The PROPHETIC CONDITIONS Series

This POLLUTED EARTH

ABOUT THE COVER
Pollution billows from smokestacks around the world, yet this is just one source. This report explains how mankind is killing its inheritance—the earth.

PHOTO: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Why the PROPHETIC CONDITIONS Series?

Knowledge and technology are exploding, yet the world is drowning in a sea of problems! *Alcohol abuse* is on the rise. Vast regions of farmland are "dying of thirst" due to droughts and erratic *weather* patterns. The allure of *drugs* is fast seducing a younger generation that no longer knows how to be kids. *Crime* is more violent, more entrenched, more widespread than ever. *Immorality* is robbing families and youth of their innocence by "entertaining" sick, perverted, carnal desires. And the earth is choking in the *polluted* filth produced by humanity.

WHY?

The *Prophetic Trends and Conditions Series* will report global trends and problems. It explains why humanity is deluged with such overwhelming—and insoluble—problems.

And points to mankind's *only solution!*

Condition reports in the Series:

The ALCOHOL EPIDEMIC

EARTHQUAKES and VOLCANOES in Prophecy

The Tragedy of DRUG ABUSE

What's Wrong With THE WEATHER?

The Worldwide CRIME WAVE

This POLLUTED EARTH

WITCHES, WIZARDS and SPIRITS: Grave and Growing Danger

The IMMORALITY EXPLOSION!

Out of the Ashes: THE RISE OF EUROPE

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This POLLUTED EARTH

Every day, earth becomes more and more polluted. Air pollution fills our lungs with deadly substances. Water pollution is rapidly eradicating what little freshwater we have left. Land pollution is causing once-fertile lands to become little more than deserts. While many solutions have been offered, NONE are successful. But there is hope! A REAL solution exists—overlooked by environmentalists, government agencies and scientists!

Everyone around the world is dealing with problems. But few affect the entire world. For instance, when war breaks out, those on the other side of the earth seldom take notice. But a looming problem is quickly engulfing this planet—and will cause *everyone* to notice.

In the past, only those in large Asian cities had to worry about the air they breathed. Most took for granted that clean, fresh air would always be available. But today, nearly everyone on earth breathes a cocktail of poisons that is nearly worse than the tailpipe of a car.

But this is only one of the stresses humanity has put on this planet. We have quickly wasted away the freshwater supply. Some countries stand on the brink of war because of this vital resource. Below each continent lie giant lakes of water—aquifers—that are either quickly drying up or being left undrinkable from pollution. The United Nations predicts that by 2050 the *entire* world's usable freshwater will be gone!

Such frightening possibilities!

The days of moderate weather have disappeared. Floods ravage some areas, while just kilometers away, the worst droughts of recorded history parch a fragile land. Many blame this extreme weather on the warming of the planet. But all signs, factors and conclusions point to one cause.

Mankind is poisoning this planet on such a scale that the earth may *never* recover!

God's Green Earth

Many first-world nations have been blessed with vast renewable resources. The United States, Canada, Britain, etc., began on pristine land hardly touched by humanity. But over the last several hundred years, these peoples have systematically overwhelmed the land with mass farming, huge cities and belching industry. They are destroying what was given to them so many years ago.

But the problems do not stop with the English-speaking nations. Europeans, Asians, South Americans and Africans have also raped their lands, with no concern for the consequences.

New Delhi, India is a dire example of the degradation of air. During the winter months, breathing its air is equivalent to smoking TWENTY packs of cigarettes *per day*!

North America is little better. An estimated 100,000 die every year from air pollution here.

"Fresh" water is also full of unwanted chemicals and additives. In the United States, over 7 BILLION POUNDS of toxic chemicals are released directly into the environment. Another 1.2 billion pounds of pesticides are used in farming. These toxins are filtering their way into our water system. This causes up to 900,000 people annually to become sick from drinking water (*envirohealthaction.org*).

Even in large cities, where filtration systems remove most of these impurities, there are *still* dangers. Overuse, improper management and overall inefficiencies have brought water levels to dangerous lows. Very soon, in many parts of the world, there

will simply be *no water* left to filter.

What is Pollution?

The *American Heritage Dictionary* defines pollution as "the act or process of polluting or the state of being polluted, especially the contamination of soil, water, or the atmosphere by the discharge of harmful substances."

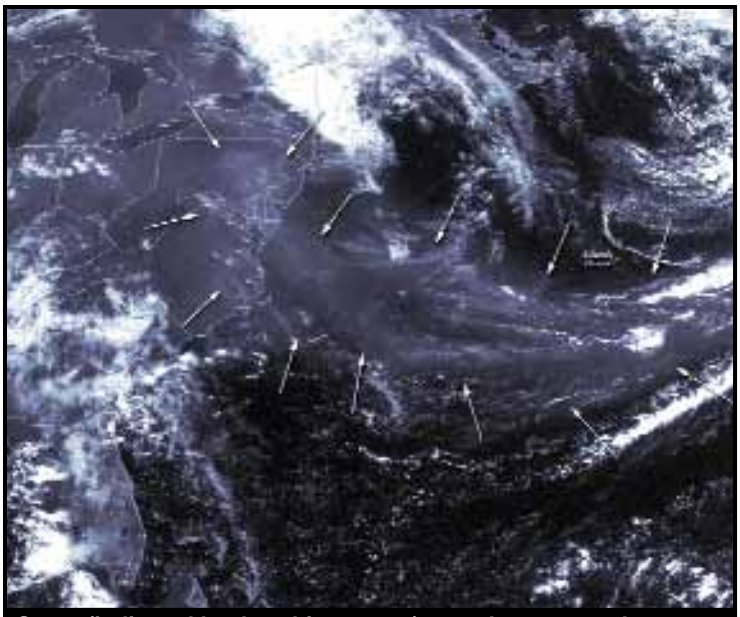
Merriam-Webster Dictionary gives further insight: "the action of polluting *especially* by environmental contamination with *man-made* waste."

Pollution is the contamination, BY MAN, of any natural resource. But it can also be broken into different types. Most generally: (1) Air pollution, (2) land pollution and (3) water pollution. The source may be responsible for causing multiple forms of pollution. For instance, a chemical factory could produce both air *and* water pollution.

The interaction of these pollutants can also yield complex results. Air pollution is thought to largely cause global warming. This phenomenon is creating freakish weather patterns—such as heavy rains and flooding. Such flooding can then overwhelm city waste systems and overflow sewage and other contaminants into drinking water.

As you can already see, this problem is complex—and "band-aiding" *one* problem will simply create *another* one.

But how bad is pollution? And how does it affect *you* and your family?



Smog (indicated by the white arrows) stretches across the U.S. east coast and over the Atlantic Ocean.
PHOTO: U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

PART 2: AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution can take many forms: smog that blankets cities around the earth; gases that are heating the planet; great clouds of pollution that can travel the globe.

Each can interact and intensify the other. They create a global fabric of air pollution that is seemly impermeable. However, to understand this fabric, you must recognize each of the threads and what causes them.

Major Forms of Air Pollution

Carbon Monoxide (CO): A colorless, odorless gas produced by inefficient burning of carbon-based fuels. It has direct implications for people. Once inhaled, it inhibits the delivery of oxygen throughout the body. Low amounts of CO can cause dizziness, headaches and fatigue. High concentrations can be fatal, especially for children and the elderly.

If undetected, concentrations can accumulate in buildings, garages and tunnels. Cars produce such high concentrations that in Tokyo, traffic police take regular "oxygen breaks" to prevent dizziness and fatigue.

Carbon Dioxide (CO2): The naturally occurring respiratory byproduct of animals and people. In a balanced environment, vegetation takes in this gas and, in turn, produces oxygen for animals and people to breathe. But the balance has shifted, and CO2 is now the principle contributor to the greenhouse effect—the primary cause of global warming. All excess of CO2 can be traced back to human sources. It is primarily caused by burning natural resources such as coal, gas and oil. Power plants and cars are primary sources.

CO2 can be toxic in high concentrations. It can cause increased breathing rate, unconsciousness and even death.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs): Used for refrigeration, air conditioning and consumer products. Although the most harmful types are banned in most parts of North America, they are regularly used in other parts of the world. CFCs rise into the upper atmosphere—the stratosphere—and react with the layer of ozone protecting the planet from the sun. This reaction destroys ozone, leaving the earth's surface open to the sun's direct rays.

Every year, a hole the size of North America forms over Antarctica. Understandably, controlling CFCs is vital to the health of the planet.

Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs): An assortment of chemicals causing serious health and environmental problems. Some health effects include cancer, nervous system problems and birth defects.

HAPs are released by chemical plants, dry cleaners, printing plants, automobiles and aircraft.

Lead: A metal released into the air when added to substances that either are burned or evaporate. Although phased out of gasoline in North America, many countries throughout the world still add it to fuel. This accounts for *48,000 tons* of lead released into the atmosphere. It is also found in paints and released from lead battery manufacturers.

Lead causes digestive and nervous system damage. And it has also been linked to cancer.

Ozone (O3): A gas related to oxygen. Breathable oxygen consists of two oxygen molecules. Ozone is made up of three. Found mostly in the upper atmosphere, it is often referred to as the ozone layer.

While beneficial in the stratosphere, at ground level the effects are highly toxic. Ozone damages human health, the environment and crops, and destroys many man-made and natural materials. It irritates the respiratory system, causing an increase in acute asthma attacks. Ozone also reduces visibility, and damages tree and plant life.

Ground-level ozone is formed from volatile organic compounds and the burning of many types of fuels—such as gasoline or coal. Vehicles and industry are also major producers of the chemicals that are the building blocks of ozone. When these chemicals are exposed to the sun, oxidation occurs, producing smog.

Nitrogen Oxide (NOx): The major contributor to acid rain. It is also a building block of ozone. Acid rain harms vegetation and its runoff changes the chemical makeup of lakes and rivers. This acidification of waterways can potentially make them uninhabitable.

Nitrogen oxide is also produced by burning fuels such as gasoline and coal. This again makes automobiles and aircraft major contributors of this gas.

Particulate Matter: Solids light enough to remain suspended in air. It can take the form of dust, smoke or invisible vapors. Besides the obvious effects of soiling clothing and surfaces, it can become lodged in the lungs. Over time, these particulates will build in the lungs, causing respiratory disease and lung damage.

There are nearly endless sources of particulate matter. Whether it is the burning of diesel or fossil fuels, mixing of pesticides and fertilizers, construction, mining, etc., the results are *all* the same. Particulates are the main source of ground level haze.

Sulfur Dioxide (SO2): A gas related to sulfuric acid—a powerful acid. At low concentrations, it is odorless. However, at high concentrations, it produces the smells most often associated with paper mills. Metal smelting is also responsible for high levels of SO2.

Sulfur dioxide is the other major contributor to acid rain. It produces similar problems as nitrogen oxide, such as the destruction of vegetation and certain metals. It also causes breathing problems and leads to permanent lung damage.

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs): Organic substances that may form naturally, but are most often synthesized in laboratories. In liquid form, they evaporate at room temperature and can quickly reach high concentrations in enclosed areas.

There are many sources of VOCs, including chemicals (benzene), solvents (toluene and xylene) and perchloroethylene (primary chemical used in dry cleaning). It is also released from burning gasoline, wood, coal and natural gas. Yet again, automobiles are the major sources for VOCs.

Many VOCs are extremely hazardous air pollutants. For example, benzene exposure causes cancer.

As dangerous as these substances are, you may be breathing them every day! Most cities around the world contain mixtures of all of them.

Pollution—Closer Than You Think

When many think of air pollution, they envision a large city with thousands of cars and smoke stacks stretching into a brown haze above the skyline.

But if you live in a city, 90% of your time is spent *indoors*. Most overlook indoor air, assuming that air-conditioning or ventilation keep it clean. But Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) studies have shown that airborne pollutants are 25 to 100 times more concentrated indoors. This has caused growing concern that they may be a major cause of health problems.

Indoor pollutants such as cigarette smoke or carbon monoxide typically stay in the air for extremely long periods. This allows concentrations to reach dangerous, yet undetectable, levels. Over time, buildings will produce their own pollutants. As walls and carpets age, they will produce dust and powders.

There is also concern about moisture in buildings, which produces molds and fungi. Old homes may also have lead-based paint that can flake into the air.

The problem of indoor air pollution came to the forefront with the discovery of the dangerous effects of asbestos. It was used as an insulator for ceilings, walls and pipes in many institutional buildings such as schools. As these buildings aged, asbestos formed into powders and was inhaled.

Mesothelioma is a cancer of the cells forming on the lining of lungs and ribs. The *only* known cause is asbestos exposure.

Asbestos use has now been heavily regulated, and many schools and buildings have had it removed. However, an estimated 1.3 million people in the U.S. are exposed to it *each* year.

An emerging indoor danger in schools throughout the U.S. is mold. Fourteen million children attend school in buildings with poor environmental conditions. Without proper monitoring for moisture and ventilation, these facilities become breeding grounds for mold.

Headaches, hives, sensory disturbances and respiratory problems are all indications of mold exposure. With reports appearing throughout the U.S., mold may be the asbestos of the 21st century.

Ozone and Smog

From inside schools, to the sidewalks that surround them, it seems pollution is inescapable. Smog is one such case. Studies are showing in more detail the effects of ground-level ozone on the population. When most think of ozone, they think of the ozone *layer* or holes in it. But ozone is more than just a "shield" covering the earth. This colorless, odorless gas is also the main ingredient of smog.

These two "different" types of ozone can be classified as good or bad. Good ozone occurs naturally. In the stratosphere, ozone protects the earth from the sun. Ozone acts like a shield, protecting nature, air and people from the harmful effects of direct ultra-violet rays.

Bad ozone is formed by chemical reactions at ground level. When pol-

lutants from automobiles, power plants, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources come into contact with sunlight, ozone is formed. This ozone stays at ground level and, as the sun continues to heat it, smog is formed.

Smog is most prevalent in cities. Large industrial areas produce exaggerated levels of ozone. When combined with rising temperatures worldwide, smog is becoming epidemic.

Cities also have the largest concentrations of people. It has been reported that one in three people are at risk for ozone-related health problems. This ranges from slight breathing irritation to damaged lung tissue.

To inform the public about the quality of the air, the EPA has issued a set of ratings. Unfortunately, the air quality in most cities is now almost *always* in the "unhealthy" range.

This causes problems for children, those with pre-existing lung problems (such as asthma), and people involved in strenuous outdoor activities. According to the World Health Organization, up to 1.1% of all deaths are caused by air pollution. This equates to 570,000 people a year—the population of Boston proper! And, as cities grow, and as automobiles become more common and temperatures rise, more and more people will die!

But not *all* ozone is bad. As mentioned above, the ozone in the stratosphere protects the planet. But this layer of protection is beginning to vanish. "Holes" form every year over the North and South Poles, from approximately October to December. In 2000, the Antarctic hole covered over 26 million square miles. That is larger than the *entirety* of North America. Each year, these holes are appearing sooner, growing larger and lasting longer.

They allow powerful ultra-violet rays to reach the earth—unfiltered. This does not *currently* have a direct effect on people. But it soon will! As the ozone depletes, agriculture will be affected and occurrences of skin cancer will increase. While the world *talks* about taking steps to solve this problem, it grows WORSE. Without sudden and drastic change to ozone pollution and smog, the problem will continue to escalate!

Asian Dust Clouds

One example of mankind disrupting what was a beneficial system occurs in China. The Gobi Desert, located along the Mongolia-China border, produces intense springtime dust storms. Unlike many deserts, the Gobi is made of a very fine yellow dust.

It was best described by Swedish explorer Sven Hedin in 1895: "…crossing a dead-flat plain of yellow-grey dust—nothing but dust, so fine that it blew like powder at every breath of the wind, and so soft and deep that driving over it was like an adventure on a feather-bed…men, walking alongside, saw their feet sink into the dust ankle-deep with every step…The dust got into everything, the men and the horses and every wagon became plastered with grayish-yellow dust" (*Through Asia*, 1899).

When combined with intense winds, this "powder" creates huge dust clouds that can be three kilometers deep. It is interesting to note that these dust clouds are a natural method of distributing minerals and nutrients. Many terrestrial and oceanic ecosystems rely on the iron and minerals that these dust storms provide.

But, as with most things, man has disrupted the natural system. Scientists have discovered that desert areas are expanding. This is mainly attributed to urbanization, deforestation, pollution and global warming.

These "new" deserts are replacing what was once fertile land. They consume over 20,000 square miles of land *each year*! In addition to this staggering figure, over 70,000 square miles of land are being severely damaged annually—and are expected to become arid sooner than estimated.

This process is called *desertification*, defined by the United Nations as "Land degradation in arid, and semi-arid, and dry sub humid areas resulting mainly from adverse *human* impact"—the creation of new deserts!

By 1984, as many as 13.5 million people were displaced from some of these once-fertile lands. Between the years 1975-2000, over 185 million acres of the world's arable land were destroyed! The deserts in Africa are expanding in length (north and south) over six miles per year.

The U.N. Secretary General stated, "Drought and desertification threaten the livelihood of over 1 billion people in more than 110 countries around the world."

These growing deserts are changing this natural, beneficial system of which the dust clouds were a part. Records indicate that during the 17th century, there were 0.3 to 1.0 dust storms per year. But by 1990, this had risen to three to five storms per year—an increase of over 500 percent!

A recent example was the dust cloud that pummeled China in 2001. A mighty wind brought a monster cloud from one of China's deserts, over 750 miles away, towards South Korea. Schools, streets and businesses were *evacuated*, as people fled from the choking dust that completely engulfed the city streets.

Residents were unable to recognize when the sun dawned in the morning. Such huge dust storms are now *common* in these parts of the world. The past three years have been the worst, and scientists are reporting that the next few years are going to be much the same—if not worse!

The dust storm of April 2001 was considered one of the worst on record. Even in North America—over 11,678 kilometers away—its effects were felt: "The particulates in the dust clouds that reduce visibility and cause respiratory problems have not been measured in such high volume since Mt. St. Helens erupted, and even then, the particulates did not reach the ground as they are in this case" (*NASA Goddard Space Flight Center*, April 2001).

The story of this Asian dust cloud even reached television: "So thick was the dust over [the] weekend that visitors to western U.S. national parks have reportedly been asking rangers where the 'fire is.' Normally only smoke from major fires causes such

haze" ("Discovery Channel Earth Alert," April 2001).

Dust clouds are becoming much more prevalent, and deadlier, with the increase of arid desert areas.

Desertification must not be simply stopped—it must be *reversed*! However, with the continuation of global warming, the destruction of rainforests, population growth, and the continuous production of industrial waste and pollution, reversal may have already become impossible!

Asian Brown Haze

Not only are dust clouds becoming more and more intense, they are combining with the byproduct of "success." Asia is one of the fastest growing regions of the world. Industry is booming, and its smokestacks are billowing.

Often dubbed the "Asian Brown Haze," a thick haze forms over much of Asia. This *6.2 million*-square-mile phenomenon is a deadly brew of soot, aerosols, particulates (one being dust), acids and other pollutants that four billion people are "drinking" in the name of progress.

This three-kilometer thick pollution blanket is damaging agriculture, changing weather patterns and killing hundreds of thousands of people. And as the concentration of pollutants increases, so does their devastation!

The haze is thick enough to block 10% of the sun's rays and heat! This has cooled the region by as much as 15%. Inside the clouds themselves, a warming effect is created. This is causing lower atmosphere warming. This heating and cooling is changing weather patterns, decreasing rainfalls by as much as 40%!

Every year, monsoon season brings relief to Asia and waters the rice crops—a staple of their diets. In the last several years, the rains have *not* come. Wind patterns have also dramatically changed. And the clouds that do form are longer-lived. And with the shifting of winds, they are flooding areas that normally receive moderate rainfall, leaving other regions severely drought-stricken.

July 2002 was the driest month India experienced in over a century, while nearby regions such as Bangladesh were so severely flooded that two-thirds of the land was covered in water. This damaged 1.6 million hectares of cropland.

Even moderate rainfall is rife with problems. The haze has caused most clouds to produce highly acidic rain, damaging lakes and agriculture. Between the reduction in sunlight and the acid rain, winter rice harvests in India were reduced by 10%.

At times, the brown haze will combine with dust to form a horrible dust storm, coating the region with a yellow toxic dust. The haze also has global implications. It is able to travel halfway around the world in just five days, landing on the western U.S. and possibly causing the acid rains experienced on the West coast.

Many organizations are *attempting* to address the problem, with few having REAL ideas. The Asian population is expected to reach five billion over the next 30 years. This will result in larger cities with even more dense industry. Not only will they maintain the problem, but the building blocks are in place to intensify it!

Global Warming

Another problem that is drawing national attention is global warming. The theory is that over time, mankind has changed the composition of the atmosphere. This has trapped heat, which is slowly increasing the temperature around the world.

But new research shows that global warming is more than a theory. It is becoming a *most* serious problem.

Before explaining its dangers, we must first understand how it happens.

The earth's atmosphere is made up of a myriad of gasses. Most of these gases are passive in nature. This means that heat passes through them. But some are not. These trap heat and will redirect some back to the earth. The two main components that create the greenhouse effect are water vapor and carbon dioxide. Many assume that this is a negative effect. But without these gases in our atmosphere, the temperature of the earth would be -18°C (64°F) instead of 14°C (57°F).

The concern is not whether the greenhouse effect *is* happening. The sustaining of life on this planet relies on it. The concern is whether man is altering the natural process that keeps the planet warm.

Are greenhouse gases increasing?

The main gas in question is carbon dioxide. The burning of most fuels releases large amounts of carbon dioxide. Power plants, cars, trucks and aircraft all add to this problem.

Therefore, the answer is a resounding YES!

Carbon dioxide has reached levels not seen for hundreds of years. The most severe warming has happened over North America and Europe, where temperatures have increased 0.6°C over the last century.

While many may look at this as insignificant, it has the power to disrupt weather and ecosystems, which have a direct impact on man. Here is how!

Firstly, a change in weather is being experienced around the world. Thunderstorms in North America are dumping 20% more rain than previous years. Other parts of the country are experiencing the most severe droughts ever recorded. Some scientists link this directly to global warming. The warmer the air, the more water vapor it can hold. This allows for much more saturated clouds, and, in turn, flooding when those swelled clouds empty themselves.

Secondly, a change in the planet's ecosystems is occurring. Animals, plants, and organisms live in environments *designed* for them. Animals in the tropics would not be able to survive in North America. The same is true with many diseases or bacteria. As the planet warms, the climate regions move further north.

Tropical diseases are appearing in non-tropical regions. The West Nile virus is one such example.

Mankind has many luxuries and benefits that he has become accustomed to. But giving up these luxuries is exactly what must be done to curb the problem of global warming. The international community is so split on the issue that it cannot even agree that global warming is a real problem—or, if it is, how it should be addressed.

The planet can absorb *some* of the carbon dioxide every year. It already has a system in place to keep levels where they belong. One acre of trees can absorb over 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide in a year. Yet, while the media covers global warming, tens of millions of trees around the world are being destroyed.

Acid Rain

Trees allow for absorption of CO2. In theory, this would slow the onset of global warming. But, a well-known problem is showing newly understood consequences. New studies show that acid rain is killing trees all across the U.S. and Canada. *Daily Science Magazine* reported that acid rain is destroying trees' "immune systems," leaving them open to a host of diseases.

But what is *acid rain*?

First discovered in 1852, its effects were not fully understood until the last decade. Acid rain is a general term to describe rain that has an pH rating of seven or lower. It might be *better* termed, acidic deposition, because all rain is slightly acidic. Acid rain is particularly so.

Acidity or alkalinity of a substance is measured by the pH scale, which is logarithmic, like the Richter scale. This means that every change of one number represents a ten-fold change in value. For instance, a pH of 4 is ten times more acidic than 5.

Most plants and organisms are designed for an acidity level of pH 5.5. But even slight variations in water and soil can completely disrupt an ecosystem. Parts of the United States and Canada have rain measuring 2.6 pH. Little Echo Pond in Franklin, New York has a pH of 4.2. These levels completely destroy most plants, fish and water-dwelling creatures (such as frogs).

If you have traveled in northern Canada or upstate New York, you may have seen what are known as "dead lakes." They appear to be very clean and pristine, because the acidity of the water has killed all plant life, such as plankton, that would have colored the water. Effectively, such lakes are completely void of all animal and plant life.

Mankind is the *only* definable source for acid rain. Two gases referenced above are the primary ingredients that acidify rain—nitrogen oxide (NOx) and sulfur dioxide (SO2). Sulfur Dioxide is primarily produced by burning coal and smelting ore. This accounts for 70% of all SO2 present in the atmosphere.

Approximately 40% of NOx emission results from planes and automobiles. The remainder is produced by fossil fuel-based power plants.

Altogether, mankind is responsible for 90% of these gases present in the skies above eastern North America. While regulations like the "Clean Air Act" have helped to curb acid rain in North America, many nations around the world are doing nothing to address it. They are repeating the mistakes of western culture.

New studies show the complex interactions that take place in nature. A USDA Forest Service scientist and University of Vermont (UVM) researcher have documented a mechanism by which acid rain depletes calcium deposits in the soil. Calcium is vital to a healthy "stress response system" in plants. Climate change, pollutants, new pests and diseases are appearing in forests around the U.S. With their immune system weakened, they are unable to respond to these new stresses. Trees are weakening, and eventually entire forests may be destroyed. This leads to less CO2 converted into oxygen and further exacerbation of the greenhouse effect. A sad and deadly cycle.

But the implications reach farther than even this. Donald DeHayes, Dean and Professor in the School of Natural Sciences at UVM once stated, "If extensive, the decline of individual species would radiate through plant communities…It would alter the competition and survival of populations, perhaps even species, including animals at higher levels of the forest food chains."

He continues to explain that calcium deficiencies in plants are passed to herbivores. Bird eggs, animal bones, etc., would be weakened, devastating all levels of the food chain.

Humans are also not immune from the chemicals that create acid rain. As fundamental components of smog, NOx and SO2 have been shown to cause increased illness and premature death from such diseases as asthma and bronchitis.

Even with all the evidence, attitudes appear mostly unchanged: "…important new research shows the insidious harm that acid rain is causing to our trees and wildlife…We know how to stop acid rain, but have not had the will to do so" (Sen. James Jeffords).

PART 2: WATER POLLUTION

Air pollution's effect on society tends to span over many years. It slowly degrades the health of forests, animals and people. In many cases, this shortens the lifespan of humans and animals. The lack of water, on the other hand, will *kill* most people and animals in just a *few short days*. Pure, clean water is vital to all life. But humanity is rapidly destroying even this precious resource.

Every UN report on the state of the planet addresses the issue of water—from lack of freshwater to the destruction and pollution of lakes, rivers and oceans. Yet *nothing* is done about it. No one seems to care that our *most precious* resource is being flushed away!

As stated, North America has been blessed with some of the richest land in the world. The Great Lakes alone comprise 20% of the world's freshwater supply. But pesticides, fertilizers, chemicals and air pollution fall-out are changing freshwater into DEAD water.

The U.S. is not alone. All parts of the world are destroying not only their freshwater supplies, but oceanic ecosystems as well. This precious—vital—commodity is disappearing, with no solution or even apparent will to stop it!

Disappearing Fresh Water

None doubt our need for fresh water. North Americans consume more than any country in the world. Over 50% is pulled from ground water. It has become second nature to assume that every time you turn on a faucet,

drinkable water is available. Many do not know that not only is *drinkable* water disappearing, but water altogether!

For many years, the 600,000 chemicals used in various industries have seeped into the ground. Around many cities, rivers are slowly showing the signs of this stress.

For instance, in the early 1970s, a report was issued documenting the condition and concerns regarding the Missouri River. Many years of "progress" weighed heavy on this mighty river. The report stated that the Missouri River could no longer act as both a method to remove wastes from industrial areas AND a source for drinking water. The report shockingly recommended that the most effective solution was to turn the Missouri River into a sewer—2,464 miles long!

The Mississippi is fed by the Missouri River and shares a similar fate. In 1966, a group of scientists studied the condition of the river. They saw over 100 sewage pipes spewing untreated waste directly into the river. Today, the Gulf of Mexico has a region known as the "dead zone." It is 8,000 square miles—larger than New Jersey—and directly attributes to the pollution flowing out of the Mississippi River. Forty years of "addressing" the problem has changed nothing!

In September 2002, another very large "dead zone" was discovered in the center of Lake Erie, which has destroyed ALL life in the area. Scientists have tested the water, trying to discover why the lake's chemistry has unexpectedly changed. But they have been unsuccessful at discovering *any* indicators.

An excess of phosphorous, which is believed to have been accumulating since the 1960s, has caused the zone. It is located in the deepest waters in the central basin between Sandusky, Ohio, and Erie, Pennsylvania.

If the phosphorous problem continues, scientists predict that massive amounts of fish will die, damaging Ohio's fishing and tourism industry, as well as adversely affecting the waters that Cleveland, and countless other communities, draw their water from.

"It's the beginning of the second environmental war on Lake Erie," said an EPA scientist. "It's a very serious problem, and it could be a really big problem…The brakes we thought we had on the system aren't working anymore."

Even more important than these rivers and lakes are the vast aquifers that supply much of the U.S. and Canada's drinking water. They are also instrumental in crop irrigation. For instance, the Oglalla aquifer in the western U.S. supplies 20% of the water needed for irrigated cropland. Yet scientists now say that demand is exceeding supply in such a fashion that it will be dry in just *thirty* years!

Overuse of these waterways is having a side impact. To some degree, most water in North America is polluted. But supplies are so large that pollutants are heavily diluted in such a manner as to allow for filtration. Many of these pollutants begin to settle at the bottom. As water is pulled from the top, via wells, the remaining water becomes a more concentrated soup of toxins. Very soon, this water will be too toxic to even filter!

Europe is suffering similar problems. Over 90% of the rivers in Europe are suffering from a problem called eutrophication. This occurs when the nitrogen concentrations reach unnatural levels. Mostly caused by fertilizer runoff, this stimulates rampant algae growth, stealing all available oxygen from the water.

A similar issue has also been reported with groundwater. However, these western countries have learned—mostly by mistakes—that chemical contamination poses an immediate threat and have moved to heavily regulate many of the more dangerous contaminants. Developing countries have not.

Many parts of the developing world continue to experience the same pitfalls that befell the west during its period of industrialization. Up to 95% of ALL raw, untreated sewage is dumped directly into waterways that are—or *were*—used for drinking water!

In India, there are 14 major waterways. Every one is heavily contaminated. Over 50 million cubic meters of raw sewage are spewed into the Indian coastal waters every year.

Thailand and Malaysia are also experiencing severe water problems. Rivers often contain up to 100 times more pathogens, heavy metals, and industrial toxins than is "permitted" by the government.

São Paulo, Brazil is not any better. They dump 300 metric tons of untreated industrial toxins into the Tiete River *every day*. This river flows through São Paulo, where it picks up another 1,000 metric tons of sewage! What flows out of São Paulo can hardly be called water.

Finally, China has one of the most shocking pollution problems on earth. Of the 50,000 kilometers of major rivers, 60% are so contaminated that ALL fish life has died. In 1992, major industry dumped 36 billion metric tons of untreated chemicals into lakes and rivers. Numbers this large are difficult to quantify!

But shockingly, China has one final, remarkable example. For three months of 1986, the Liao River had 1 billion metric tons of industrial waste dumped into it. This destroyed nearly EVERY aquatic organism for *100 kilometers!*

As drinkable water disappears, many governments are slowly turning their attention to this dire situation. But without a REAL solution, they are simply focusing time and effort into fruitless means. This has also diminished attention on the other 97.3% of the earth's water supply—the oceans!

Unbalancing the Oceans

Many look at the oceans as unusable water. Most industry cannot use it. It is undrinkable. Only certain organisms can survive in salty water. But the oceans are the very base of all ecosystems in the world: "Oceans are critical, not just to our economy; not just to our food supply; not just to America's trade and security; but to the fabric of life itself. Those dark-blue waters are

Sea otters and other animals died due to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.
PHOTO: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

perhaps the single greatest natural treasure on God's Earth" (Former U.S. Vice President Al Gore).

The "health" of our oceans should be of vexing concern. Without this single resource, the machine of humanity would break down permanently!

Public safety often drives many policies in the U.S. The safety of ocean beaches has recently driven many regulations on testing and monitoring. This has also acted as a tool to monitor the pollution trend on coastal waters.

When pollutants rise, beaches close. All across the U.S., beaches are closing in record numbers. Such closings are rising. In 2001, 13,410 closings and advisories were issued. This is a 19% jump over the previous year.

Most disturbing are the reasons for these closures. The vast majority—87%—were due to the presence of fecal-associated bacteria. Children across the U.S.—and the world—are literally swimming in sewage!

But even more disheartening is that 54% (or 7,208) contained pollutants of unknown sources.

What are *you* swimming in?

Monitoring coastal waters varies across the world, even varying between beaches in the same state. But with less expensive, yet more sophisticated, monitoring equipment becoming available, more areas are testing their waters.

In many cases, improved testing is closing beaches that were once labeled "safe."

Such information points to the larger problem of drowning our oceans in pollutants. We must remember that everything dumped into rivers and streams ends up in the oceans. It becomes mankind's cesspool. Many scientists suggest resolving pollution by diluting it. There comes a point when our vast oceans can no longer "handle"—dilute—what we dump into them. A point we will reach *very* soon.

Regions known as "dead zones" evidence this. Located throughout the world, these regions are usually caused by extreme concentrations of nitrogen. As mentioned previously, this stimulates algae growth. When the algae die, bacteria use all available oxygen to break down the algae. Fish, plants, etc., begin dying off, making the zones dead. Although a natural process, runoff from fertilizers is creating a situation that nature can no longer maintain.

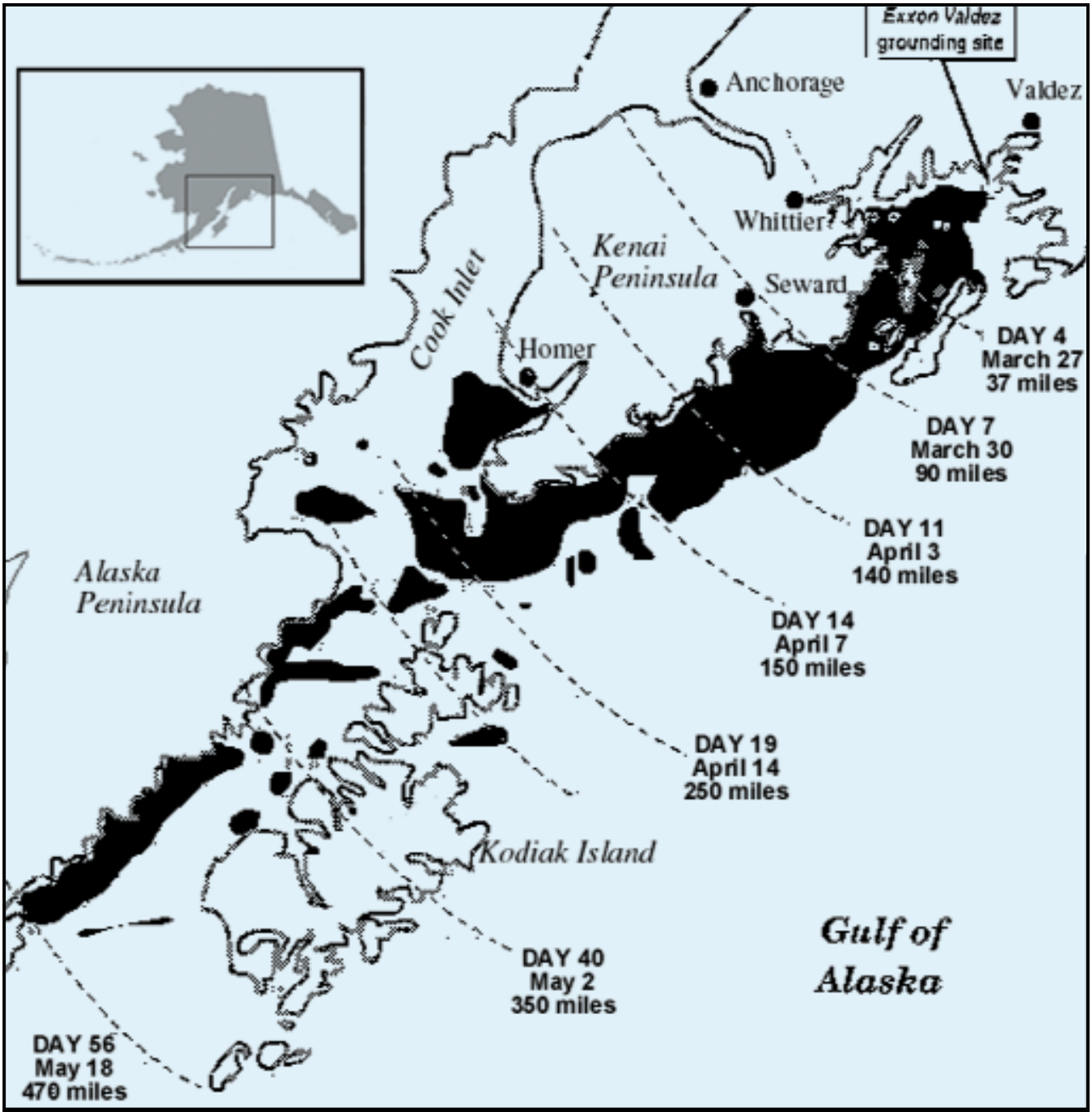
But most fish will simply avoid these regions, leaving many to think that there is still coastal fishing water containing clean fish.

That depends on one's definition of clean. The EPA recently rated most regions as "poor." Some areas in the Gulf of Mexico were declared completely off limits to fishing. The best waters were located in the Southeast and the West coast. But even these areas were only rated as "fair."

Many times, the oceanic ecosystems will give *signals* of this horrible imbalance. One such indication is the exploding number of jellyfish in the world's oceans and seas. Scientists warn that over-fishing, nutrient pollution, global warming, and the introduction of non-native species is devastating marine ecosystems.

A shrimpboat captain in the Gulf of Mexico was recently quoted as saying that the jellyfish are so thick that "you can almost walk across the water on them."

Let's look on opposite ends of the earth to witness some of these signs. Japan is completely surrounded by



Map of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill
PHOTO: www.oilspill.state.ak.us/facts/spillmap.html

water. For thousands of years, the Japanese have lived and functioned in this environment. Yet recently, something has changed. The ocean has been used as a dumping ground for arsenic, pesticide, fertilizer and many other chemicals. This is creating a poisonous "soup" surrounding Japan, killing hundreds of miles of coral reef.

How important are coral reefs? The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration states the following on their website:

• They are a home and nursery for almost a million fish and other species, many that we rely on for food.

• They contain some of the Earth's most diverse living ecosystems.

• Their existence protects coastal communities from storms, wave damage and erosion.

In a country completely surrounded by water, the answer is that they are *critically important*! Yet the engine of progress is looking ahead, instead of looking down into the oceans.

Let's travel around the globe to the mouth of the St. Lawrence Seaway. The freshwater from all the Great Lakes enters the ocean at this huge bay. It is also the breeding ground for the Beluga whale.

This mix of fresh and saltwater is the ideal spot for these majestic creatures to return to every year. But

things have very recently changed. Not only does the St. Lawrence Seaway transport millions of gallons of *freshwater* to the ocean every year, it also carries tons of *chemicals*. All the dumping that happens from the tip of Lake Superior, throughout the Great Lakes, accumulates here.

This accumulation has driven the toxicity of the Seaway to levels that are eradicating the Beluga whale. Not only are the chemicals causing cancer in the whales, but also *infertility*.

On either side of the planet, mankind is facing the same issues. Our expansion and "progress" is coming at the cost of our resources. Destroying ecosystems, no matter how small, dramatically impacts even the top of the food chain—human beings!

Many pollutants make up the soup disturbing this balance. The one receiving the most media coverage is oil. Oil spills are often considered the primary pollutant of our oceans and seas. Big oil spills account for about 37 million gallons of oil per year. The devastation is photographed and documented, and most know what oil does to beaches, fish and animals.

Imagine combining every oil spill into one giant spill. Then increase this by 1,800%. It would seem impossible that anything could recover from such a disaster.

But *every* year, 706 million gallons of oil make their way to the oceans—363 million gallons of it is oil that people pour down drains. Since one quart of oil contaminates one million gallons of water, oil alone is destroying 2.824 *quadrillion* gallons of water—EVERY YEAR!

That means that every two years, oil contaminates enough water to fill all five great lakes. And oil is only *one* of *many* ways that people have contaminated water. The actual amount of water contaminated every year is incalculable. With no REAL solution to preserve fresh water or save our oceans, time is *quickly* running out!

The Unknown Pollution

You now recognize the precarious state of the freshwater supply. You have also seen that using the oceans and seas as a sewer is destroying "the single greatest natural treasure on God's Earth." But there is another form of pollution that goes largely unchecked—heat pollution!

Landfill in Southampton, United Kingdom.
PHOTO: www.southampton.gov.uk

The complex systems that sustain life on this planet were designed in such a manner as to allow for environmental variations—but never at the speed or manner by which man has introduced them. Changing the temperature a few degrees can terribly upset water-based ecosystems.

The amount of oxygen that can be dissolved into water is directly related to the temperature of the water. When water is drawn from lakes and rivers to cool power plants—especially nuclear power plants—it is returned several degrees warmer. This heating process reduces the amount of oxygen the water can hold.

In addition, some fish are very sensitive to variations in water temperature—beyond the changes it creates in their oxygen supply. For instance, trout and salmon stop reproducing if the temperature warms only a few degrees.

Quickly, artificially-heated water creates an environment that allows algae and other undesirable plants to overtake desirable ones. Then other fish, such as carp and sunfish, begin to thrive because of the higher temperatures. Suddenly, a major change has happened to a local ecosystem.

But even if fish have become accustomed to the new water temperature, they are still in danger. If the power plant closes down for any reason (i.e. maintenance), the water will quickly cool. Fish must not experience cold shock. This will likely kill them.

Although some fish may still survive this initial shock, they die when the power plant comes back online and quickly reheats the water.

Other problems also arise. Fish that would normally migrate to warmer waters in the winter may not, depleting local food supplies.

Humanity needs power. Even short interruptions in power wreak major havoc. There is no means to cool the power plants without heating the surrounding water. Once again, the planet suffers from the march of progress—and there is *no* solution to address it!

PART 3: LAND POLLUTION

Another form of pollution is also leaving its mark on society. This mark may be obvious, such as enormous landfills spanning miles of land. Or animal waste reservoirs containing thousands of gallons of animal byproducts.

Others may be more subtle, such as hundreds of acres of land riddled with hazardous pesticides that have accumulated over years of farming.

Either way, the world's land is being attacked by methods of farming and industrialization that have become the norm. We simply do not consider what we will do with the millions of tons of waste produced

every year. Much has even escaped government regulation.

The Death of Agriculture

Do you feel that eating is important? It is ridiculous to even imagine that some would think that it is not. But the way the U.S. is treating what was once its most fertile ground may seem otherwise.

The soil and plants were designed in such a way as to allow plants to leach minerals and nutrients from the soil, which would then pass on to the people and animals that ate them. Like a canteen of water, you cannot keep drinking and expect it to never empty.

Humanity has farmed like it expects the canteen to never empty. Mass farming has depleted many of the nutrients in the soil. This has caused mankind to do what it does best—address the EFFECT instead of the CAUSE.

We have created special breeds of plants that can grow in imbalanced soil. Over time, this has created highly specialized breeds, which are not diverse enough to grow in a variety of conditions. They are also unable to fight insects and fungi like more diverse breeds could. So people have produced pesticides that fight off the insects and diseases that these specialty breeds cannot fight on their own.

This allows weak breeds to prosper, and the cycle continues.

The cycle has caused the number of pesticides used in farming to grow from 32 (in 1939) to more than 22,000 by 1993! And not only has the variety of pesticides increased, but the amounts dumped each year are shocking!

In the U.S. alone, over *one billion* pounds of pesticides are used annually. This equates to approximately 4.6 pounds of pesticide per person. While 4.6 pounds may not sound like a lot, keep in mind that some of these pesticides are fatal even in tiny amounts.

In fact, of the 25 most used pesticides, five are toxic to the nervous system and 18 can damage the eyes, skin and lungs. That is only the short-term damage!

The EPA classifies about 12 of these pesticides as carcinogenic. In laboratory tests, 17 of them cause genetic and reproductive damage.

No one could imagine drinking arsenic, but we spray *tons* of these proven deadly toxins on our foods every year. Now you may also wonder, "Is it even safe to eat?" (To learn more about how to avoid these and other dietary dangers, request our free booklet *God's Principles of HEALTHFUL LIVING*.)

While many foods still contain pesticide residue, most of it never leaves the fields where they grow. Over many years, soil pesticide levels become so toxic that *nothing* can survive. Not only are all healthy organisms, minerals and nutrients leached from the soil, but what remains is deadly!

Imagine the population of Buffalo, New York getting sick each year from pesticides. That is exactly what happens! The concentrations are so high that the EPA estimates that approximately 300,000 farm workers become sick each year. But it does not stop there. Even their families suffer from indirect exposure.

In Minnesota, farmers using pesticides were more likely to have children with birth defects. Other studies have shown increases in miscarriages and premature births.

On the surface, the solution sounds simple. We must stop using pesticides or there may not be any fruits or vegetables left to eat. But the problem is much more complex than that. Many of the more virulent seeds no longer exist in quantities to sustain the population. And if we stopped using pesticides, many plants would not survive even one year.

So an approach of slowly removing pesticides would seem like a logical step. Yet the trend shows higher amounts—and more varieties—being used every year.

Other Farming Pollution—Livestock

Mass farming has also become the norm for livestock. Gone are the days when small farms had a few dozen, or even a hundred head of cattle. In the U.S., more than 90% of all poultry is produced by *ten* companies.

This requires "cities" of livestock. But unlike human cities, there is no regulated system to treat and dispose of waste.

In many cases, animals produce even more waste than humans. In the U.S., factory farms produce 130 times more waste than people. That means that every year, 2.7 trillion pounds of untreated, unregulated waste is produced.

Where does it go?

Unfortunately, the solution is usually huge lagoons, some the size of several football fields. And because of poor regulation, many are prone to leaks and spills.

In 1995, an eight-acre hog-waste lagoon burst, sending 25 million gallons of manure into a local river. The spill immediately killed ten million fish and left hundreds of thousands of acres of wetlands closed to shell fishing for months.

Worries of spills of even greater magnitude are on the minds of many North Carolinians. That state alone produces 28,251,511,730 pounds of hog waste each year.

Not only are direct spills a problem, but even *leaks* can lead to dire consequences. In Oklahoma, nitrates from a factory hog operation contaminated local drinking water. The water was so polluted that the company was ordered by the EPA to provide bottled water to local residents.

In 1996, the Centers for Disease Control linked spontaneous abortions to drinking water containing high nitrates—nitrates resulting from factory farm pollution!

One of the deadliest cases occurred in Milwaukee in 1993. Manure from dairy cows contaminated the local drinking water. The result? One hundred people dead and 400,000 sick.

Not only is direct contact with these wastes a danger, the gases they produce can lead to serious health problems. Large hog farms emit a gas called hydrogen sulfide. In humans, this gas produces flu-like symptoms. But prolonged or high concentrations can cause brain damage or even death.

In 1998, The National Institute of Health reported that 19 people died from hydrogen sulfide produced from manure lagoons.

Another concern is the astronomical amounts of antibiotics used in livestock. Out of the 24 million pounds of antibiotics used each year, 70% are used in livestock to accelerate their growth.

Many of these antibiotics are not broken down in the animals and end up in their waste. (Although some is still in the meat you buy.)

These antibiotics kill many of the bacteria in animal waste. But it is far from safe! The remaining bacteria are resistant to antibiotics. These super bacteria can spread to humans and are extremely difficult to treat.

Will humanity ever look at the consequences—the devastating *results*—of its actions?

Users—Not Consumers

In our effort to live the "good life," we are constantly "improving" and replacing products in our lives. But something has changed in our consumer-driven system. Industry has produced many products that we do not *consume*, but simply *use*.

Look around you. Newspapers, magazines, clothing, packaging, etc. are never consumed! We simply purchase products, only to later throw them away, replacing them with the newer, better version. We now live in a *user-driven* society, and landfills around the world are showing the results!

In fact, every year adds another 200 million tons of waste in the U.S. It has become common for major cities to transport their garbage to locations hundreds of miles away. And many parts of the East coast have nearly filled all available landfills. Soon we will reach a point were we have nowhere to put that 200 million tons of garbage.

In 2002, there was a garbage workers strike in Toronto, Canada. After only a few days, the city streets filled with garbage. The smell permeated nearly every part of its downtown area. The news media was worried about a major rat infestation. Health issues were being discussed. This after only a few days!

Without removing the greed that permeates society, things will only grow worse. There are *no* signs that people are ready to change their ways.

One solid waste disposal specialist, when describing the state of the problem, said, "Every large community is in a corner where it must do something about the garbage that threatens its very environment…We're running in front of an avalanche and it's already beginning to bury us."

All the vast amounts of pollutants. All these problems. What can be done to solve them? Without a dramatic change, both to society and to people's character, there is no hope!

PART 4: THE REAL SOLUTION

As you have seen in this report, pollution has brought this planet to the brink of death. Lakes, rivers, oceans and farmlands are dying at unprecedented rates. There are many who think they have a solution to pollution. But there is always a reason—and obstacle—that prevents them from implementing it. Either governments will not spend the money or create laws and regulations needed, or there may be a lack of international support.

Whatever the reason, the fact is that man *cannot* solve the pollution problem. It mostly stems from the fact that man will not address the *real cause* of pollution. Many think it is created by industrial waste. By careless use of resources. By complex interactions between mankind and nature. But the answer is much simpler!

Pollution is caused by greed! Never at any point in time do politicians, lawmakers, or activists stop and say, "We have this problem because of our greed."

Greed—the "get" attitude—has become a god for this world.

Society never stops and asks if it *needs* what it is creating, if it *must* add to—expand—the toys and luxuries that already exist. In a society where everyone attempts to "one-up" his neighbor, there will always be something thrown out in the process. We have created a system that cannot solve its pollution problem because the core of its values—our human nature—craves false betterment!

But who is responsible? What started this cycle?

Some have even suggested that this attitude stems from "Judeo-Christian" principles—that, since Christians should "conquer" the earth, this allows them to exploit it.

But should Christians pollute? Or should they conserve?

Many confuse some of the first pages of the Bible, misunderstanding the true meaning. God told Adam to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and *subdue* it: and have *dominion* over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." (Gen. 1:28).

Adam and all men who have followed him were told to "put into subjection" and "rule over" the earth. This is what God told Adam to do in the garden of Eden: "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to *dress* it and to *keep* it" (2:15).

God told man to maintain it—dress it—keep it looking beautiful, as God had originally created it.

More interesting is the Hebrew word translated "keep." It means: to *guard*; generally to protect, keep, observe, *preserve*, *reserve*, save.

God commanded Adam to PROTECT and PRESERVE the world that was created for him. Never was he told to rape and destroy the blessings of this world. Imagine how different this world would be if Adam—and everyone who followed—had simply listened to one of God's first directions to man.

But this is not the *only* warning that God has given to man about pollution—the destruction man would visit upon God's created Earth.

Notice what the prophet Isaiah said about our age: "The earth is drooping, withering…and the sky wanes with the earth; FOR EARTH HAS BEEN POLLUTED BY THE DWELLERS ON ITS FACE…Therefore a curse is crushing the earth, alighting on its guilty folk; mortals are dying off, till few are left." (24:4-6, *Moffatt*)

The people of earth are under a "curse." But why?

Hosea expands this further: "Israel,

hear the word of the Eternal, for the Eternal has a charge to bring against the dwellers in the land: No fidelity, no kindness, no knowledge of God in the land, nothing but perjury, lying, and murder, stealing, debauchery, burglary" (4:1-2, *Moffatt*).

When you break God's Law, it breaks *you*! Mankind's disobedience to those laws and having "no knowledge of God in the land" has left humanity ignorant to what God intended at earth's creation.

Not knowing God, man walks blindly in this world, unaware of how to even take care of the planet put in his charge. Because of his ignorance, "even the *beasts* and *birds* and the very *fish* within the sea *are perishing*" (4:3, *Moffatt*).

Greed and the desire for self have put everything—including God—second in the eyes of men. The fruits of human nature are the destruction of the earth. But have we now gone too far? It seems that there is no hope left for this world. How can WE prevent our own destruction?

The answer is that WE *cannot*!

But God can!

A Final Solution

In 1970, UN Secretary General U. Thant addressed the University of Texas, saying, "plunder, befouling and destruction of our native earth have already gone too far for us to rely any more on pious hopes, belated promises, and tardy efforts at self-discipline.

"If effective measures are to be taken in time, we need something new—and we need it speedily—a global authority with the support and agreement of government and of other power interests, which can pull together all the piecemeal efforts now being made and which fill the gaps where something needs to be done."

This was over 30 years ago! Things must have surely improved—right?

In August 2002, world leaders gathered in Johannesburg. They meant to discuss solutions to these and other problems. They disagreed, and failed to reach a resolution on over 90% of the proposed matters. Not only were no real solutions found, but the three-day conference produced *250,000 tons of carbon dioxide*.

Absolutely nothing has changed!

The UN is powerless to implement such a "global authority"—a GOVERNMENT—to address this problem.

No system, government, or organization of man will *ever* have such power.

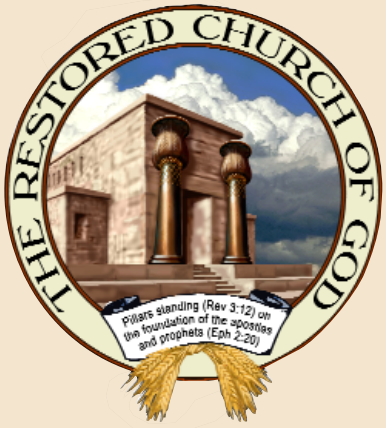
But there is a coming GOVERNMENT—a SYSTEM not based on the faulty ideas and concepts of *man*. A system that is based on the divine, *true* wisdom and mercy of our Creator.

This is the REAL SOLUTION to the problems besetting humanity.

Few have understood that the Bible teaches that there will soon come a world-ruling government—when Christ will rule *all* mankind! The expanse and implications of this government go far beyond simply solving the problem of pollution. Mankind will be *forced* to turn from the ways of human nature and practice God's way—the way of give and out-going concern—instead of the way of greed, selfishness, deceit and broken spiritual laws. (To further understand this world-shaking event and the period that follows, request our free booklets *TOMORROW'S WONDERFUL WORLD–An Inside View!* and *How WORLD PEACE Will Come*.)

The above booklets (along with other literature that we offer) explain mankind's problems—and their SOLUTIONS!

Do you wish to taste the hope and understanding that God's Word—the Bible—offers? The answers *are* available. The choice is now yours! □



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