

The Christian and
Climate Change



While climate change has become a popular topic these days, it's important for Christians to keep a balanced view of the issues. In order to find out how Christians should view climate change, we must consult the Christians guide, the Bible, which brings out two clear points. First, God put man over the earth to care for the earth. Second, climate change will not cause the end of the world. Since these points are both clearly supported by scripture, let's take a moment to look at both of them before we move on to deeper issues.

First, we know Christians have a responsibility to care for the planet. God says He will "destroy those who destroy the earth" (Rev. 11:18). So those who say Christians are not interested in the environment are incorrect. However, Christians cannot view climate change from the same perspective that the world views it because second, we know that climate change will not cause the end of the world. In the beginning of the Bible, God said, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease" (Gen. 8:22). Christians know this because God clearly said that the end of the world would be marked by the second coming of Christ, when "the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him" (Matt. 25:31).

Since Christians are guided by the Bible, they must view the issue of climate change from a different worldview than the world views it, so let's consider three questions from a Christian perspective. First, is climate change an imminent threat to society, leading to the end of the world? Second, is climate change primarily man-made? Third, do we have the power to control climate change?

First, from a Christian perspective, we know the Bible affirms that climate change is not an imminent threat, leading to the end of the world. Again, the Bible says "cold and heat" will continue until the end of time (Gen. 8:22). God tells us how the world will end. He says, "the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God" (1 Thess. 4:16). "He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him," "and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:30). Can anyone who claims to be a Christian deny that the world will end with the second coming of Christ?

Second, while climate change is man-made to some extent, it is not *primarily* man-made. In the year 1750, the founder of the Methodist Church, John Wesley, delivered a sermon entitled, *The Cause and Cure of Earthquakes*. In this sermon, Wesley said,

“Now, that God is Himself the Author, and sin the moral cause, of earthquakes (whatever the natural cause may be), cannot be denied by any who believe the Scriptures.” Wesley claims that earthquakes are not the result of nature but of God’s moving through nature. Wesley does not deny that there is a natural cause, just as Christians do not deny that CO2 levels do rise, but he states that God is the One behind these natural causes. This not only applies to earthquakes but all natural disasters, as supported throughout the Bible. “The Lord has His way in the whirlwind and in the storm” (Nah. 1:3). God sends “the whirlwind, and cold from the scattering winds of the north. By the breath of God ice is given... for correction, or for His land, or for mercy” (Job 37:9-11, 13). The Bible says the wicked “will be punished by the Lord of hosts with thunder and earthquake and great noise, with storm and tempest” (Isa. 29:6). While there are natural causes, Christians cannot say that these natural causes are the *primary* cause of climate change. Those who read the Bible can have no question that God is ultimately in control of the weather. Third, if God is in control of the weather, it seems a bit arrogant to think humans have the power to fix it. While we have the power to control some aspects of nature, Christians must recognize that God is ultimately in control.

Sadly, what many seem to have forgotten is that the Bible tells us the reason for the climate crisis. It was predicted nearly two thousand years ago. When asked about signs of the end, Christ warned of “earthquakes in various places” and “on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring” (Matt. 24:7; Luke 21:25). Jesus said that violent weather would be a sign that the end of the world was getting near. Just before the end, God will let loose the winds of strife “to harm the earth and the sea” (Rev. 7:2). Christians recognize that these climate catastrophes are just signs that Jesus is about to return. For thousands of years, the Bible warned of a violent weather outbreak just before the end, and now that it’s happening, people conveniently ignore the warnings of God’s word, and instead of turning to the Bible, they turn to science for answers.

According to the Bible, God allows the climate crisis as a final wake-up call for the world to prepare us for the return of Jesus, but Satan has distracted us by turning our eyes off of God and onto science. As people turn to man-made explanations for the climate crisis, they will seek man-made solutions. Prophecy says the world will seek to fix the climate crisis with a global law. Instead of repenting and turning to God, the world will attempt to fix the problem by its own methods, setting up a law as a global solution to

climate change. This is already happening. People are pressuring governments across the world to make global laws to control climate change.

In his encyclical on climate change, the pope even proposed making Sunday a universal day of rest stating, "Sunday, like the Jewish Sabbath, is meant to be a day which heals our relationships with God, with ourselves, with others and with the world," using this as a suggested solution to heal the earth (*Laudato Si* 237). This is fearfully similar to how the Bible describes the mark of the beast. Look for yourself.

First, we notice that in the Bible, a "beast" is symbolic of a "kingdom on earth" (Dan. 7:23). That means the mark of the beast must be something set up by a kingdom or nation. Second, we are told that the beast will "speak and cause" people to act (Rev. 13:15). Nations speak, telling people to drive slower, by setting up laws. The word "cause" means force. The mark will be a law enforced by a nation, causing people to do something. Third, we are told that the beast will "cause as many as would not worship" to be killed (Rev. 13:15). This law forces worship. That's why God says to "worship Him," while warning against anyone who "worships" the beast (Rev. 14:7, 9). It is a law regarding some form of worship. Of course, when most think of worship, they think of Sunday worship services. The irony is frightening.

Believe it or not, the prophecy says that the “beast” will “cause” people to “worship.” That means the mark will occur when a nation sets up a law that forces people to worship. It is clearly a religious law. Since it forces the whole world, it must be regarding some universal issue that affects the entire world, like climate change. Whether a Sunday worship law is the mark or not, the idea that the pope proposed Sunday worship as a solution for climate change is terrifying. While some will say it is a secular law, the pope is a religious figure, and it clearly violates religious liberty. If Sunday worship is imposed on the world, the Jewish nation will face a great conflict, as well as Christian churches that still believe the Sabbath is on Saturday, “the seventh day,” as stated in the beginning and in the Ten Commandments (Gen. 2:2; Ex. 20:11).

As Christians, we must not look at the issue of climate change from the same mindset that the world views it. In allowing the weather to go crazy, God is giving the world one final appeal to repent, turn from their sins, and seek God. As Christians, we must alert the world to God's final appeal. Jesus is about to return, and God is calling the world to repent and turn back to God before it's too late.

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