

The Sackcloth Times

A Publication of Faith On The Earth

October 2011



Some see God's hands parting the sky in the above picture. He's letting in His light. For His people, this is how it will be in the months and years to come... God will spiritually protect us with His own two hands from the darkness and wrath that is to come upon the world. But let's take a look at how God has reacted to man's sinfulness with weather in the past, and will react with weather, in the future.

CLIMATE CHANGE, WEATHER AND BIBLE END TIME PROPHECY

**Excerpted from
www.seekingtruth.co.uk/weather.htm**

The mean global temperature increased 0.6-0.8C over the 20th century. The debate is between those who attribute this rise to man i.e. anthropological warming and those who attribute it to natural causes, such as solar irradiance change. In fact, natural causes may well be cooling the planet over recent years and long-term change may not be so drastic. Those who agree with the latter viewpoint might also point out the Biblical promise:

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night shall not cease.” (Gen 8.22)

In other words, the natural cycle of things was promised to continue, and nothing special was meant to happen to the climate whilst man is around. Of course, man may well be upsetting what God had planned.

We should also distinguish between weather and climate. The difference between weather and climate is the timescale. “Weather” refers to the atmospheric

conditions over short periods of time (days), and “climate” refers to atmospheric behavior over relatively long periods of time (decades or centuries). In other words, “weather” refers to short-term changes in the atmosphere.

Long-term climate change is not readily apparent in the Bible. But there are good examples of God using relatively short weather events as a way of arresting man's attention. Moreover, Bible prophecy says that He will do it again!

Let's consider some historical events:

Darkness and Gloom

When Pharaoh refused to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt, God instructed Moses to “stretch out his hand toward the sky, that there may be darkness over the land - a darkness that could be felt.” (Exod 10.21) This resulted in “thick darkness in all the land of Egypt for three days.” (Exod 10.22)

Again, when Ezekiel was in exile in Babylon he challenged Israel to turn from their wicked ways, but he also spoke to the surrounding nations like Assyria and Egypt. He warned Egypt of God's coming judgment, when clouds and darkness would be used as a way of arresting their attention. We read, “It will be a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nation ... all the shining lights in heaven I will darken over you and will set darkness on your land.” (Ezek 30.3, 32.8).

Drought

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land, God gave them the Ten Commandments, together with many sundry laws. He warned Israel to obey them and if they did not then one of the consequences would be drought; the sky would be like bronze and the earth like iron (Deut 28.23,24).

Violent Storms, Floods and Hail

When the kings of the Amorites attacked friends of Israel, Joshua's army went up to defend them. It is recorded that God helped Israel by throwing large hailstones at the enemy: “... more died from the hailstones than those killed by the sons of Israel...” (Joshua 10.11)

Later, the prophet Ezekiel challenged the false prophets of Israel, saying that God would judge them. The Lord spoke to these false prophets through Ezekiel, saying:

“I will make a violent wind break out in My wrath ... flooding rain and hailstones ...” (Ezek 13.13)

When Jonah tried to ignore God’s instructions by taking a boat trip, God sent “a great wind and storm” (Jonah 1.4) that threatened to destroy the ship.

Then, in New Testament times, God reversed the situation and calmed the wind and sea in order to save the disciples: “Jesus rebuked the wind and sea ... and the wind died down and it became perfectly calm.” (Mk 4.39)

From these few examples we are left in little doubt that, in the past, God has used abrupt weather changes (not long-term climate changes) to arrest man’s attention.

God’s Weather Control in the Future

The Bible makes it quite clear that there will be a definite end to life as we know it. Earth’s governmental systems, economic and trading systems, animal kingdom, and even geology will all be changed at the Second Coming of Christ. Our current age is coming to a dramatic end as God deals with rebellious nations. During a brief period at the end of this age God will exact a series of judgments on the nations, and this includes changes to earth’s weather! These are more likely to be “weather events” rather than “climate changes” simply because of the relatively short prophetic timescale involved.

Chapters 24-27 of Isaiah are sometimes called “Isaiah’s Apocalypse” since they describe God’s judgment upon the entire world for its sin. They also correlate well with judgments on the earth described in Revelation.

Drought and Scorching Heat

One of the judgments predicted by Isaiah appears to be drought: “The earth will be completely laid waste ... the earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers...” (Isa 24.3,4)

Drought is one of the consequences of disobedience (Deut 28.23,24; Zech 14.17). Another form of judgment prophesied by Isaiah appears to be extreme heat - heat severe enough to kill people: “Therefore ... the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men are left.” (Isa 24.6)

The book of Revelation appears to speak of the same end time events and predicts extreme weather as part of God’s judgment upon the nations. There will be fierce, scorching heat: “The fourth angel poured out his bowl upon the sun, and it was given to it to scorch men with fire. Men were scorched with fierce heat ...” (Rev 16.8,9)

Storms, Torrential Rain, Snow and Extreme Hail

When questioned about the end of the age, Jesus hints at wild weather: “There will be ... dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves.” (Lk 21.25)

The root meaning of the Greek in this verse can mean nothing else but literal sea and literal waves. The word “roaring” comes from the Greek *echeo* meaning “to make a loud noise.” Hurricanes and coastal flooding spring to mind.

Then there’s the future Gog-Magog War. At some point in the future, Iran, together with other nations, will invade Israel from the north (Ezek 38). Just as God intervened to release Israel from the grips of Pharaoh, so He will intervene to protect Israel from the invading armies. As with Joshua, the weather plays an important part in their defeat, with torrential rain and hail (Ezek 38.22).

Hail features high on the weather ingredients list at the end of the age. It is part of God’s judgment upon the nations. Besides fierce heat there will be extreme hail and snow storms (Job 38.22,23; Rev 16.8,9,21): “Or have you entered the storehouses of the snow ... which I have reserved for the time of distress ...” (Job 38.22,23) We also read: “... and huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men ...” (Rev 16.21)

Clearly, God intends to use short-term weather changes to influence world affairs in the future. Since there is clear Biblical support for God’s control of past and future weather, it is logical to ask “Is God speaking through climate change or severe weather events in today’s world?” How close are we to these future events?

Is God Speaking via Climate Change or via Weather Events?

Climate change is hotly debated. Certainly some effects associated with climate change have been observed over the last century:

The world warmed by 0.6-0.8 degrees C

Most glaciers retreated

Sea level rose about 7 inches

Water tables fell significantly (China: 1.5m/year,
India: 1-3m/year)

But who or what is responsible is another matter: is it anthropological warming or simply natural causes? The latter view has good support:

Global warming correlates well with solar irradiance change:

Temperature rise and CO2 increase seem
weakly correlated

Glacier retreat commenced some
150 years before sharp CO2 rise

Sea levels started rising some 100 years
before sharp CO2 rise

Temperature rise due to CO2 increase
seems hard to detect

Since 2003 world temperatures have
actually been falling

Given the uncertainty as to the cause of climate

change, and the possibility that anthropological warming may even be a conspiracy, we might consider climate change as part of God's end-time scenario - it is God who is controlling the climate!

According to Bible prophecy it may be more logical to watch for "weather events" rather than "climate change" since end-time events seem short-term. From the Bible we can say with certainty that:

God has used the weather to influence nations and individuals in the past.

Bible prophecy says that God will use severe weather events to "speak" to the nations at the end of this age.

Prophetic signs and the state of the world suggest the end of this age is imminent.

If we are indeed close to the end of this age, then dramatic weather events seem imminent. God will soon use severe weather events to speak to, and judge, the nations. Clearly, it is a very effective tool to arrest the world's attention!

The good news is that there is no need to worry! Those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ are eternally safe in the hands of the living God (Jn 3.16). You do not have to go through the extremes of these end time judgments (the wrath of God). The Bible promises all those who put their trust in Jesus Christ will be exempt from "the hour of trial that is coming upon the whole world." (Rev 3.10)

Believers in Christ will be rescued from what is coming, just like Noah before the flood. Don't delay, put your trust in Jesus and receive His peace, forgiveness and security in an insecure world.

* * *

**SEPTEMBER 2011 FULL OF
EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS
Chris Dolce, www.weatherchannel.com**

Extreme Rainfall

Rainfall extremes have occurred at opposite ends of the country this month.

Washington, D.C. Metro

An incredible 7.03" of rain fell in 3 hours on Sept. 8 to the south of D.C. in Ft. Belvoir, Va. According to the National Weather Service in Baltimore/Washington, this has a less than 0.1% chance of happening in a given year, making it a 1000-year rain event.

To the west of D.C. in Reston, Va., 6.57" of rain fell in 6 hours on Sept. 8. According to the National Weather Service in Baltimore/Washington, this has a 0.2% chance of happening in a given year, making it a 500-year rain event. The same is true for Franconia in Fairfax County, Va. where 5.47" fell in 3 hours.

"Lee's" flood reports



Binghamton, N.Y.

7.49" of rain on Sept. 7 was the wettest day in history. The old record of 4.24" on Sept. 30, 2010 was crushed. September 2011 will also go down as the wettest month in history.

Allentown, Pa.

With almost 13" of rain, September 2011 is the wettest September on record. Amazingly, August was the wettest month on record (13.47"). Records date to 1922.

Harrisburg, Pa.

With more than 18" of rain, September 2011 is the wettest September on record. The rains this month also pushed the Pennsylvania State Capitol to its wettest year on record, beating out 1972.

Cincinnati, Ohio

3.76" of rain on Sept. 26 was the wettest September day in history. Records date back to 1871.

Dayton, Ohio

September 2011 is the wettest September on record with more than 10" of rain.

Colorado Springs, Colo.

4.50" of rain on Sept. 14 was the wettest day in history. Records date back to 1894. The two-day total (Sept. 14-15) of 5.36" is the wettest two-day period on record.

Tucson, Ariz.

As of Sept. 28, the southeast Arizona city has seen 5.60" of rain. This makes this Sept. the wettest on record. Propelling them to this record was 2.84" on Sept. 15. This was the 5th wettest day on record.

Record Heat

Houston, Texas

Hit 102 degrees on Sept. 13. This was the hottest day ever recorded so late in the year.

Dallas, Texas

Temperatures soared to 107 degrees on Sept. 13. This was the hottest day ever recorded so late in the year.

Phoenix, Ariz.

Low temperature of 91 degrees on Sept. 5 was the hottest low temperature ever recorded in September.

Seattle, Wash.

Recorded 8 straight days with 80+ degree temperatures from Sept. 3 through Sept. 11. This is the most consecutive 80-degree days ever recorded in September.

Corpus Christi, Texas.

103 degrees on Sept. 25 was the hottest temperature ever recorded so late in the season. Records date back to 1887.

Record Cold

International Falls, Minn.

The nation's icebox lived up to its reputation this month. The low temperature of 19 degrees on Sept. 15 was the coldest temperature so early in the season and also the first time temperatures have fallen into the teens during September. Later in the month, a daily record high of 82 degrees was set on Sept. 28, 2011.

Record River Flooding

Heavy rains from the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee caused record river flooding in many locations in New York and Pennsylvania on September 8 and 9.

This included the Susquehanna River at Binghamton, N.Y., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. and Meshoppen, Pa. The Swatara Creek in Hershey, Pa. beat the previous record level by 10 feet!

Tropical Storm Lee's Tornadoes

According to our Severe Weather Expert Dr. Greg Forbes, the preliminary tornado count from Tropical Storm Lee and its remnants is 38. This is the second most tornadoes on record from a tropical storm that never reached hurricane strength.

MORE WILDFIRES ERUPT IN TEXAS AS IT FACES WORST DRY SPELL SINCE 1895 CNN News, September 10, 2011

In a dry spell unseen since 1895, Texas added 24 new wildfires burning 1,154 acres to a disaster that has so far torched more than 1,000 homes, the state's Forest Service said Saturday.

In all, Texas has experienced 179 fires over 170,686 acres the past week, the service said. The past 10 months have been the driest in Texas since 1895,

Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst said.

The destruction toll prompted President Barack Obama on Friday night to declare that a major disaster exists in Texas.

* * *

Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth.

Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them...

(Psalm 127:3-5)

WHERE HAVE ALL THE GIRLS GONE?

Debra Saunders, San Francisco Chronicle

August 2, 2011

The world is becoming unbalanced. In pockets across the globe, women are giving birth to too many boys. In China, the sex ratio is 121 boys to 100 girls. In India, it's 112 to 100. Sex selection also is a force in the Balkans, Armenia and Georgia. In her eye-opening book, *Unnatural Selection: Choosing Boys Over Girls, and the Consequences of a World Full of Men*, journalist Mara Hvistendahl estimates that ultrasound and abortion have "claimed over 160 million potential women and girls -- in Asia alone."

That's more than the entire female population of the United States.

If you think that scarcity makes women more valuable, you are right -- but that does not mean females benefit. As "surplus men" have trouble finding mates, young girls are forced into prostitution. Others are forced into arranged marriages. On Taiwan's eBay, Hvistendahl finds three Vietnamese women for sale for \$5,400.

Those women who do well economically in the new order sadly are more likely to abort daughters in favor of sons.

The results are equally bleak for men. Many boys grow up knowing they are unlikely to marry and start a family. In two years, 1 in 10 Chinese men will lack a female counterpart. The Chinese have a term -- *fenqing* for "angry youth" -- to describe the legions of young men likely to grow old alone. They find release in places like the Rising Sun Anger Release Bar, "where customers can pummel one of the bar's hired hands."

The Sackcloth Times / October 2011

Printed by Faith On The Earth

1209 Lexington Pkwy

Ypsilanti, MI 48198

www.faithontheearth.com

© 2011 All rights reserved.

Feel free to make copies and distribute; any quotes or excerpts, or copies of articles in full must be attributed to their original source. Compiled from various sources by Paula Leanes unless otherwise stated.