



# SPIRIT AND TRUTH

**A Magazine for  
Understanding God's Truth**

*The theme of this issue deals with whether or not “climate change” and “global warming” are really human-caused. Is there any other possible “cause” that science is loath to admit?*

**April – June 2017**

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**“...And the Great Dragon was cast out...”:** The aftermath of the casting out of “the great dragon” is chilling. Revelation 12:12 follows up on this prophecy by saying “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time” (KJV). We will see in this article a frank discussion about Paul’s claim in 2 Corinthians 4:4 that there is a “god of this world” who is responsible for much of this coming ravage of the earth and sea. This is biblical understanding to which you should pay very close attention. Page 15

**“Where None Have Gone Before”:** The Milky Way constantly rotates in space at the speed of 515,000 miles per hour. From point “zero,” it takes it about 230,000,000 years to make one rotation back to point “zero.” What does this tell us? If you take into consideration that *homo sapiens* appeared only about 5,800 years ago, then the trip we are presently taking through space leads us to places to which *we have never been before*. What does this mean in the arguments had about “climate change” and global warming”? Page 22



## *From the Desk of ... the Pastor*

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“**T**he winter of 2016-17 might very well be the warmest winter we have experienced in our recorded history of weather patterns.” The problem with that statement lies in the expression “in our *recorded history* of weather patterns.” Why is that a problem? It is a problem because we are not overly privy to the history of weather problems before we began keeping records. I am sure that it is relatively simple to research historical documents to find evidence of pre-record keeping weather extremes in them. If nothing else, Google it!

In Scripture from Genesis 31:40 to Haggai 1:11, there are 10 mentions of *drought*. From 1 Kings 19:11 to Revelation 16:18, there are 16 mentions of *earthquakes*. Those mentions relate to a very narrow area of the world relative to the scriptural record. Also mentioned are floods, famines, and other things related to climate and weather and natural disasters ... well before the Industrial Revolution and the carbon-fuel driven world into which we have our present existence. How significant was the pre-recorded weather history relative to our present “climate change” and “global warming and cooling” experiences? I want to discuss that in this issue of *Spirit and Truth* so you will be privy to knowledge to which many are not. It is very important in the discussion of anything that affects our continued existence.

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It is my opinion that a more frank and open discussion should be had regarding these topics. Because I have an interest in theology – *biblical theology* in particular – I am concerned that a vital element is left out of the discussion. I believe that it is left out because of a particular bias against a theological component having any validity in a *scientific* discussion. Allowing this *anti-theological bias* to hold sway actually denigrates the term “science.” How so?

The term “science” comes from the Latin term *scire*, which basically means “to know.” We can discuss what is *good* “knowledge” and *bad* “knowledge.” We can wrangle about *true* “knowledge”

and *false* “knowledge.” Billions of people admit that *theology* – on one level or another – contains *valid* “knowledge” that should hold sway in *scientific* discussions.

The main question that theologically inclined people pose is simple: Why should the ubiquitous Being known as “God” be left out of the “climate change” and “global warming and cooling” discussion ... as though He does not exist and has no participation in the regulation and control of these forces? Many people attest to having a personal relationship with Him. Science does not agree that such relationships are possible. So ... riddle me that, if you can.

# Is “Climate Change” *Really* a Human-Caused Problem?

(What is Left Out of the Discussion?)

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There is no easy way to tell hard-nosed, dyed-in-the-wool environmentalists that there are things other than *human-caused events* that affect the climate of the planet. By no means is this to discount whatever humans have contributed to the problem. But ... and this is a pregnant exception ... humans have contributed something, other than all manner of pollution, that has caused “climate” changes on many levels. There are *human-caused events* that are directly responsible for the changes ... that have nothing to do with the pollutants themselves. Every human being that has ever lived on the earth has contributed his/her unfair share to the problem.

Therefore, the objective of this discussion is to make you privy to the greatest of all of the contributing factors involved in “climate change.” What you are about to learn is something that virtually no one dares to bring up in the ongoing conversation – mainly because the ordinary person will not believe what I am about to reveal to you. If you are willing to face the truth of this matter, then you will learn how absolutely helpless mankind is in doing something about it ... that is, unless mankind is willing to make some simple, un-technological, un-scientific, low-economic changes in behavior. This is a lesson in character flaws. Please study this thoroughly!

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## Indicators of “Climate Change”

What are the usual indicators that “climate change” really is human-caused? Rather than go through a long laundry list of “indicators” and overwhelm you with the unfamiliar, specialized vocabulary used in science-speak, I will borrow a quote from John Cook at Skeptical Science:

*We now have many lines of evidence all pointing to a single, consistent answer – the main driver of global warming is rising carbon dioxide levels from our fossil fuel burning* ([www.sciencedaily.com](http://www.sciencedaily.com).htm).

There it is: We burn fossil fuels that raise the carbon dioxide levels that raise the global temperature that causes the “climate change.” To be honest, some claim that there are in excess of 20 “indicators,” but they can boil all of them down to this simplified conclusion. That is scientific economy.

But, is it always scientific honesty? Is the “knowledge” factor at all times important to truth?

Why ask? Because they leave out an “indicator” that holds sway in the conversation: an indicator that the scientific world is loath to condescend to use. Why? Because they believe that this “indicator” is not quantifiable – that is, they do not have the ability to observe it as an entity and determine its measurable quantity. Therefore, as far as they are concerned, it serves no useful purpose in the pursuit of “proof” derived from stating a hypothesis, pursuing reasonable experimentation, and establishing a fact from the results.

However, if we are to be truly “scientific,” then we must consider any force in the creation that could have a bearing on the climate as it absorbs destructive effects and attempts to restore itself. That consideration can, if we allow it, include forces outside the realm of quantifiable entities. After all, you can prove the existence of an unseen force like gravity without being able to totally quantify its height, depth, width, length, volume, *et cetera*,

*et cetera*. It exists and humans have proved its existence and its effect upon their existence.

That said, if you simply disallow the existence of non-quantifiable indicators, then you disallow certain elements of the “knowledge” part of the meaning of the term *science*: the ability to *know* and to *systematize* that knowledge. If you systematize all of the ways by which mankind has experienced gravity, then you will have catalogued knowledge about something that you have not been able to actually see or hear or taste or smell. Only your observation of its effects has been enough to “prove” its existence (see John 3:8). You can “feel” gravity ... and, by that mere effect, you can establish an indicator that it exists. You can set up means by which certain aspects of it can be quantified.

### Nature’s “Cleaning” Agents

It is no secret that nature has numerous “cleaning” agents by which it restores itself to an acceptable level of “health.” This applies to air, water, land, and various other areas of the creation.

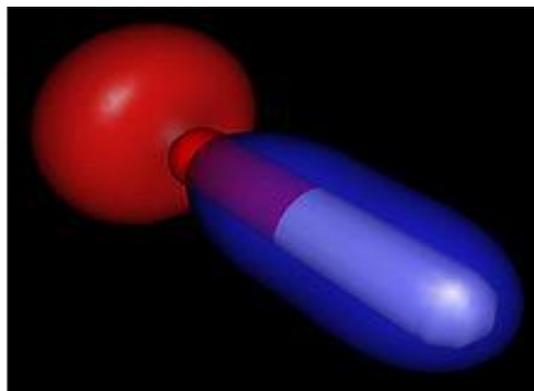
Let me demonstrate something from John Cook’s website [www.sciencedaily.com.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com.htm). It involves research that has been done relative to the global levels of *hydroxyl*, “which help[s] to clear the atmosphere of many hazardous pollutants and some important greenhouse gases.”

*Hydroxyl* is called “a critical player in atmospheric chemistry.” Until recently, according to Cook, scientists believed that the levels of hydroxyl rose and fell by as much as 25%. They now believe that they rise and fall by only a few percent. Why? Quoting Stephen Montzka, the study’s lead author and a research chemist at the Global Monitoring Division of NOAA’s Boulder, Colorado laboratory:

The new hydroxyl measurements give researchers a broad view of the “oxidizing” or self-cleaning capacity of the atmosphere. Now we know that the atmosphere’s ability to rid itself of many pollutants is generally well buffered or stable. This fundamental property of the at-

mosphere was one *we hadn’t been able to confirm before* (emphasis added).

Do you spot the problem involved? It is the last sentence of the quote: There were things that they simply did not know because they did not have the ability to know and confirm them at the time. Why did they not have the ability to know them? *They discovered something that changed the way they had to think about nature’s method of cleaning itself: a hydroxyl radical.*



(illustration of a hydroxyl radical courtesy of [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydroxyl\\_radical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydroxyl_radical))

Let’s use [www.sciencedaily.com](http://www.sciencedaily.com)’s definition:

The new finding adds confidence to projections of future air pollutant loads. The hydroxyl radical ... is formed and broken down so quickly in the atmosphere that it has been extremely difficult to measure on global scales.

“In the daytime, hydroxyl’s lifetime is about one second and is present at exceedingly low concentrations,” said Montzka.

The radical is central to the chemistry of the atmosphere ... *However, hydroxyl radicals do not remove carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide or chlorofluorocarbons.* (emphasis added)

Christine Dell’Amore, of National Geographic News (June 4, 2009), contributed an article titled “Mystery Ingredient Cleaning Earth’s Atmo-

sphere.” Right out of the proverbial “chute,” she admits that the “unknown cleaning agent ... has shaken up decades-long assumptions about our atmosphere’s self-cleaning process.”



(Photo of China’s Pearl River Delta; courtesy of <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/bigphotos>)

Dell’Amore states that the OH radicals very easily break down trace gases and pollutants in our lower atmosphere, but result in the production of *ozone*. Ozone is produced when the OH radical is recycled by nitrous oxide. To the surprise of scientists from the Institute of Chemistry and Dynamics of the Geosphere in Juelich, Germany, such is not the case in the Pearl River region in China.

She adds that OH radicals are more concentrated in the Pearl River delta than any other place in the world in which measurements have been made. So, what? Well, it seems that “the delta’s air contains *relatively little ozone*” (emphasis added). What is her conclusion? Read this very carefully because it pertains to my point about *not knowing things*:

This suggests the existence of another method of recycling OH radicals—one that occurs without nitric oxide, the team suggests in this week’s *Science Express*. Such a process is so unexpected that scientists likely did not have the right tools with them at the time to measure it...

Here is the takeaway from this: While they admit that they need more studies to confirm their

findings, it is clearly stated for the world to see that *they did not expect to find what they found* ... partly because *they did not have* the proper instrumentation on hand to do so. Since that time, they have been working on chamber simulations *without* nitrous oxide with the hope of solving the puzzle presented in the Pearl River delta.

Dell’Amore concludes:

“If they can solve the puzzle, *the yet unknown ingredient* could have a *positive impact* on the global atmosphere” (emphasis added).

The net result, if they discover the “yet unknown ingredient,” will be that pollutants will be more quickly degraded without the creation of ozone. We will be able to have a cleaner atmosphere with less global warming and less climate change!

While that is possibly good news, it does not solve the problem I posit. It does not give them power to solve a side of the equation over which they have little or no control ... except, perhaps, the power of persuasion in its numerous forms. That power of persuasion is getting less and less potent as the days and years pass. Why? Because they do not recognize the ignored critical indicator.

**“My people  
are destroyed  
for lack of  
knowledge.”**

**Hosea 4:6**

# The Ignored Critical Indicator

## In the “Climate Change” Discussion

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“God” is the “spirit” indicator that is largely ignored in scientific discussions about global warming and climate change. Why? I once asked a science teacher friend of mine why science leaves “God” out of the various discussions about evolution, creation, the environment, *et cetera*. His answer was interesting, though he considered himself to be a Christian man of faith: “‘God’ is not a *quantifiable* entity; therefore, ‘God’ cannot be allowed for in such discussions.” However, there are some very good reasons for including “God” in this discussion that absolutely should not be ignored.

I understand that one man’s “God” is another man’s figment or idol ... so, the ubiquitous entity known as “God” has different meanings for a plethora of people. Attempting to *quantify* such a ubiquitous entity would be impossible. The divine personage to whom I refer as “the God of the Bible” and “the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob” is significantly narrowed compared to the *ubiquitous* entity commonly known as “God.” Compared to the “gods many and lords many” concept spoken of by the Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 8:4-7, even such a narrowed concept of “God” is still too broad to properly quantify. Read Jeremiah 23:23, 24 to understand my claim.

That said, my position is based on the revelation of the “God” of the Bible – whom I believe to be the True God. I understand all too well that, among people who make similar claims, there is much conflict about what is or is not revealed by “God.” The testimony of the God of the Bible – the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – is that He has made judgments about mankind’s behavior and has set into motion instructive, corrective measures that will be manifest to all of mankind at the appropriate times. The following discussion will unveil this truth for you.

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### God’s Divine Timeline

Paul’s comment in Ephesians 1:9, 10 is addressed specifically to true Christians, not to everyone in general (read 1 Cor. 2:6-16). He makes it plain that God has a *divine timeline* for correcting a situation that has gone far afield from His original plan. It is similar to Peter’s claim in Acts 3:19-21 regarding “times of *refreshing*” and the “*restitution* of all things”:

... [God is] Making known to us [the true Christians] in all His wisdom and insight the secret of His purpose, according to His kind intention which He proposed in Christ, a plan to be brought to completion when the time fully comes, to bring everything together in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth (*Modern Language Bible*).

The idea is that there will be “unquantifiable” things going on in our world that are set forth for God’s own purposes ... things that the common, ordinary person will not understand. It is not generally understood among most religious folk that knowledge of these things was withheld from mankind in general because of their thoughts and ways.

The first humans created by the Lord God (see Gen. 1:26-28; 2:7; 20-25) had no “spiritual” insight; they only had the human mind the Lord God gave them when He created them. His first instruction to this “mind” was that *knowledge of the mixture of good and evil* was to be avoided (Gen. 2:15-17). Failure to do so would result in their death. Because they were “flesh-and-blood,” they had a limited life-span anyway; so, He was not speaking of a natural death ... He was speaking of perishing and rotting away to a personal non-existence. He wanted to see if the normal human mind would be inclined to choose to obey His commands and His

will. Giving the command involving this tree was the “test” by which He would find out.

When the first test of mankind’s independent mind came (Gen. 3:1-7), Eve was duped into believing that the Lord God had actually lied to her about the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil ... that He actually knew those things Himself but was unwilling to share that knowledge with her. The serpent told her that she would be like God when she ate of that forbidden fruit. She did not recognize the deception afoot in that conversation.



KENYA, DADAAB: A view of the Dadaab Refugee camp in eastern Kenya, where the influx of Somalis displaced by famine remains high. (AFP Photo/Tony KARUMBA)

Courtesy of [www.economist.com/blogs/baobab/2011/08/pictures](http://www.economist.com/blogs/baobab/2011/08/pictures)

When the Lord God discovered the sin committed by the man and his wife (Gen. 3:8-13), He began to render judgment against them and the tempter (vv. 14-24). Verse 15 prophesies the hostility that would arise between those like the tempter and those like the woman’s “seed” ... which is a reference to the Christ who would come in human form at a later date.

While the serpent would cause physical damage to her “seed,” her “seed” will ultimately destroy the serpent (v. 15). There would begin to be situations in which childbirth would not be easy, and she would lose equal partnership with her husband (v. 16). The ground would be cursed so that man could not have the easy existence he had in

the Garden of Eden. In fact, instead of inheriting the earth and ruling it in perpetuity, mankind thereafter would die and return to the dust out of which they were created (vv. 17-19). *Unless God had a plan to override that death, they would never again have life of any kind.*

In v. 21, the Lord God revealed to Adam and Eve His plan for their redemption through a holy sacrifice of an innocent life. The animals He killed in order to clothe them represented the coming of the “Savior Seed” that not only would give them forgiveness for their sin, He also would give them salvation from the death imposed for that sin.

Verse 22 is the most important piece of information available in holy writ that answers the question about what man is: *The Lord God prevented mankind from eating from the Tree of Life and, thereby, gaining eternal life.* Then He expelled them from the Garden of Eden. Such action on His part demonstrates that there never was anything immortal about mankind. Mankind is a living, breathing creature that is capable of dying and returning to dust. That is the meaning of the terms *mortal* and *perishable* and *corruptible*.

The Lord God did not immediately rush into His plan of redemption and recovery. He had a pre-determined divine timeline during which He would complete His original plan ... all the while dealing with the problem of the knowledge of good and evil that was now infesting His creation. Make no mistake about this: The interposition of the knowledge of good and evil between mankind and God would cause tremendous harm to mankind. There is no way that mankind can offend a holy God and long survive the consequences.

## **How God’s Judgments Affect the Environment**

Genesis 6:1-8 shows that the Lord God spent the first 1,600 +/- years observing the effect of the knowledge of good and evil upon the unspiritual mind of man. He concluded that it was “only evil continually” (v. 5; see also Jer. 17:9, 10). He decided to destroy everything He had created ... except a portion of the animals and Noah and his wife and family (vv. 7, 8). How? By a great universal flood. Few in the science community would link a

great universal flood to God's justice system because He is considered to be an unquantifiable entity. Instead, they might blame it on the environmental issues of that time.

For several hundred years after the Great Flood, mankind repopulated the earth, but did not choose to move out into the greater world to make proper use of it (Gen. 10, 11). They did not follow the example of Noah and his son, Shem, in seeking out and being obedient to the Lord God's will (Gen. 1:1-4). They turned their attention to worshipping men and creatures rather than the Lord God, the Creator (Rom. 1:25).

The Lord God's assessment regarding this activity of building such a civilization in one corner of the world was simple: "Nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Gen. 11:6). In this, the Lord God reveals that the independent mind of mankind has the capacity of unlimited ability to learn and create things in opposition to His will and thoughts and ways. So, He confounded their language and scattered them all over the earth in order to impede the progress of such an ability.



SOMALIA, Galkayo: A picture released by the UNHCR shows children sifting through rubbish for useful materials outside the Bullo Kontrol settlement near the Internally Displaced People camp in Galkayo.

(AFP Photo/UNHCR - R. GANGALE)

Courtesy of [www.economist.com/blogs/baobab/2011/08/pictures](http://www.economist.com/blogs/baobab/2011/08/pictures)

After He concluded His covenant with Israel, He presented them with advice about observing the laws He had given them (Deut. 28). He laid this out in two sections: (1) blessings (vv. 1-14) and (2) curses (vv. 15-68). I will focus on vv. 15-68 because the "curses" demonstrate the point I am making. Read these carefully and make note of the curses upon the fields, cattle, and the environment. Let's use v. 23 as an example: "Your heaven overhead shall be *brass* and your earth under your feet shall be *iron*." Follow the reasoning to v. 24.

Now go to vv. 33, 38-40, 42, and 59. Can you see a pattern whereby the Lord God threatens "climate change" that affects the agriculture and well-being of the people? Lack of rain, drought, crop losses, cattle losses, abundance of dust and arid lands. What would have to be done to the climate in order to affect the weather in such a fashion?

Notice Zechariah 14:16-20 ... after the Lord God has become the King of the earth (v. 9). What do those who resist His rulership have in store for them? Lack of rain? Disease? What does Jesus Christ (who was the Lord God of the Old Testament) warn about in vv. 17, 18? How about Revelation 6:4-8? These are all future events that are the culmination of the spiritual problems from which mankind suffers. Read Revelation 8-11 to understand more about this.

What have we learned here? There is a "spiritual" element that is not inherent in the mind of humans. The human mind eagerly feeds upon the knowledge of good and evil. It stands in opposition to God's thoughts and ways. It can and will construct "religious" concepts in opposition to the Lord God's revelations (see Jer. 10:1-15). And ... God brings judgments against such behavior and demonstrates divine powers that are beyond mankind's ability to resist. He uses various natural upheavals and problems to do so.

## Paul's Explanation

To make a long story short, Paul lays out the method and reasons by which God does such a thing. We will look at Romans 1:18-32 and 8:5-9; 20, 21 to understand this great truth.

In Romans 1:18-32, Paul makes the case that God has been offended by mankind's penchant for



An example of urban poverty in this slum in Jakarta, Indonesia

Courtesy of [www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poverty)

thinking too highly of himself and his abilities. In acting in such a fashion, mankind has actually impeded and suppressed knowledge of God's truth ... actually changing His truth into a lie (mixing His truth with evil/error; v. 25).

In vv. 24, 26, and 28, Paul describes God's reaction to this situation: *He turned mankind over to the consequences of the knowledge and pursuit of good mixed with evil.* What were those consequences? Social and sexual degeneration. The social degeneration includes the degeneration of the true and undefiled religion that God had intended for mankind to learn (v. 25). In fact, mankind preferred their own thoughts and ways independent of God's (see Isa. 55:6-11). It also includes sexual excesses and perversions. Read all of it so you can be more fully informed.

In Romans 8:5-9, Paul says that the carnal mind (the basic human mind absent God's Holy Spirit) is incapable of using and living by God's thoughts and ways. The carnal mind is actually the enemy of God. Verse 9 says that such a person does not belong to God: The individual must have God's "Spirit" working in concert with the human mind in order for the "family" bond to be made (vv. 13-17). Otherwise, your fate is to die the death by which you are ultimately destroyed (see Rev. 20:6, 14, 15). You will be consumed by fire and never again exist in any other form than *ash* (see Mal 4:1). What a horrible fate!

How does this affect the environment? Paul addresses this in Romans 8:20, 21, where he says that "the creation was made subject to vanity" (Rom. 8:20). The Greek word from which we get the English word *vanity* is *mataiotes*, which means "emptiness, futility, purposelessness, transitoryness." It is also indicative of *chaos* ... complete disorder.

While the point of this instruction is the ultimate victory of God for those whom He ultimately "saves," Paul, nevertheless, said that this world was subjected to vanity. It is a dying world where beauty fades and loveliness eventually disappears. It is a world dominated by sin, death, and decay. It appears that nothing is safe from this vanity. Most noteworthy is the fact that it not only affects the human population, it also affects the entire creation, from the animal and plant life to the very planet itself. And, that can be generalized to the entire universe. In v. 21, Paul also calls it "the bondage of corruption." The overriding question here is simple: Who is responsible for this?

### **God's Part in the Vanity and Bondage of Corruption**

So, for the purposes of our discussion, I want to discover what kinds of things are included in it and when it will end. After all, Paul said that the one who subjected it to vanity did so *in hope*. Hope for what? Hope is one of those three great things that remain among us: faith, hope, and love (1 Cor. 13:13). What does the "manifestation of the sons of God" have to do with it?

You must realize that Paul drew a comparison between the present world's condition and a future glory. While the future glory represents a type of hope, that concept was not exactly Paul's point. That future glory will be far more desirable when we realize what a pointless, hopeless, transitory condition we presently exist in without it, regardless of all the great things we can accomplish and all of the great good we can do ... the pleasures we can experience, the things we can accumulate, and the fond memories we can store up.

Read vv. 22, 23 very carefully and note that God's people are subjected to the same vanity and bondage of corruption to which the rest of creation

is subjected. God does not change the situation just because some repent and begin living the way God wants them to live. Remember Romans 1:24, 26, and 28: “God gave them up to.” All of their rebellion affects God’s people, too. But, the naturally-occurring judgments they received for breaking God’s laws was not all that God gave them up to.

Let’s go back to Genesis 3:17-19. What did God use to discipline Adam for his sin? He actively cursed the ground. Adam would have to strenuously toil in order to get the ground to produce. He would have to literally force the ground to grow his foodstuff. Thorns and thistles would interfere with his work. If he was not strenuously working to keep them at bay, they would literally swallow up his work and bring it to nothing.

Adam did not have a Troy-built tiller, a Briggs & Stratton mower, a McCullough chain-saw, a Weedeater, or a John Deere tractor complemented by a vast array of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. He didn’t even have the most primitive plow or hoe or shovel or rake. He had no time to rest on his laurels and take siestas. He was subjected to long, hard hours of strenuous manual labor. God **cursed** the ground.



Life on the Lower East Side of New York City was a littered, crowded business in 1915 (Photo: Library of Congress)

Courtesy of <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/heartbreaking-images-show-impoverished-lives-9262147>

While God, in fact, did take away that curse after the Flood (Genesis 8:21), He did, in effect, subject His creation to vanity and to the bondage of corruption. This was going to be a world in which mankind would be the slave to evil and corruption. Why? They wanted to be their own moral compasses and to know good and evil on their own terms. In God’s mind, He wanted to teach them the great lesson about how that would work *without* His power and ability to control the consequences. Even the ones who would ultimately repent and get back on track with His will and plan would learn valuable lessons for the future glory. This was implicit in God’s warning about eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Mankind, if he was to be “saved” out of the penalty of sin (Rom. 6:23), needed to know, at the least, the kinds of things sin would produce.

How do the vanity and bondage to corruption work? Neither mankind nor nature itself willed it to happen. *God willed it!* God moved His entire creation away from its original purpose, not only the physical universe, but the creatures in it and, most importantly, those who were originally destined to be created in God’s very own image.

Just as surely as God told Adam that he was a creation from the dust and would return to the dust, He subjected the creation and mankind to a pointless, hopeless, transitory existence because of sin.

Read carefully how David captures this idea in Psalm 103:

Like as a father pities his children, so the Lord pities them that fear Him. Because He knows of what we are made; He keeps in mind that *we are dust*. As for man, his days resemble that of the grass. He flourishes like a flower of the field. The wind blows over it for a while and it disappears *as though it had never been there* (vv. 13-16; *KJV* with the author’s added paraphrasing; emphasis added).

God never intended that man’s body of flesh, which was created from clods of earth, should be immortal and last forever. He knew that there would come a time when it would wear out. He

knew that man would need a body that could meet the demands of an eternal inheritance. His original plan included the means by which that will be accomplished and the time when He will change the *mortal* body of man into an *immortal* body.

The message of Genesis 3:22-24 is simple in that regard: God set into motion the perpetuation of man's mortality and, thereby, his enslavement to a pointless, hopeless, transitory existence. Without God's intervention, man would be like the flower of the field and the grass: transitory, short-lived, of brief duration, temporary.

When mankind decided to put themselves into God's seat and became their own moral compasses, He simply put the creation on a schedule to self-destruct. Without His determinate will to intervene, mankind's lot became temporary in an unstable environment.

Solomon played with the theme of the "vanity of vanities" in Ecclesiastes. Chapter 1 is a survey of some of the endless cycles of nature. I recommend that you read this from the *Modern Language* and *Living Bible* translations, especially vv. 8-11:

Everything is unutterably weary and tiresome. No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied; no matter how much we hear, we are not content. History merely repeats itself. Nothing is truly new; it has all been done before or said before. What can you point to that is new? How do you know that it did not exist ages ago? We don't remember what happened in those former times, and in future generations no one will remember what we have done back here (*Living Bible*).

Thus, Solomon set the stage for his discussion of the futility of human life and the purposelessness of human wisdom. Why?

In and of himself, there is *nothing* inherent in man that can perpetuate his life beyond the grave or beyond his dust-to-dust existence. Humans are not, nor do they have, an immortal soul that *automatically* perpetuates them into endless life in spite of what happens to the human body. That concept is the basic lie the serpent foisted off on

Eve (Gen. 3:4, 5). Adam Clarke's comment about that encounter is noteworthy:

The tempter insinuates the impossibility of her dying, as if he had said, "God has created you immortal; thy death, therefore, is impossible; and God knows this, for as you [shall also] live by the tree of life, so shall you get increase of wisdom by the tree of knowledge" (p. 21).



**Devastating storms rip through the Southeast U.S.A.**  
Susan Broadbridge, *Hattiesburg (MS) American*

Courtesy of  
[www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2017/01/22/deadly-georgia-storms/96919488/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2017/01/22/deadly-georgia-storms/96919488/)

I added the "[shall also]" to Clarke's comment to clarify his intention by that statement. His intention seems to be that the serpent was convinced that Adam and Eve would have continued access to the Tree of Life. That was an uninformed assumption as Genesis 3:22-24 affirms. The serpent either had incomplete understanding of God's intentions ... or he intentionally told Eve a lie. I'll consider either or both to have been the case.

Solomon called all things done under the sun "worthlessness" and "chasing after a wind" (Ecclesiastes 1:14, 17; *Modern Language*). Adding insult to injury, so to speak, Solomon concluded chapter 1 by saying:

...I applied myself to search for understanding about everything in the uni-

verse. I discovered that the lot of man, *which God has dealt to him*, is not a happy one. It is all foolishness, chasing the wind. What is wrong cannot be righted; it is water over the dam; and there is no use thinking of what might have been. I said to myself, “Look, I am better educated than any of the kings before me in Jerusalem. I have greater wisdom and knowledge.” So I worked hard to be wise instead of foolish—but now I realize that even this is like chasing the wind. For the more my wisdom, the more my grief; to increase knowledge only increases distress (vv. 13-18; *Living Bible*; emphases added).



Storm clouds gather after tornado strikes Adel, GA January 22, 2017

Courtesy of  
[www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2017/01/22/deadly-georgia-storms/96919488/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2017/01/22/deadly-georgia-storms/96919488/)

The *RSV* translates v. 14 to read “striving after wind,” (*KJV* = “vexation of spirit”) but adds a footnote for another possible translation: “feeding on wind.” I have no idea why most translators do not relate the *KJV* translation “vexation of spirit” to mankind being troubled or irritated or annoyed

by the vanity and bondage of corruption. By now you should be thoroughly convinced that God is actively involved in it! And, He admits His involvement!

The point of this discussion should be very simple: *Without the active intervention of God to give an ultimate purpose to it all, all the activity in the human realm and the outside created order leads to nothing of permanent worth.* It is as if God has said:

Let’s imagine that no such Being as God actually exists [shades of John Lennon!]. Let’s pretend that all of this creation, including mankind, just appeared by some cosmic accident [shades of Charles Darwin and atheism and such!]. What would be the purpose for which it all exists? Who would be in charge? Who could control it if it went terribly wrong? Who would control errors in thought? What is wise as opposed to unwise and foolish? Who could prevent mental and spiritual anguish due to the existence of so many different paradigms about what constitutes absolute standards of truth and falsehood? *I know, but I’m going to let you discover that on your own!*

Even if you created a perfect world of peace and happiness and bounty among mankind, what ultimate purpose would it serve if it was merely transitory like the grass or the flower of the field? With the help of the Hubble telescope and further space travel, scientists are hoping to find the answer to the action that caused the creation of our universe. Many, many wonderful inventions have come as a result of our space program. But this increase of knowledge and understanding only demonstrates exactly what Solomon said: human wisdom can get us only so far.

While we are solving some of the most profound mysteries about creation and putting man on the moon and beyond, we have yet to solve the ever-increasing amount of moral evil on our planet. Governments come and go, one generation succeeds the other, but the answer to widespread poverty and ignorance and war and disease eludes us

more and more. *It is ultimately purposeless and vanity of vanities.*

We get rid of one disease only to have a half-dozen take its place. We settle one war only to have multiple others to rear their ugly heads. We compromise and cajole and threaten and war, but nothing really changes. The more we do, the more we have to do. We have so many false Christ politicians who come along with their own brands of “salvation” from the problems that face mankind that it eventually tends toward the utterly ridiculous to have to endure one more election cycle, one more political rally, one more promise of “Peace in our time” and “Solutions to health-care.”

## Conclusion

While it is possible to lay the blame for “climate change” at the feet of humans because of the reckless manner in which they have conducted “life” and “business” on planet earth, it is also possible to understand that an *Ultimate Authority* also holds mankind responsible for the corrupted minds filled with “good and evil” that prevent them from achieving the purpose for which they were created. Part of His reaction to this is a withdrawal of His effort to convince generation after generation to cease their endless rebellion against His thoughts and ways.

Isaiah 1:1-9 is an appropriate example of the frustration this holy God has felt with the carnal mind that is thoroughly saturated with the knowledge of good and evil. Verses 5-8 show that He realizes the futility of constantly being a disciplinarian over a people who have been so devastated by the results of their own sins and shortcomings. You can generalize this description of Israel/Judah to the entirety of the human race ... basically because Israel/Judah are *examples* and *types* for the rest of the human race of all ages (read 1 Cor. 10 – especially vv. 6, 11).

So, Paul points out in Romans 1:24, 26, 28 that God has left us to our own devices and is allowing us to reap the grim “benefit” of our carnal thoughts and ways. “Global warming” and “climate change” are part of the problems we will face regardless of what mankind does to be great environmentalists. Unless and until we repent of our

carnality and seek the thoughts and ways of our gracious Creator, we will see that He will not interfere on our behalf to bring our great *existential* problems under control (see Matt. 24:21, 22).

It is a safe bet that He has in the back of His mind the same question He asked of ancient Israel:

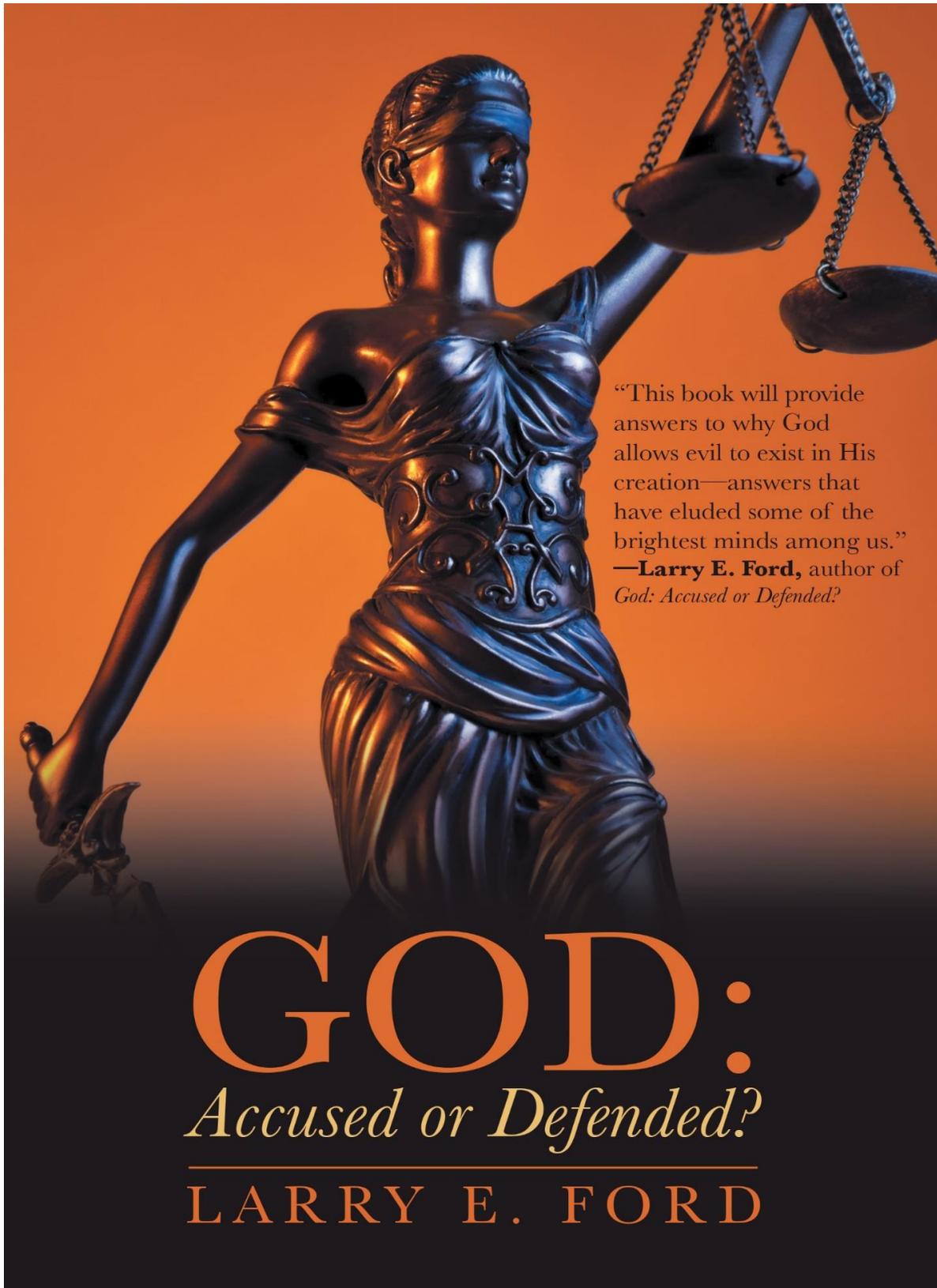
“...As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked should turn from his way and live: turn, turn from your evil ways; *why will you die, O House of Israel?*” (Ezekiel 33:11).

We see the same sentiment in John 3:16-19 and 2 Peter 3:9. The death of the wicked means their utter destruction in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 20:14, 15; Mal. 4:1).

Lest you should be offended by what you might consider to be “hell-fire and damnation” tones in this study, I hope you will see the great desire in God’s thoughts and ways that His great plan for the true and incredible potential He has in store for mankind will be actualized. He does not desire or look forward to the destruction of a single human being who has ever lived or had his/her life tragically cut short.

Consider a few ideas that are embedded in the scriptural record:

1. The God of the Bible desires to put mankind into His very own family (Eph. 1:1-14; Heb. 2).
2. God will not fail to do what He has set forth in His word as His plan for mankind (Isa. 55:10, 11; Rom. 11:29; Gen. 1:26-28).
3. Those who cooperate with God’s thoughts, ways, and will are to inherit great and precious promises with Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:14-17; Gal. 3:26-29; Col. 1:16; Psa. 24; Isa. 9:6, 7).
4. After God has sifted the hearts and minds of mankind (Jer. 17:9, 10; Deut. 5:29), He will restore the earth and universe to the pristine condition in which it was originally made (Job 38:1-7; Isa. 45:18; Acts 3:19-21; Isa. 65:17-25; Rev. 21, 22). What do *you* have to lose? *Your existence!*



“This book will provide answers to why God allows evil to exist in His creation—answers that have eluded some of the brightest minds among us.”  
—**Larry E. Ford**, author of *God: Accused or Defended?*

# GOD:

*Accused or Defended?*

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LARRY E. FORD

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# “...And the Great Dragon Was Cast Out...” (Revelation 12:9)

The aftermath of the casting out of “the great dragon” is chilling. Revelation 12:12 follows up on this prophecy by saying “Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has but a short time” (*KJV*). What follows that prophecy about Satan the Devil being cast down to the earth is a prophecy that describes the coming events known as the time of “great tribulation” that has never been experienced on the earth in all of its otherwise horrible history (see Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:15-22).

Matthew 24:1-14 is a prophecy by Jesus Christ regarding all kinds of horrible events that will occur upon the earth between A.D. 31 (the year during which this prophecy was given) and the return of Jesus Christ. It is a mistake to think that *God* is the only driving force behind all of the carnage that will take place in the natural disasters and wars that are to occur. As shown in previous articles, many of these things most likely occur due to the *withdrawal of the hand of God* to prevent them from happening (see Rom. 1:24, 26, 28). Why? We will see in this article a frank discussion about Paul’s claim in 2 Corinthians 4:4 that there is a “god of this world” who also will be responsible for much of this coming ravage of the earth and sea. This is biblical understanding to which you should pay very close attention.

## The Definition of “God”

Most who use the ubiquitous term “God” assume that everybody else who uses it is talking about the same thing. It might surprise you to learn that, *according to Scripture*, such is *not* the case. As a matter of fact, Paul’s comment in 2 Corinthians 4:4 throws the proverbial “monkey wrench” into the discussion ... a “monkey wrench” to which we should pay close attention if we want to worship the True God in spirit and truth (John 4:23, 24).

This is where we must set the boundaries of the following discussion by appealing to the definition of the ubiquitous term “God.” The very first mention of “God” in Scripture is Genesis 1:1. The Hebrew term is *elohiym*. According to *The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (definition #430; pp. 43, 44), there are four definitions with varying degrees of meaning, both literal and figurative. What we find in this Old Testament Hebrew definition is crucial in understanding much about the use of the term “god” in the Old Testament – meaning that is directly transferrable to the

New Testament because its writers used the Old Testament as their scriptural reference because the New Testament Scriptures did not yet exist. When the New Testament was formed and canonized, it was written in the *Greek* language.

The term in Genesis 1:1 is nominative masculine plural – that is: a masculine noun that names a plurality. It is *not* a *trinitarian* term. It has to do with rulers and judges, as well as those who serve as “divine representatives” at sacred places or who reflect divine majesty and power. To make this clear, the term *divine* also can refer to the term “god” (that is: pagan divinities) as opposed to the term “God.”

The ubiquitous term “God” presupposes – in the Christian and Jewish minds – that it is a reference to the “God” of Scripture. The term *elohiym*, therefore, can also refer to pagan gods *and* the true and living God. The Greek term *theos* is used similarly in the New Testament.

Therefore, it is not surprising to find the Lord God (the one who became Jesus Christ: *Yahweh Elohim* in Genesis 2:4 and continued in the OT) telling Moses in Exodus 7:1: “I have made you a

*god* [*elohiym*] to Pharaoh and Aaron.” This tells us that Moses was to be a *divine representative* who had higher standing in the Lord God’s sight than did either Pharaoh or Aaron. Moses was given the authority to speak on the Lord God’s behalf and expect that Pharaoh and Aaron would comply.

Now, let’s extrapolate (to derive something unknown from known facts), from this definition of “god,” some useful information that applies to Paul’s comment about the “*god of this world.*” We know from the definition given above that the term *elohiym* does not always apply to “God” in Scripture. It can, in its various definitions, apply to *men* (Ex. 7:1) and *angels* (Job 1:6). In fact, there are instances in which it can apply to *females* (Ashtoreth in 1 Kings 11:5, 33). Here is the question we’ll pursue from this point: To whom did Paul’s comment about the “*god of this world*” refer? Because of the context in which it was used, it does not appear to apply to man, woman, or the True God. What can we extrapolate from this comment based on the facts of the definition we have before us?

### **Who is the “god of this world” and how did he come into power?**

Let’s review the basic premise of this discussion. We have learned that the term “god” can apply to various beings ... including humans and angels. We have seen the reference to the *Lord God* in Old Testament Scripture. He is the one who eventually became the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul points out in Ephesians 1:3 that Jesus Christ has both a “God” and a “Father.” In John 10:30, Jesus Christ says that He and His Father are in unity with one another. In John 17:5, Jesus prays to His God and Father and reminds Him that they shared a “glory” before the creation of the orderly universe. In John 14:28, Jesus says that the Father is greater than He is. The “Father” is “God” to Jesus Christ.

Paul points out in Philippians 2:5-11 that the relationship they originally shared was an *equality* with one another that neither disputed; but, the one who became Jesus Christ *divested* Himself of His divine nature in order to become a redemptive sacrifice (see Heb. 10:5-13; 2:6-18; 1 Peter 1:18-21) and servant for mankind. Thereupon, His divine partner gave to Him “all power in heaven and on

earth” (vv. 9-11; see also Matt. 28:18; Col. 1:19) in order to create mankind in their own image (Gen. 1:26-28; 1 John 3:1-3) and establish the Kingdom they had planned before the creation of the orderly universe (Matt. 25:34).

When the Lord God created man (Gen 2:7), there was the expectation that man would desire to learn to think and act like his Creator (Eph. 1:4). Having been created with an independent mind, man was allowed freedom of choice – but the Lord God’s desire was that man would independently desire to be obedient (Deut. 5:29; 6:25). In other words, the Lord God wanted man to *choose* to be holy, blameless, and loving as Elohim is.

Man’s first test came when he was placed into the Garden of Eden. The Lord God gave him a *command* about the trees in the Garden. Genesis 2:15-17 reads as though these trees were visibly present in the Garden. One was for *life*; the other was for *death* (see Deut. 31:15-20). After the Lord God created a suitable mate for the man (Gen. 2:20-25), He left them alone to be obedient to His command about keeping the Garden from going to wreck and ruin.

In Romans 5:14, Paul says that Adam was “the *figure* of him that was to come.” Who is this personage that is to come, and ... and why is he coming? This personage is Jesus Christ, and He is coming to establish the Kingdom of God upon this planet. That means that Adam was to be a *figure* – a *pattern* of a coming reality – of Jesus Christ. After all, Adam was left in charge of the Garden of Eden (the *microcosm*) so that it would not come to wreck and ruin. He was going to be a student of the Lord God to learn how to run things the way *Elohim* wants them to be run. He was going to be a “king of the realm” under the Lord God. Once he had children with his mate, Adam and Eve would be responsible for teaching them *Elohim*’s thoughts and ways. This was a very important position in which to be!

Notice Genesis 1:26-28. Read carefully the part where the Scripture uses the expression “dominion over.” What does that mean? The Hebrew term *radah* has several meanings ... most of which apply here: to subjugate, to prevail against, to reign, to rule. All of these definitions clearly demonstrate that Adam was to be the first king over the

earth with the responsibility of bringing it in line with God's determinate will – *all of the animal and plant life and human inhabitants would be under his direct control and governance*. He would be the *first* king under the King of kings! He would be responsible for the *government of God* on the planet! In that capacity, he would be, for lack of a better description, the “god” of this world ... a *divine representative* ruling and reigning under the Lord God.

Up to this point, the Lord God had not given to Adam or Eve what is called *holy spirit*. Their normal, natural human mind, as given to them at their creation, was the mind with which they operated. The primary question seems to have been whether or not they would have the “heart” in them to be obedient to the Lord God's command regarding the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they were not, all they could expect was to live and die and return to the dust out of which they were created (see Gen. 3:19, 22). The “death” about which He warned them in Genesis 2:17 was a death from which they *could not be recovered* ... unless and until the Lord God invoked the means by which they *could* be recovered (Heb. 10:4-14).

In Genesis 3:1-7, there is no indication of how long it took to do so, but the serpent eventually began to work on the mind of Eve. It appears that he singled her out for personal attention because Adam is not shown to be a participant in the process he used.

According to Paul's comment in 1 Timothy 2:14, Adam was not deceived; Eve was. Is it possible that Adam was not deceived because he was not present? Or, if Adam was present, does it indicate that Eve was deceived, but Adam walked into the trap with his eyes wide open? Eve admitted that she was beguiled by the *serpent* (Gen. 3:13), but Adam blamed his transgression on *Eve* (Gen. 3:12). However innocently Adam might have partaken of the forbidden fruit, he also became a transgressor.

Note the action taken by the Lord God: (1) He cursed the serpent (vv. 14, 15); (2) He multiplied Eve's sorrow and conception and took away whatever equality she might have otherwise enjoyed with Adam (v. 16); (3) He cursed the ground so Adam would not have an easy life (vv. 17-19); (4)

He sentenced them to return to their dust when they died (v. 19); (5) He prevented them from having access to the Tree of Life and eternal life (v. 22) and (6) He expelled them from the Garden of Eden (the *microcosmic type* of the Kingdom of God). While it is not stated in Genesis 3, it appears that He left them to their own devices and the influence of the serpent. I extrapolate this from Paul's comments in Romans 1:24, 26, 28: “...God also *gave them up to*...God *gave them up to*...God *gave them over to*...”. In essence, God allowed the consequences of their sins to have full effect upon them. Gaining “knowledge” includes experience.

In Romans 8:20, 21, Paul describes it as *vanity* and *bondage of corruption*. The *vanity* means much the same as Solomon described it in Ecclesiastes: futility, purposelessness, worthlessness. The *bondage of corruption* means servitude or slavery to evil, depravity, impairment of integrity and moral principle, perversion, decay, decomposition. All of this is a painful description of what God did when He “gave them over to” the consequences of any and every sin mankind has ever committed. He begrudgingly allowed mankind to eat their fill of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil and suffer its gross and degrading consequences – all for a great lesson in what it means to be *excluded* from God's plan for humankind.

So, if Adam was demoted to the level of *slave*, who, then, became the “god” of this world? That should be obvious to the “seeing eye” and the “hearing ear.” What took place in the serpent's discussions with Eve (however long it took from “seed” to “flower”) was nothing short of a *coup d'état*. According to Wikipedia, it is defined as follows:

Sometimes translated as “blow of state” or “hit of state”, but the literal translation is “stroke of the state” – as in the swiping or stroke of a sword; plural: *coups d'état*, (pronounced like the singular form), also known simply as a **coup** (/ku:/), **putsch**, or an **overthrow**, is the illegal and overt seizure of a state by the military or other elites within the state apparatus ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coup\\_d'etat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coup_d'etat)).

It is sometimes referred to as the “cutting off of the head.” It is considered to be successful when the usurper(s) hold power for at least seven days. We know that this coup has lasted far beyond seven days! And, we now know that Satan the Devil became the “god of this world” upon the completion of his deception of Eve (read Isa. 14:12-14 and 2 Cor. 11:1-3). He is an adversary of the true God ... not His divine appointee (see Isa. 14:12-15 and Ezek. 28:11-19).

It is likely that Adam feared that the death of Eve would be too difficult to imagine, so he willingly took part in the misdeed in an apparent attempt to dissuade the Lord God from killing her. In this case, solidarity did not serve the first couple very well. To this present day, humanity has been under the rulership of this so-called false “god.”

### What Does This Mean?

Paul’s claim in 2 Corinthians 4:4 is absolutely correct when he declares that there is a “god of this world.” Once Satan the Devil had dealt a “blow to the State” – an overt seizure of the “kingdom” by a former archangel – he also took charge of the carnal minds of the population that followed. The Lord God allowed mankind to be under the influence of His adversary in order to allow mankind the *experience* of understanding the awful consequences of the knowledge of good and evil mixed together in the carnal mind (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28).

Is this a claim that the Lord God put mankind on a path to *destruction*? Yes ... that was the nature of His warning in Genesis 2:17. Did that mean that He would not make room in His thoughts and ways for *rescuing* mankind from such a fate? Well ... that brings us to the concept of *redemption*. Before we get to that discussion, let’s understand what Satan’s “godship” means.

Matthew 4:8, 9 gives us a clue. When the Lord God took a “hands off” position about mankind’s dominion of the earth, Satan seized the opportunity to fill the vacuum of power vacated by mankind because of sin. Notice how he tempts Jesus Christ ... who is now the Lord God in *human* form (read John 1:1-3, 14; Matt. 1:18-23; and Heb. 2:14-18). It could be postulated that Satan believed that a

“God-in-the-*flesh*” also would be vulnerable to the same “blow to the State” through temptation.

Notice in Matthew 4:8, 9 that Satan acts as though all of the kingdoms of the world are *his to give* in trade for Jesus’ worship of him. Jesus’ answer in v. 10 sets the primordial declaration of God the Father into contrast with the place/rank of this archangel: Jesus Christ was exalted with a name above *every name* in heaven, on earth, and under the earth. Every tongue – including the tongues of men and angels – will declare Him to be Lord (see Phil. 2:9-11; Col. 1:19; and Psa. 24).

Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 15:27 that God the Father was not made subordinate to Jesus Christ in that decree. So, Jesus set the record straight for Satan as he attempted to pawn off his so-called “rulership” as the “god of this world.”

### How Satan Rules

Paul calls Satan the “prince of the power of the air” in Ephesians 2:2. What does this mean? This verse “designates the world or its ruler as the one who gives direction or who inspires” (*The Anchor Bible: Ephesians 1-3*; Markus Barth, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc.; 1974; vol. 34, p. 214). So, Paul uses the Greek term *archon* to describe Satan’s seat of power. *Archon* means that he is *first* in rank and power over whatever he rules. Because his position is *first in rank*, such a description presupposes that he usurped it from one who was also *first in rank* – that is: Adam, the *figure* of the true “God” of this world, Jesus Christ.

If, as Psalm 24:1 explicitly says, “the *earth* is the Lord’s,” then it presupposes that the earth was seized in the adversary’s *coup d’état*. The *atmosphere* (Greek = of the *earth*) surrounds the planet down to the *terra firma* ... the “solid earth” where mankind resides. The expression “the *power* of the air” is translated by some to read “the *kingdom* of the air” (*Modern Language*).

Paul reveals in Ephesians 6:12 that our fight in Jesus Christ is against “principalities ... powers ... rulers of the darkness of this world ... spiritual wickedness in high places.” This would explain the revelation given to John in Revelation 12:1-4, 7-9 that Satan has rebellious angelic forces who support him (see Jude 6).

We might extrapolate from this that 2 Peter 2:4 shows that the angels who rebelled with Lucifer were confined to this “atmosphere” or “air” to await their final judgment. Peter uses the term *Tartarus* (translated by KJV as “hell”) to describe this place of confinement. He, by no means, is referring to the Greek concept of a place lower than hell. The New Testament has numerous references to the activities of demonic spirits among mankind.

God’s leadership is not an aimless or purposeless walking about. God’s *inspiration* sets His followers on a specific path with a specific purpose. In the sense that Paul uses in Ephesians 2:2 about Satan’s influence “working” in the “children of disobedience,” God is the one who gives direction and inspiration to those who follow His thoughts and ways. However, Paul says here that the “prince of the power of the air” operates in the same fashion: He gives direction to and inspires the “children of disobedience.”

The term *inspires* is noteworthy in this same context. It means “to stimulate or impel (to force, compel, or urge) toward some kind of action.” In other words, it is the process by which a certain “spirit” is passed on to the carnal mind of man. For the carnal mind to follow God’s thoughts and ways, it is necessary for God to imbue (that is: to permeate with knowledge and understanding) that mind with *holy spirit* (read John 14:15-16; Acts 2:38; Rom. 8:1-17; 1 Cor. 2:6-16; and Gal. 5:22-26).

For the carnal mind that seeks to have its own way, it is left defenseless against the “prince of the power of the air” as he pours out mental stimulation (“spirit”) to resist God’s thoughts and ways (see Rom. 1:18-32 and Gal. 5:13-21). From this discussion, you should understand that adversarial “spirit” forces are afoot that can and will influence your thinking ... therefore, your actions.

### What is “This World”?

If Satan is the “god of *this world*,” what does the term *world* mean? The term is translated from the Greek term *kosmos*, which has eight different definitions in the Bauer-Arndt-Gingrich *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* (pp. 446-

448). The definition that is applicable to the term “world” in Ephesians 2:2 is #7:

*[T]he world*, and everything that belongs to it, appears as that which is at enmity w. God [see Rom. 8:5], i.e. lost in sin, wholly at odds w. anything divine, ruined and depraved.... The Christian must have nothing to do with this world of sin and separation fr. God: instead of desiring it.

John used this same term when he quoted Jesus Christ’s answer to Pilate in John 18:36: “My kingdom is not of *this world*...”. It was not this type of “world” that Satan showed Him in Matthew 4:8. What Satan showed Him there is definition #4: “*the world* as the earth, the planet upon which we live.”

Now, if Satan is presently the “prince of the power of the air,” does he also control the inhabitants of the planet and the world system (def. #7)? That is Paul’s claim in 2 Corinthians 4:4 when he calls him the “god of *this world*.” Is there any indication that Satan has the power to influence more than the minds and hearts of the “children of disobedience”? Yes! But, it must be stipulated that the minds and hearts of the disobedient will be enough to bring the planet to wreck and ruin because they are, first and foremost, selfishly incapable of doing anything other than eventually bringing the world to wreck and ruin if God, through Jesus Christ, does not maintain the stability of the forces that protect its existential integrity.

Hebrews 1:3 says that Jesus Christ is “*upholding* all things by the word of His power” (KJV). The Greek term *phero* indicates that He is causing all things in the universe to continue to operate as He intended when He spoke and they came into existence (Job 38 and Heb. 11:3). That can be done regardless of Satan’s supposed *coup d’état*. Even if He causes it to be (or allows it to be) in a state of vanity and bondage of corruption, it does not limit His ability to *redeem* (basically: save it by some means) it at a time of His own choosing.

Colossians 1:17 says that “by Him all things *consist*. The Greek term *sunistano* is the word from which we get the term *sustain*. This term reveals that He is keeping all things in existence by main-

taining them and prolonging their existence. Again, that does not affect His “giving them up to” the effects of the carnal mind that impedes and suppresses His truth (Rom. 1:18). We can understand the nature of this action if we understand Acts 3:19-21 re: “times of *refreshing*” and “*restitution* of all things.” The withdrawal of His *upholding* and *consisting*, in whole or in part, definitely has an effect on more than the human mind and its ability to solve the problem caused by the mixture of the good and evil in its knowledge base.

For instance, Job 1:6-2:8 demonstrates what happens when the Lord God takes a hands-off approach to Satan for whatever reason. In this case, Satan challenged the Lord God to *allow* him to torment Job by various means so he could prove to the Lord God that Job’s righteousness was a sham. You can read the entirety of “Job” to see how this affected Job and how that experience turned out.

The main thing I want you to understand is the “weapons” Satan used against Job. Why? Because they are indicative of the kind of *power* the adversarial angel has at his disposal. In Job 1:6-19, some of Job’s children were killed by marauding Sabbeans (v. 15). Fire came down and consumed cattle and servants (v. 16). The *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew-English Lexicon* says that it is not clear if *lightning* is intended here ... as it is in Exodus 9:23, 24. Next, the Chaldeans rustled his camels and killed more of his servants (v. 17). Finally, a great wind (probably something like a tornado) came out of the wilderness and killed more of Job’s children and destroyed the house in which they were meeting (vv. 18, 19).

What do we have here? Terrorists and natural disasters. We can read in Job 2:6-9 that Satan used *personal* affliction and a nagging wife to try to finish him off! The Lord God *allowed* all of this in order to prove to Satan that Job was a righteous man with great faith and integrity. By no means was he a self-righteous man ... as some claim.

What does this mean? It means that Satan very likely has the power to cause “climate change” and “global warming” in an effort to take advantage of the carnal minds who have lost any knowledge of God and His thoughts and ways (Rom. 1:28; 2 Tim. 3:5). At best, whatever their knowledge of God is, it will be so shallow and ultimately faith-

less that they will be ripe for all manner of deceit and suffering. Their “god” will be the instigator of terrorism in many different forms, all manner of personal health problems, and feelings of despair, hopelessness, and fear.

When John wrote in Revelation 12:12 “woe to the inhabitants of the earth and sea,” it was as if it was a warning about all manner of *collateral damage* that will occur to the earth and sky and sea and the inhabitants when Satan is cast out of heaven. Notice Matthew 24:24. These false Christs and false prophets will be the minions of Satan (see 2 Cor. 11:13-15). The “great signs and wonders” can consist of a vast array of things that will affect individual humans, as well as the land, sea, and sky (Matt. 24:5-13). There can be great damage to humans *and* the environment.

Even God Himself will cause collateral damage to the earth, sky, and sea. Read Joel 2:1-11, 28-32; Matthew 24:29, 30, and Revelation 6; 8-11; and 15-19. I give you these references to draw a stark contrast between what is happening among us today relative to “climate change” and “global warming” and what we have in store for us in the future.

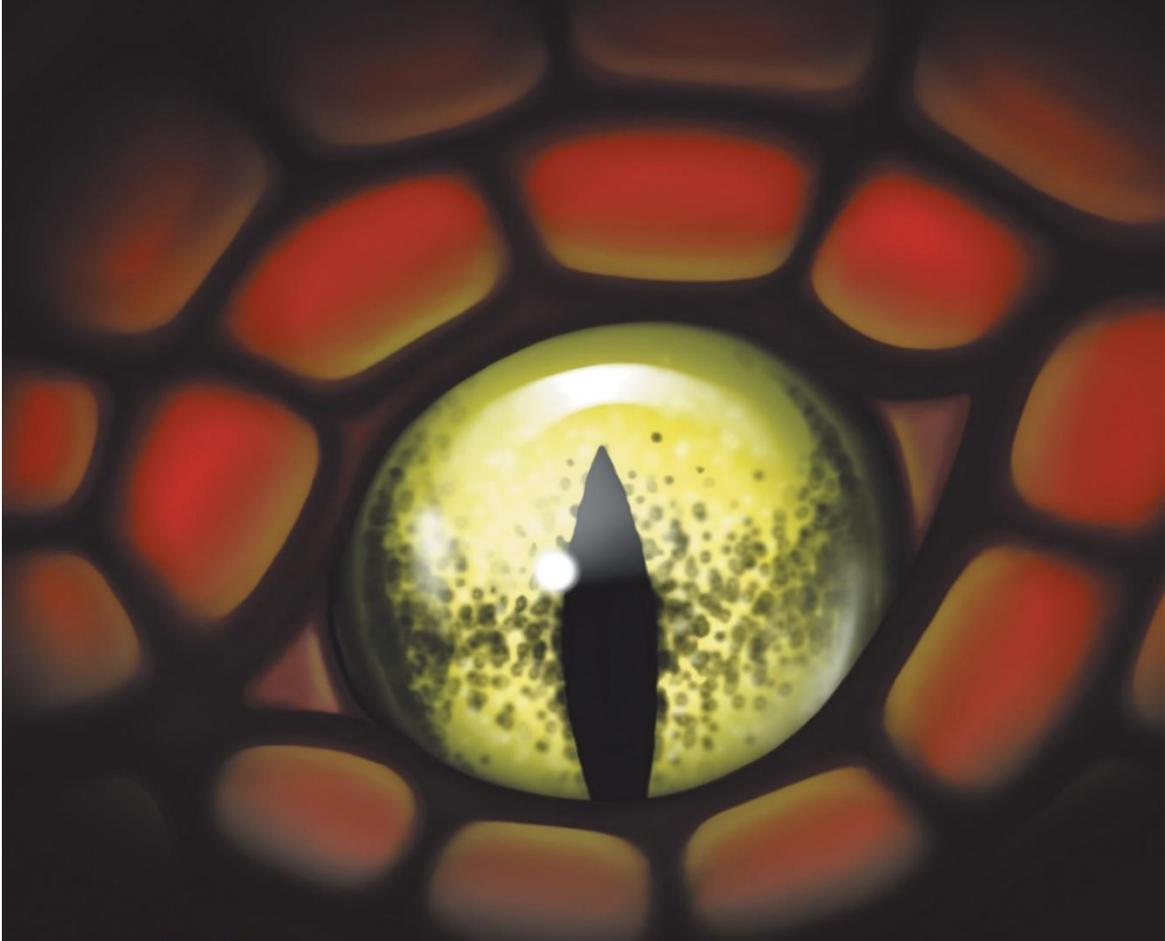
God’s ultimate act regarding sinful mankind will be to throw Satan out of heaven and allow him free reign for a *short time* before He sends Jesus Christ to settle old scores with him (see Rev. 20:10). Mankind must be brought to his senses in order to repent of sin. The problems we are experiencing with “climate change” and “global warming” *will not be solved* until Jesus Christ returns to set things straight.

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## ***Self-Righteousness Run Amok***

*Words similar to these are used to describe the mainstream press and politicians who foment a new political movement that is using the slogan: “Become Ungovernable.” Spend some thoughtful time reading 1 Timothy 1:8-11 and give serious consideration to what such a capitulation to lawlessness and disorder will bring upon a nation. It is the death knell to a free and democratic society!*

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# “Where None Have Gone Before”

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Recently, I was musing about a piece of information I had found while doing some research about constructing a holy day calendar for our Church group. This research involved looking into certain astrological information regarding the sun, moon, and movements through time and space. It was not until I began to do the research for this issue of *Spirit and Truth* that this piece of information struck a chord that I found to be applicable to my research about “climate change” and “global warming.”

The following quote from <http://www.space.com/19915-milky-way-galaxy.html> provides the information I need to confirm the claim that I will make in the following article:

The Milky Way does not sit still, but is *constantly rotating*. As such, the arms are moving through space. The sun and the solar system travel with them. The solar system travels at an average speed of *515,000 miles per hour* (828,000 kilometers per hour). Even at this rapid speed, the solar system would take about *230 million years* to travel all the way around the Milky Way (emphasis added).

Notice the claim that our solar system moves through the Milky Way at the speed of 515,000 miles per hour. From point “zero,” it takes it about 230 million years to make one rotation back to point “zero.” What does this tell us? If you take into consideration that *homo sapiens* appeared only about 5,800 years ago, then the entire trip we are taking through space carries us *to places to which we have never been before*. What does this mean in the arguments had about “climate change” and global warming”?

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## The “Mother Ship”

I have often heard the planet Earth referred to as being the “Mother Ship.” This is deemed to be obvious when you consider that the earth’s rotation eastward on its axis is done at about 1,036.42 miles per hour (24,874 miles circumference ÷ 24 hours). Add to that the earth’s revolution around the sun at approximately 67,000 miles per hour. Now put the earth orbiting around the sun while our solar system also travels at 515,000 miles an hour through the spiraling rotation of the Milky Way. According to <http://www.space.com.html>, the Milky Way is also traveling through space at about 252,000 miles per hour. There is no indication that such a direction is an *ecliptic* or a *straight line*. Who, then,

would be the “Mother Ship”? It should be obvious that the *Milky Way* is she.



This picture of the nearby galaxy NGC 6744, a Milky Way look-alike, was taken with the Wide Field Imager on the MPG/ESO 2.2-metre telescope at La Silla.

Credit: ESO

(Courtesy of <http://www.space.com>)

The multi-directional path that the earth takes is precarious: the earth's axis spin, its revolution around the sun, the sun's ecliptic around the Milky Way, and the Milky Way's path (whether ecliptic or straight-line) through space with its own swirling motion. The Milky Way is a *barred spiral galaxy* that is approximately 100,000 light-years in diameter – that is the distance light would travel per year at 186,000 miles per second ... that is: *6 trillion miles per year* (casswww.ucsd.edu)!

A “barred spiral galaxy” is defined as follows by <http://www.space.com>:

Unlike a regular spiral, a barred spiral contains a bar across its center region, and has two major arms. The Milky Way also contains two significant minor arms, as well as two smaller spurs. One of the spurs, known as the Orion Arm, contains the sun and the solar system. The Orion arm is located between two major arms, Perseus and Sagittarius....Spiral galaxies make up about two-thirds of the galaxies in the universe.

That is a *huge* swirling mass of stars, planets, comets, asteroids, hot gases, old stars, and globular clusters ... all moving through the Milky Way (our solar system at a rotational speed of 515,000 miles per hour) that has an ecliptic (or, perhaps, straight-line) speed of 252,000 miles per hour. How do these things avoid smashing into one another and leaving one massive “traffic jam” in space? After all, it is just one of *billions* of similar galaxies.

### The Center of the Galaxy

At the center of the Milky Way is the *galactic bulge*. It is described by <http://www.space.com> as follows:

The heart of the Milky Way is crammed full of gas, dust, and stars. The bulge is the reason that you can only see a small percentage of the total stars in the galaxy. Dust and gas within it are so thick that you can't even peer into the bulge of the

Milky Way, much less see out the other side.

Tucked inside the very center of the galaxy is a monstrous *black hole*, billions of times as massive as the sun. This super-massive black hole may have started off smaller, but the ample supply of dust and gas allowed it to gorge itself and grow into a giant. The greedy glutton also consumes whatever stars it can get a grip on. Although black holes cannot be directly viewed, scientists can see their gravitational effects as they change and distort the paths of the material around it, or as they fire off jets. Most galaxies are thought to have a black hole in their heart.



This very wide-field view of the Milky Way shows the extent of the 84-million-star VISTA infrared image of the center of the galaxy (delineated by red rectangle).

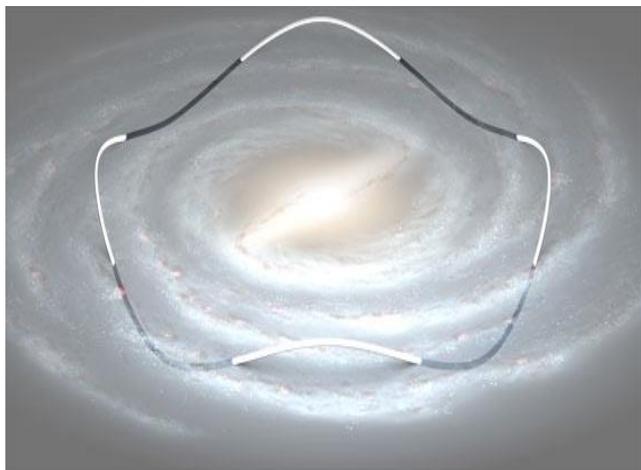
Credit: ESO/Nick Risinger ([skysurvey.org](http://skysurvey.org))

(Courtesy of <http://www.space.com>)

Please make note of all of the mentions in these descriptions of the *dust* and *gases* ... of the *construction* and *destruction* that are taking place as some collisions occur and some new beginnings are made. There also exists what scientists call *dark matter* – unseen material which they estimate to make up approximately 90% of the mass of the galaxy. It would be unreasonable to think that these things have no effect upon our solar system or the earth. We are not stationary in space. We are

not the center of the universe. Even though we know that the atmosphere around the earth provides us some protection from outside intrusion of the dust, gases, and dark matter, we cannot be precisely certain that *none* of that seeps in and affects our planet in one way or another. As stated in an earlier article: If we do not know for what to watch, and we do not have the instruments to detect or measure what we do not know about, then we might not be fully correct in blaming our “climate change” and “global warming” on carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases. Without the knowledge to know our environmental “enemy,” then we do not have adequate knowledge to properly and correctly defend ourselves against it.

The following illustration should also be considered in the conversation. It is a demonstration of how our solar system “bobs” up and down as it follows the sun’s ecliptic around the Milky Way:



A far more correct (though exaggerated vertically for clarity) depiction of the Sun's motion around the Milky Way galaxy has it bobbing up and down every 64 million years due to the gravity of the galactic disk.

Image credit: Chris Setter/Phil Plait

(Courtesy of [http://www.slate.com/blogs/bad\\_astronomy/2013/03/04/vortex\\_motion\\_viral\\_video\\_showing\\_suns\\_motion\\_through\\_galaxy\\_is\\_wrong.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/bad_astronomy/2013/03/04/vortex_motion_viral_video_showing_suns_motion_through_galaxy_is_wrong.html))

The point I am making should be obvious: Our solar system, at 64 million years per “bob” up and down, is in a steady progression of changing *location* and *environment*. If we have *never been here before*, then how do we know what does and does not affect our climate on the earth? Is it possible

that we could do everything reasonable, according to our advancing knowledge and skill, to have pure air, water, and soil ... and still experience periods when glaciers will melt and seasons will be out of “whack”?

Let me follow that and conclude with this quote:

Caleb Scharf observes in *The Copernicus Complex*, “[N]one of the components of the galaxy are stationary; they, too, are orbiting and drifting in a three-dimensional ballet. The result is that our solar system, like billions of others, must inevitably encounter patches of interstellar space containing the thicker molecular gases and microscopic dust grains of nebulae. It takes tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of years to pass through one of these regions.

“This may happen only once every few hundred million years,” Scharf adds, “but if modern human civilization had kicked off during such an episode, we would have barely seen more than the nearest stars—certainly not the rest of our galaxy or the cosmos beyond. But could our planetary circumstances have been that different and still produced us? Would more changeable orbits in a planetary system, or bad weather, or passage through interstellar clouds, also thwart the emergence of life in some way? Phenomena such as these could be bad news, *causing hostile surface environments on a planet....*”

...If future research confirms a Milky Way galaxy-biodiversity link, it would force scientists to broaden their ideas about what can influence life on Earth.” “*Maybe it's not just the climate and the tectonic events on Earth,*” says UK paleontologist Bruce Lieberman. “*Maybe we have to start thinking more about the extraterrestrial environment as well*”

(arxiv.org/abs/1108.1570; emphasis added).

### Tidbits to Think About

In about four billion years, the Milky Way will collide with its nearest neighbor, the *Andromeda Galaxy*. The two are rushing toward each other at about 70 miles per second (112 km per second). When they collide, they will provide a fresh influx of material that will start new star formations.



This heavenly view of the Milky Way was taken in the South Pacific paradise of Mangaia, the most southerly of the Cook Islands. This image was chosen as one of the winners of the National Maritime Museum's Astrophotographer of the Year 2011 Contest.

*Credit: Tunc Tezel*

Consider the ramifications of the following quote from arxiv.org/abs/1108.1570:

Professors Medvedev and Melott of the University of Kansas have a different theory based on the same regular motion. As the Sun ventures out "above" the galactic plane, it becomes increasingly exposed to the cosmic ray generating shock front that the Milky Way creates as it ploughs through space. As we get closer to this point of maximum exposure, leaving the shielding of the thick galactic disk behind, the Kansas researchers hold that the

increasing radiation destroys many higher species, forcing another evolutionary epoch. *This theory also matches in time with the dinosaur extinction* (emphasis added).

If this action affected various species living *on the earth* at the time, then we should understand that, theoretically speaking, we are subject to similar episodes of "climate change" *if, while going into territory to which we have never gone before*, we should have similar experiences with cosmic ray exposure and loss of shielding. Speaking tongue-in-cheek: Anyone who has watched "Star Trek" understands the value of *shielding*. *Such events are not the product of our carbon footprint.*

You should be aware of how far we have come in this journey. Note this "tidbit" from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milky\\_Way](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Milky_Way):

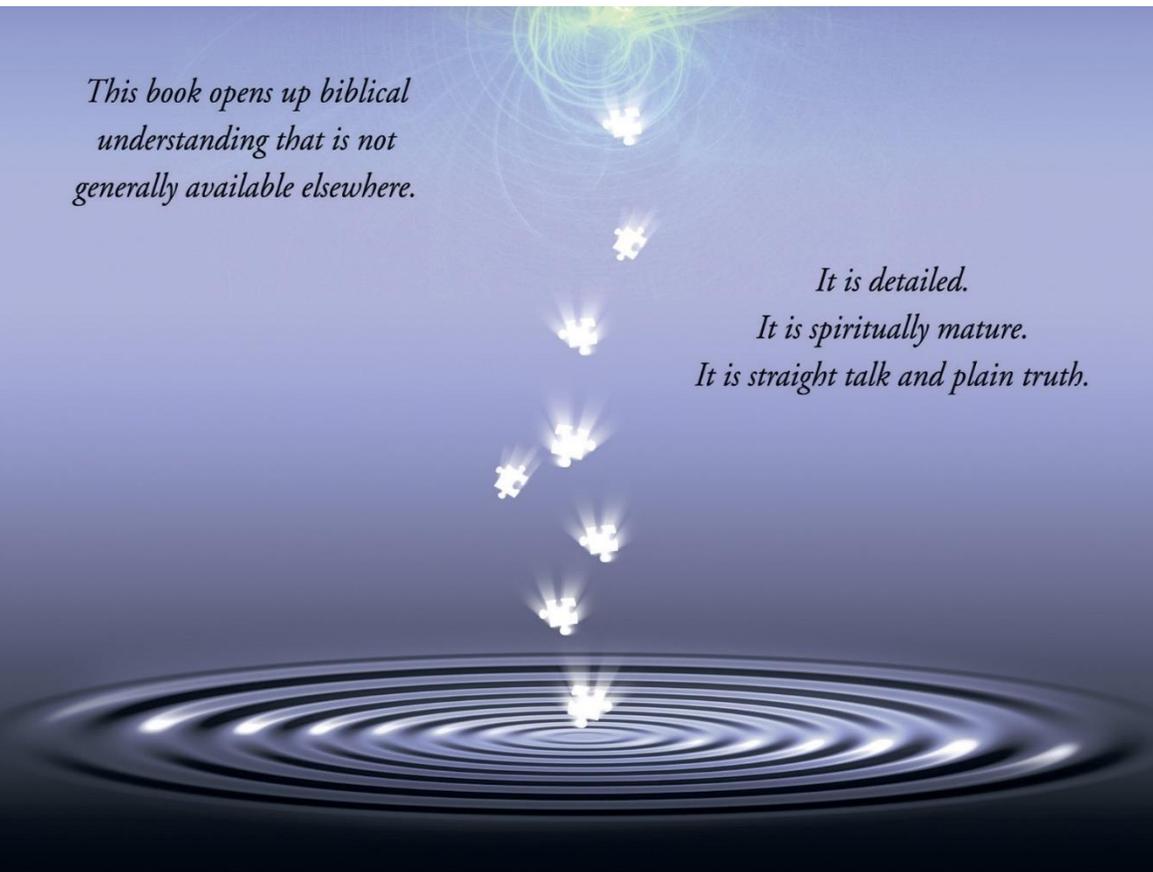
It takes the Solar System about 240 million years to complete one orbit of the Milky Way (a galactic year), so the Sun is thought to have completed 18–20 orbits during its lifetime and 1/1250 of a revolution since the origin of humans.

*Homo sapiens* have not completed a single "bob" of our solar system ... unless we came in on the very tail end of one and began another. Logic dictates that we are totally unaware of what we shall face in the future – as far as "climate change" and "global warming" are concerned. *But, this does not mean that we should be unconcerned about how we presently treat our environment* (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15).

**Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand. (Matthew 12:25)**

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