
Does the bible talk about global warming?

Posted by Lori - 2009/02/27 17:01

The bible does mention issues in Revelation about changes in the world during the end times. Jesus, in his teachings in the NT also mentions earthquakes, drought, and floods which are all weather related. These catastrophies in the end times will be worse than any ever experienced on the earth.

One can look at these events as weather related but to go as far as saying they are due or related to global warming?? What do you think?

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Re:Does the bible talk about global warming?

Posted by Sabrina - 2009/03/04 10:33

That's an interesting question, Aunt Lori. I had this really long reply written out before I realized I wasn't addressing the question you posed. I took it first as a question about the end of time, not about global warming. Oops.

There's a verse in Genesis that has always fascinated me:

Genesis 10:25

Two sons were born to Eber:

One was named Peleg, because in his time the earth was divided; his brother was named Joktan.

There's a footnote that says Peleg means division. In Assyrian, pelga literally means "half" and variations can mean to divide into several portions or sections. I always wondered if this verse was related to Pangaea. Scientists say that it would've taken I don't know how many billions of years for the continents to drift, but at the same time, they also say that the Himalayas were caused by the extreme violence of the collision between modern India and the rest of South Asia; somehow billions of years and violent collision don't go together in my mind.

I'm no geologist, but it's always been my personal opinion that Noah's flood triggered the breakup of the continents. Poetry is lyrical, but that doesn't exclude it from being an instrument of history and truth:

Gen. 7:11

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, on the seventeenth day of the second month--on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.

However, I'm not sure that the Bible comes out and explicitly comments on the environment or the weather very often, unless it's key to a narrative. I think that information is given more in a background, by-the-way type of sense. It's kind of like the aside about Peleg's name: by the way, the earth was divided/broke apart during his lifetime. The author doesn't even say what that really means; perhaps he was writing to an audience who already knew.

The verses in Revelation 6 seem to be written about a specific day, not really a chain of global events. First there's the earthquake, then there's an eclipse, and then the stars fall. It seems pretty contained to one event. (It reminds me a lot of The Last Battle. Or perhaps the other way around.) Then again, in chapter 8 the chain of events set off by the angels' trumpets could be gradual. It's really hard to say. Biblical time is hard to pin down.

I will have to think about this some more. I am interested in hearing your thoughts and Uncle Mike's thoughts, as well as everyone else.

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Re:Does the bible talk about global warming?

Posted by Mike - 2009/03/04 14:21

I guess to answer the Lori's original question; Do I think that global warming could bring about the weather/natural disasters of the end times? I guess in a certain sense they could be contributing factors, we might look at "global" warming as a world wide phenomenon as all of these will be.

Also we see things happening in the heavens, stuff falling from the sky, like meteors, look at the following quote from Luke 21:25-31.

25 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring

and tossing of the sea. 26 Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." 29 He told them this parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near.

25 and 26 we see Jesus mention several "signs" in the "SUN", "MOON" and "STARS" these could be several things like meteors, we just had a near miss by a small one last week, and what about the roaring and tossing of the sea? I think all of these things, global warming also, have mankind "upset" and asking, "what can we do to save ourselves?" What if we get hit by a "planet killer" asteroid? We see the answer there in 26, the world is scared. Don't we see it today?

The problem with the world today is it has no room for God, Jesus says in 28, "when everyone else is running around worried about tomorrow, look toward HEAVEN, things are about to get a whole lot better for those that put their trust in God." I think the thing we must recognize is that they will be signs.

42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

We should always be ready, not waiting for a sign to turn ourselves fully over to Christ. As Matthew 24:42-44 points out, even though we may know "the signs of the times" we don't know the day or hour of His return. There is no prophecy left to fulfill, Jesus could return at any moment and gather His people up to Heaven.

Sabrina, I agree on a couple of points, the events in the Book of Revelation are a one right after the other event, I don't think in a day, but in a period of time in quick succession, and in that I think that some of what we are experiencing now could play a part in the global catastrophe to come, because I think we are getting closer and closer to the end, obviously every day is one day nearer.

In addition the Book of Genesis is a good place to study the nature of God and the story of Noah is a good indicator of how God treats His own and those who choose to reject Him.

I guess end time prophecy and events does not hold too much sway on me because I know that it is "pre-written history" and there is nothing mankind can do to stop it, all's that we can do is take the time that we do have to take as many people to Heaven with us as we can.

If you haven't listened to the Heaven and Hell sermons in the Media library, give them a listen.

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Re:Does the bible talk about global warming?

Posted by Sabrina - 2009/03/05 10:30

I agree with your statement that history has already been written and there's nothing we can do to change what will happen. I tend to get frustrated with some individuals/denominations who are continually commenting on the end times and asking if we're in them, and what we should do to either delay or speed up the coming of Christ, depending on their perspective, but they NEVER MENTION the people!! There's absolutely no concern about others and taking them with us, as you said. It's more of an ostrich attitude: "I'll figure out that it's the end of the world, stick my head in the sand, and wait to be saved. Too bad about that neighbor of mine; he would've been a good Christian if only someone had gotten to him in time."

Anyways. I'll go and listen to those sermons. =)

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Re:Does the bible talk about global warming?

Posted by Lori - 2009/03/05 10:37

Great points. Our mission on this earth is clear--we are to spread that good news and help people stop fearing the end and look forward to it. To being with Christ.

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