has existed for billions of years and that the temperature of the earth has been stable for over 10,000 years, since the end of the last supposed Ice Age
- With small observable changes in the earth's temperature, these scientists assume that humans must be the cause of this change
- They claim that there exists a strong link between rising CO2 levels/greenhouse gasses and warming temperatures
- Their assumptions are also predicated on the belief in billions of years of earth history during which polar ice needed hundreds of thousands of years to build up over two miles in depth

### Approaching This Topic Biblically

- From Genesis 8:22, we know that God promised to reestablish the cycle of seasons after Noah's flood and guaranteed that such cycles would never cease until the end of the present heaven and earth
- With this as our starting point, then how do we address this issue?
- How do we respond to this claim that environmental justice must be pursued?
- It is important to understand initially that, in a biblical worldview, climates do change...but the Flood and Ice Age impact how this data should be understood
- Without this as a starting point, it will be easy to arrive at false conclusions
- Is the average global temperature actually rising? → Yes
- "Temperature measurements have been made since 1880 at land-based weather stations. These measurements indicate that there has been about a 1.3°F rise in temperature since AD 1880. While the urban 'heat island' effect, the buildup of urban areas around these weather stations, is likely responsible for a portion of this increase in temperature, a significant portion of the increase is real. Let me reiterate that point so there is no misunderstanding—the global temperature has been rising since the Little Ice Age."<sup>13</sup>
- The overall trend in average global temperature over the last 400 years is up
- The following chart estimates average global temperatures for the past 2,000 years based on the best data available

A NEW RECONSTRUCTION OF TEMPERATURE VARIABILITY IN THE EXTRA-TROPICAL NORTHERN HEMISPHERE



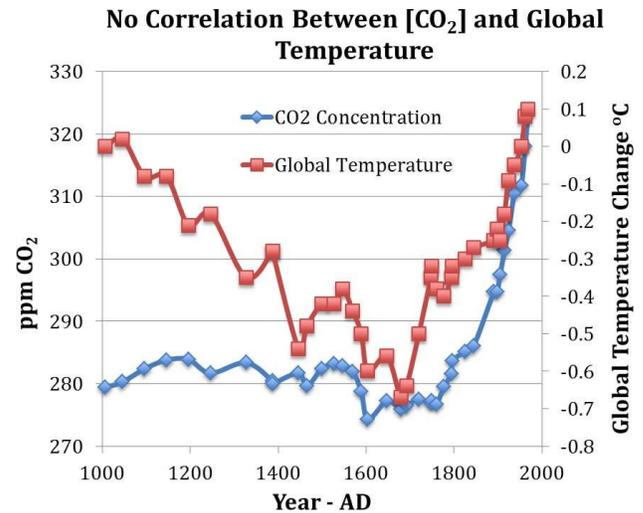
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<sup>13</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/environmental-science/climate-change/globe-is-warming-but-its-not-your-fault/>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

- From this chart, it is reasonable to conclude that there has been normal climate variation of about 0.8°C (1.3°F) over the past 2,000 years and that the temperature has been in the neighborhood of the current global temperature twice before
- Therefore, no special cause is required to explain the current global temperature
- At the center of the current climate change debate is the belief that increased concentration of greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide from increased human population and industrialization) in the atmosphere is the cause of the latest temperature increase

- Is this the case? → “If you compare these CO<sub>2</sub> estimates of Etheridge with the temperature estimates of Ljungqvist...the lack of correlation between temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> concentration is clear, based on the best evidence we have. The global temperature declines significantly from the Medieval Warm period to the Little Ice age while the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration barely changes. In addition, the temperature rise beginning around AD 1700 precedes the rise in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration, which is not what you would expect if a rising CO<sub>2</sub> concentration were the cause of rising temperatures.”<sup>15</sup>



- Conclusion: “It seems that politicians and the media have always been concerned about the climate. In the late 1970s, there was concern about global cooling. The temperature had declined for about 30 years, and many were convinced that we were headed for the next ice age. Almost immediately, the temperature started to rise and continued to rise until about the year 2000. Early in the new century, politicians were clamoring that the rise in global temperature was getting out of control and were blaming humankind for causing it. At the height of the concern about warming, it started to become obvious that the temperature increase had paused, and little change has been noticed now for about the last 15 years. In the absence of a short-term warming or cooling trend about which to panic, the politicians have turned to saying that weather patterns are much more extreme than in the past...The data are clear. The global temperature has been rising since the Little Ice Age. But today’s temperature is not unprecedented. Based on the best information we have, it is in the neighborhood of the temperature during the Medieval Warm Period, about 1,000 years ago. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas and, therefore, is a factor in determining the global temperature. But the concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in the air and global temperature do not correlate well over the long term, indicating that CO<sub>2</sub> is not the dominant cause of today’s rising global temperature. *The globe is warming, but it’s not your fault.*”<sup>16</sup>
- If we start with God’s Word, we understand that the perfect climate that existed prior to the flood was radically changed when the surface of the earth was destroyed during Noah’s flood around 4,300 years ago
- As the earth settled from the effects of the flood, there was a transitional climate during the Ice Age that covered 30% of the earth’s surface in ice
- Lasting likely 600-700 years, the Ice Age resulted in a transitional climate that slowly gave way to the present climate as the earth evened out from the aftereffects of the flood
- Thus, it would be expected that there would still be variations in climate and temperature

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

- Therefore, “it’s obvious that man’s recent activity is not directly responsible for global climate change issues. However, man and his wickedness were responsible for bringing God’s judgment of the Flood that radically changed the climate. So, in a sense, people who lived over 3,000 years ago are at least in part responsible for climate change! But we shouldn’t be overly concerned about climate change, because it has been happening since the time of the Flood.”<sup>17</sup>
- The bottom line: While climate change is real, nothing is going to happen to this planet until God says so

### **But Man is a Steward of God’s Creation**

- A right understanding of climate change doesn’t mean that we should disregard caring for God’s creation
- God cares for what He has made

**Exodus 20:11** ~ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

**Psalms 104:10, 13, 14, 24** ~ He sends forth springs in the valleys; They flow between the mountains...13 He waters the mountains from His upper chambers; The earth is satisfied with the fruit of His works...14 He causes the grass to grow for the cattle, And vegetation for the labor of man, So that he may bring forth food from the earth...24 O LORD, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions.

- And as His vice-regents, we should also care for what He has made

**Genesis 1:26, 28** ~ Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”...28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

**Genesis 2:5** ~ Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.

- As those made in His image and tasked with tending what He has made, we should show equal care for all God’s creatures and creation
- We should show care for creation for our good and God’s glory because God is glorified when we show the same care for and delight in His creation as He does
- God’s promise in Gen 8:22 “implies that such preservation provides a model for mankind in his vice-regency: they must follow practices that contribute to the preservation of a stable environment...as vice-regents we should not act in any way that would cause unnecessary harm to the environment that might result in some form of abnormal variation in the climate. Extreme deforestation without proper management and preservation of adequate forests exemplifies one abuse needing correction. Air and water pollution should be kept to a minimum, even if neither has any substantial effect on global warming or global cooling.”<sup>18</sup>
- However, we don’t worship the creation

**Romans 1:25** ~ For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>17</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/environmental-science/climate-change/science-confirms-climate-change/>

<sup>18</sup> Barrick, *The Noachic Covenant’s Impact on Caring for Creation*

## Reasons to Not Fear Climate Change<sup>19</sup>

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- Numerous reasons exist why believers, who truly trust God and His Word, should not fear global warming or any of the hype and hysteria that surrounds it

### 1. God is ultimately in control of everything

**Psalm 115:3** ~ But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

**Psalm 148:8** ~ Fire and hail, snow and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word;

**Ephesians 1:11** ~ we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will

- While people can and do impact the environment, humans are not the “be-all and end-all” of what happens here on earth
- God sovereignly oversees everything within His creation
- And since He has already described how the earth will end (2 Peter 3:1-13), we know that it won’t end by man-made climate change

### 2. God has commanded us not to be afraid

**Psalm 27:1** ~ The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread?

**Psalm 46:1-3** ~ God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble.<sup>2</sup> Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; <sup>3</sup> Though its waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah.

**Philippians 4:6** ~ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

- The Bible commands us not to be afraid over 365 times – more than for each day of the year
- If God told us something that many times, it underscores the reality that fear should not grip the heart of a believer, including dire reports of the earth’s destruction by human irresponsibility

### 3. God has promised that the seasons will continue

**Genesis 8:22** ~ While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease.

- God has promised that we will continue to have seasons and that we will continue to be able to grow food
- Thus, even if climate changes, God will not break His promises that the predictable seasons will continue under His control “while the earth remains”
- God will preserve the earth

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<sup>19</sup> Adapted from <https://answersingenesis.org/environmental-science/climate-change/climate-change-and-the-bible/>

#### 4. Our primary purpose should always be on people

**Genesis 1:27** ~ God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**Matthew 10:29-31** ~ Are not two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

- We should always have a “humans first” approach to environmental issues
- “It’s a complex issue. But it does remind us that if we want to encourage others to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to us, that includes obeying another command from God to us—caring for the poor and needy. That includes not enacting policies that may be perceived as good for the environment, but that will have negative consequences on the poor. Instead, we put the poor first, and a likely result of such policies would be that, once basic needs are met, those individuals will be more able to turn their attention to being good stewards of creation. When we keep things in a biblical balance—people first, creation second—increasingly better stewardship should follow.”