

Series: Citizens of Heaven: Social Issues and the Sacred Mind

Title: EARTH MANAGEMENT: Climate, Care, and Conclusion

Text: Philippians 3:20-21; Romans 8

Philippians 3:20-21

*But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will **transform** our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to **subject all things to himself**.*

Droughts, fires, extreme cold in Texas, ice caps melting, the ozone is fading, greenhouse gases are killing us, no fossil fuels, green energy, no more gas cars, all electric by 2030, brown outs...

Gov. Inslee ran on the issue
John Kerry sells the issue
Science debates the issue
Politicians use the issue
Media frighten with the issue

The existential threat to survival

No greater issue
All nations must comply

The World is dying and there is a clock!

<https://climateclock.world/>

6 years 313 days and 14 hrs

Washington Post

The world has just over a decade to get climate change under control,
The world stands on the brink of failure when it comes to holding global warming to moderate levels,

New York Times

Failure to Slow Warming Will Set Off Climate 'Tipping Points,'

As global warming passes certain limits, dire changes will probably become irreversible, the researchers said, including the loss of polar ice sheets and the death of coral reefs.

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) [wrote](#) in a report requested as part of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

"It's like a deafening, piercing smoke alarm going off in the kitchen. We have to put out the fire," said Erik Solheim, executive director of the U.N. Environment Program.

If we do not deal with emissions by 2030, we will not be able to stop the climate raising over 1.5 degrees in 100 years.

There are three groups crying out for the salvation of the world

Three Groups

- 1 – Scientists - UN International Panel Climate Change (IPCC) Work group
 - Recent climate change is primarily due to man's burning of fossil fuels – releasing CO₂
 - This might eventually dangerously heat the planet

- 2 – Other scientists
 - Do not see it as a major problem – skeptics
 - Many reasons for climate adjustments
 - Sun. moon. Clouds, seas. Planet orbit variations
 - Myriad of other inputs
 - No evidence that CO₂ emissions are dominant factor

- Agreements among both groups
 - 1 -The climate is always changing
 - 2 - CO₂ is a greenhouse gas, without which life is not possible
 - Adding it to the atmosphere should lead to SOME warning
 - 3 -Atmospheric levels of CO₂ have been rising since the end of the little ice age in the 19th century
 - Last 200 years global mean temp has increased slightly and erratically by about 1.8F
 - Only since 1960s have man's greenhouse emissions have been sufficient to play a role
 - 4 -No confident prediction of long term future global mean temp impact can be made
 - 5 -Neither group asserts that the burning of fossil fuels lead to global catastrophe

Why are so many people panicking?

Group Three - politicians, environmentalists, media

Global warming provides these groups, more than any issue, the things they most want

- Politicians – money and power
- Environmentalists – money for their cause and confirmation that their near religious devotion to the idea that man is a destructive force acting against nature
- Media – ideology, money, headlines, and ratings- viewership with alarmism

Scientists outside climate science are jumping on the bandwagon with papers to gain the funding they desire –
acne to the Syrian crisis – the politicians grant the subsidies.

Group three is winning because they are drowning out the serious debate.

These Three groups are attempting to answer the call to a global situation.

As a Christian, what is our response?

What is our response to this global call for humanity to face the issue of complete devastation?

What does the Bible say about creation and what our concern, if any, for it should be?

How should we view EARTH MANAGEMENT?

Its Climate

Its Care

And Its Conclusion

We look to the beginning

God's Creation

Genesis 1:1 - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Psalm 121:1-2 - *I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Creation's Relationship with God

Job 12:7-10 (ESV) *"But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.*

Man's Relationship with Creation

The Plan – Take dominion, fill, and subdue - given to us

Genesis 1:26-29

²⁶ *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

²⁸ *And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

²⁹ *And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit.*

The Problem – Covenant Breakers

Genesis 3:17-19

*Because you have...eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ *thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for**

you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Isaiah 24:4-6 (NRSV)

The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers; the heavens languish together with the earth. The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants; for they have transgressed laws, violated the statutes, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt; therefore, the inhabitants of the earth dwindled, and few people are left.

Dominion Shifted Twice

First Shift: from Man to Satan

John states

1 John 5:19 ESV

We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Jesus said

John 14:30 ESV

I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me...

The Devil thought he did

Matthew 4:8-9 ESV

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.”

Paul says we are transferred

Colossians 1:13 ESV

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son...

Second Shift from Satan to Christ

- God the Father gives to Jesus all authority in heaven and on earth.
- In his ascension, Christ is seated at the right hand of God, where he is crowned as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Hebrews 2:8 ESV

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him.

- Satan’s authority and power are limited and subordinate to the authority that is vested in Christ. Christ right now is the king of this earth.

- His kingdom is invisible, and not everybody acknowledges it. People are giving more allegiance to the prince of darkness than to the Prince of Peace, but that is an act of usurpation on the part of Satan. His power is restricted, limited, and temporal.

To see what our role now is in relationship to the world we must look at Romans chapter 8.

Chapter 8 of Romans is one of the greatest Chapters in the Bible.

It begins with “no condemnation” (v1) and ends with “no separation” (v35); in between there is “no defeat” (v15).

In this surpassing chapter the several streams of the preceding argument meet and flow in one "river of the water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb," until it seems to lose itself in the ocean of a blissful eternity.

Rom. 8 speaks to so many facets of life and needs.

- If you struggle with guilt,
- If you struggle with sin,
- If you're going through trials,
- If you don't know how to pray,
- If you're struggling with assurance of your salvation.
- It has exhortation and no command.

The German pietist Philip Spencer said that “if the Bible were a ring and Romans its precious stone, Rom. 8 would be “the sparkling point of the jewel.” Rom. 7 dominated by “I,” law, and sin; but Rom. 8 by Holy Spirit, God's grace, persevering love, and victory over sin.

Listen to the themes this chapter deals with:

Romans 8 On Salvation: The process of God's work in our lives in salvation to glorification in eternity.

- **Justification and sanctification:** God's salvation through Christ and His indwelling Spirit give us life to overcome judgment and sin (8:1-13).
- **Adoption:** God's Spirit assures us of our adoption as His children and heirs (8:14-17).
- **Glorification:** Although we (and all creation) now suffer, God will bring us to final glory (8:18-30).

Romans 8 On Suffering: The contrast of this life and the next and that we can be assured that God's purposes will be accomplished

- Our present sufferings do not compare to our future glory (8:18-25).
- In our weakness, the Spirit intercedes for us (8:26-27).
- God will work all things together for our good, because His sovereign purpose for His elect will bring us to glory (8:28-30).
- Assurance: No attack or hardship can separate God's elect from His great love (8:31-39).

Romans 8 On Sanctification: The battle between struggling with the works of the flesh and living in the Spirit

- The works of flesh and life in the Spirit are keep occurring.
 - Difference between the spirit filled Christian life and living in flesh are pictured.
 - In past we lived in flesh (7:5).
 - Now, we live according to Spirit (8:4-5).
- The past life leads you from bad to worse,
 - Whereas the present life leads you from worse to best.
- The life in flesh means controlled by passion, pride, lust, and ambition.
 - But the Spiritual life is controlled by Christ, and focused in God.
- Therefore, walk by Spirit (No Condemnation-v.4);
 - Think in Spirit (No death-v.6); live by spirit (No division-v.13).
- Future glory is greater than the present sufferings. v.18.
 - Romans says that God counts us as righteous because of what Christ has done.

There in the middle of this chapter lie several obligations that you and I have regarding Creation:

We have an obligation to fight sin against God, Mankind, and Creation.

Romans 8:13, 26, 37

¹³ *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.*

²⁶ *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.*

³⁷ *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

- Not in order to be saved, but to our glorious future.
 - Fighting sin is not easy.
 - Enduring persecution is not easy.
 - Coping with day-to-day life in a fallen world, with corruptible bodies, has its difficulties.
 - Nevertheless, “our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us”.

We have the obligation to share with creation the longing of HIS restoration and reconciliation

Romans 8:19-24

¹⁹ *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.* ²⁰ *For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope* ²¹ *that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.* ²² *For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.* ²³ *And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.* ²⁴ *For in this hope we were saved.*

Listen to the connection we have with Creation

Creation waits for our revealing

Rom. 8:19 - *For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.*

- Revealing of children of God, now it's subjected in bondage, decay, hence it groans in labor pain for redemption.
- For man's sake earth was cursed and shares his miseries.
- Hence, should share in his recovery.
- There is a cosmic significance to God's plan being worked out in us.
- **Creation will be set free and obtain our freedom...**
- **From its bondage to corruption, and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Rom. 8:21**
- **Creation groans together with us in the pains of childbirth .**

UNTIL THAT DAY OF RESTORATION WHAT CAN WE EXPECT?

- **Creation will continue until God says it is done.**

Genesis 8:22 - ²² *While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."*

- **We can expect cold and heat**

HISTORY OF ENVIRONMENT

9,000 years ago - 8,200 y.a. - Climates warmer and often moister than today's.

About 8,200 y.a. – A sudden cool phase lasting about 200 years, about half-way as severe as the Younger Dry, and wetter-than-present conditions in NW Europe, but drier than present in eastern Turkey.

8,000-4,500 y.a. - Climates generally slightly warmer and moister than today's.

At 5,900 y.a. - A possible sudden and short-lived cold phase corresponding to the 'elm decline.'

Since about 4,500 y.a. - climates fairly similar to the present

2,600 y.a. – A relatively wet/cold event (of unknown duration) in many areas.

(But 1,400 y.a. {536-538 A.D.} - A wet, cold event of reduced tree growth and famine across Western Europe and possibly elsewhere).

(Followed by 'Little Ice Age' about 700-200 y.a.) **up until 1800s**

1800-present – climates warmer

1850s -1870s – a cooler period

2030 – expect to move back to a cooler phase

Creation will reveal signs of its destruction

Psalms 46:2 - *Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea...*

Signs of the end: Matt. 24; Rev. 6

- wars
- famines
- earthquakes
- sun darkened
- moon no light
- stars fall from sky
- powers of heaven shaken

The seals

Rev. 6:12-14 – Earthquakes

¹² *...there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood,* ¹³ *and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale.* ¹⁴ *The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place.*

Another major earthquake

Rev 8:1-5 – Seventh seal

⁵ *Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.*

One third burned

Rev. 8 :6-12 Trumpets

⁷ *...hail and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.*

One third sea as blood

⁸ *...great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea,* and a third of the sea became blood. ⁹ A third of the living creatures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

Asteroid – 1/3 waters bitter

¹⁰ *...great star fell from heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water.* ¹¹ *The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died from the water, because it had been made bitter.*

Celestial Shift – 1/3 darkened

¹² *...a third of the sun was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars, so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of the night.*

So, according to Scripture, I predict heat, fire, and celestial devastation

Creation will be reconciled

Col 1:19-20 - ¹⁹ *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,* ²⁰ *and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

Creation will be recreated

Rev. 21:1 - *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.*

Creation will be in perfect harmony

Isa. 11:6-9 - *⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them...*

(An illustration of wolf and lamb; leopard and young goat; the calf and young lion; cow and the bear; lion and ox; nursing child and cobra; weaned child and viper's den; a perfect harmony: love and care, no enmity and no hatred.)

- The entire universe has been redeemed by the work of Jesus Christ.

The physical world is not junk that must be tossed aside

God made it good, and he will make it good again.

Global Weirding – the climate will change

CHALLENGE:

DETERMINE THAT YOUR POSITIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE SACRED WORD OF GOD

You be the judge if the way to caring for the planet is the cost analysis of taxation and global poverty against the 1.5-degree potential adjustment within 100 years.

But watch the signs of the planet... they will tell you of the Return of the King
They will be a reminder that his return is imminent, and you need to have your heart ready.

Prayer