



The
**PROPHETIC
CONDITIONS**
Series

What's Wrong With
THE WEATHER?



ABOUT THE COVER

This severity of weather is increasing. This report explains why.

PHOTO: NOAA Photo Library, NOAA Central Library; OAR/ERL/National Severe Storms Laboratory

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!*

Other trend reports in the series:

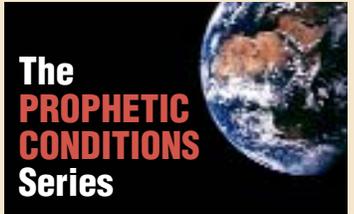
- *THE ALCOHOL Epidemic*
- *Earthquakes and Volcanoes in Prophecy*
- *The Tragedy of Drug Abuse*
- *The Worldwide Crime Wave*
- *This Polluted Earth*
- *Witches, Wizards and Spirits: Grave and Growing Danger*
- *The immorality explosion!*
- *Out of the Ashes: THE RISE OF EUROPE*
- *A Generation of PLEASURE SEEKERS*
- *THE EDUCATION CRISIS*
- *ABORTION – Woman’s Choice or Modern Holocaust?*
- *Why They Hate Us – Anti-Americanism on the Rise*
- *The New GAMBLING PLAGUE*

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What's Wrong With THE WEATHER?

We see more and more extremes in the weather. Nature is exploding with more violent weather—drought, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, storms and forest fires. What is wrong? How does this ever-increasing odd weather affect us? Is the earth's immune system out of balance? Are these acts of God or mistakes of man? How can we know?

TODAY'S STORMS are becoming more intense and more frequent. Hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanoes, floods, drought and fires devastate the world. Hollywood makes heroes out of men who are able to turn major catastrophes around—and “save the day.” But events are soon coming that no man can control. Mankind will be forced to concede.

Like any organism, the earth lives and breathes. When it is healthy, its inhabitants will be healthy. The earth provides our food, water, clothing and shelter.

We are near the end of 6,000 years of man's misrule. The earth is wounded and “the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now” (Rom. 8:22).

What would happen if the earth became further injured? What if we could no longer reap its healthful benefits? Changes in weather and climate impact our lives daily. We are connected to our ecosystem. Events such as extremely cold winters, crop failure from drought, or emergency conditions such as floods, heat waves and forest fires, affect us.

Human life is sustained by three essential elements—air, water and food. Man has polluted the supply of these elements at a remarkable rate.

Air pollution—filling the air with gases, smoke, smog and fluorocarbons—not only threatens mankind, but

is also making the whole *planet* sick. Factor in the worldwide upheaval in the weather and the result will be mass starvation and widespread disease epidemics. In parts of Africa, India and South America, weather and environmental damage have already resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of square miles of agricultural lands!

Every summer, forests in the western United States burn out of control. In 2002, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona all experienced their worst fires ever! What has caused the conditions for these fires? How did so much fire get out of control?

Seemingly every day, there are reports about the “hottest summer ever” or “most flooding ever” or “worst fires ever.” Something is very wrong with the weather!

The Almighty God created the conditions that make our weather the way it is. He controls it. Why is God allowing these conditions?

Although natural disasters have occurred throughout history, Christ tells us that natural disasters will take place, and intensify, just prior to His Return: “For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be *famines*, and *pestilences*, and *earthquakes*, in diverse places” (Matt. 24:7).

Meteorologists and weathermen sometimes fail to predict the weather even 24-48 hours in advance—let alone 2,000 years. Most would agree

that it is impossible for *men* to foretell events 2,000 years in advance.

But Christ did!

The peoples of the western world have been sheltered. Most do not know what it is like to suffer. We are still reaping the blessings that God promised our forefather Abraham (Gen. 17:4; 22:17-18; 24:60). But these blessings are being taken away, one by one.

Why all the upset weather? Because God is *punishing* mankind. We reap what we sow. For the last 6,000 years, we have been sowing bad seed, and the crop is now ready to come in!

God is trying to get the world's attention. He is a loving, merciful God. He wants us to have a good life. He does not want to see anybody lose out on the blessings He offers: “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent” (Rev. 3:19). Also notice Matthew 18:14: “Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.”

All that God created was good. There is a perfect balance between the earth and the air—between trees and the oxygen we breathe, and between humans and the carbon dioxide trees need. Everything works together as a perfect unit. God understood thousands of years ago that man would violate the laws and principles that He set in place.

Amos 4:9 states, “I have smitten you with *blasting* and *mildew*: when your gardens and your vineyards and your fig trees and your olive trees increased, the palmerworm *devoured* them: yet have you not returned unto Me, says the LORD.”

God understood that, at the end of the age, pollution, greenhouse gasses, fluorohydrocarbons and ground-level ozone, among other things, would set into motion the weather patterns we see today.

Conservation Vs. Preservation

There are many differing opinions in society as to how natural resources should be used. Some believe that our national resources should be strictly controlled and *preserved*. Others believe they should be *conserved*. Still others do not seem to care one way or the other—“Use it until it’s gone and let the next guy worry about it!” Who’s right? How should we treat what God has provided?

To preserve something is to keep it in an unaltered state, or maintain it unchanged. On the surface, this sounds like a wonderful idea. We should never abuse or waste our natural resources. But to set something aside, only to look at it, seems to be an incredible waste.

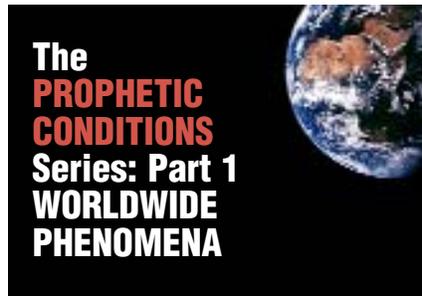
On the other hand, *conservation* is protection through management—to responsibly use what is already there, and replace what is used. To cut down a tree or a forest without replacing it would be unwise. Before long, there would be no trees left. But under proper management, for every tree that was cut down, another would be planted in its place.

When one plants a sugar maple tree for the production of maple syrup, he does not plant it for himself. He plants it for the next generation—and the generation after that. Trees are a renewable resource. When a forester cuts a tree down for the purpose of making it into lumber, he should then plant two or three other seedlings for the next generation.

This is the example God gave man from the start. When Adam was first put in the Garden of Eden, God told him to “*dress* it and to *keep* it” (Gen.

2:15). He did not say, “cut it all down and worry about it later.” The word *dress* means “to serve, to till, to be a husbandman.” The word *keep* means “to properly *hedge* about; that is, *guard*; generally to *protect*, *attend to*.”

Is this how man has treated the earth these last 6,000 years?



Now let’s examine the many weather problems plaguing the world today.

Growing Deserts

Deserts occupy nearly fourteen percent of the earth’s land surface area. However, only four percent of the world’s population lives in these regions. This is due to the rough, dry and hot weather found there.

The climate and environment of deserts often vary, depending on their location. Most deserts are hot, arid, rocky and sandy. But others, located in cold regions, are icy. This is attributed to the wide range between night and day surface temperatures, which causes rocks to break into small fragments. These are then blown away by the wind.

Scientists have discovered that desert areas are expanding. This is mainly attributed to (1) urbanization, (2) deforestation, (3) pollution and (4) global warming. It was previously believed that *existing* deserts were growing in size. However, recent studies show that semi-arid areas are actually *turning into* deserts!

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.”

This increase in desert areas has also caused many dust storms to form, resulting in chaos throughout parts of the world. The most 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 consumed 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 *NASA Goddard Space Flight Center* saw the dust clouds on satellite, and reported after the storm had passed, “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.”

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

Desertification is a problem that must not be simply stopped—it must be *reversed!* However, with the continuation of global warming, the destruction of rainforests, continuous production of industrial waste and pollution, and population growth,



Dust buried farms and equipment, killed livestock, and caused human death and misery during the height of the Dust Bowl (Circa 1935).

PHOTO: Historic NWS Collection

reversal is becoming more and more impossible!

Hurricanes

In the last few years, hurricanes have become more forceful. Most will remember the devastation that Hurricane Andrew caused in Florida just a few years ago. Are other hurricanes on the way that are this powerful, or even more so?

The term “hurricane” refers to tropical cyclones. They are defined by the following criteria: They are generated in tropical areas of the ocean, close to the equator. Their winds are *cyclonic*, meaning they swirl around a center eye. They have sustained winds of at least 74 mph and are low-pressure systems. Hurricanes usually form where there is warm water and moist air.

Most Atlantic Ocean hurricanes begin as thunderstorms off the west coast of Africa, and work their way over warm tropical oceans, gaining strength. While in the Atlantic, these storms are brought towards Central and North America through easterly

winds, called trade winds.

These thunderstorms usually intensify through three phases: (1) Tropical depression—wind speeds of less than 38 mph, (2) Tropical storm—wind speeds increase to 39-73 mph, and (3) Hurricane—winds over 73 mph. This intensification can take from a few hours to a few days. When winds reach 74 mph, a storm is called a hurricane.

Once formed, a hurricane has three main parts: (1) The calm, low-pressure center of the storm, called the eye; (2) the area surrounding the eye, which has the most destructive winds, known as the eye wall; (3) the thunderclouds that surround and circulate the eye, referred to as rain bands.

Hurricanes can form anywhere in the Caribbean Sea or Gulf of Mexico, from May 31 through December. The official Atlantic hurricane season begins June 1 and ends on November 30. About 99% of all cyclones occur during this season.

The effects of a hurricane include: heavy rain damage, inland flooding, storm surging, tornadoes and high-

sustained winds. At a hurricane’s land-fall (when it makes contact with land), it is common to find 7-12 inches of rainfall on land, often far inland. This causes severe flooding and property damage—leading to destruction and death.

Storm surging is possibly the most devastating effect of a hurricane. It refers to a wall of water that is pushed in front of a hurricane’s winds. If this surge occurs with a high tide, there is greatly increased inland flooding and beach erosion. Nine out of ten hurricane-related deaths are caused by flooding or water surge.

Although hurricanes have affected mankind for centuries, only within the past hundred years has man been able to track their progress. The National Hurricane Center begins to track hurricanes in their infancy. While a storm is out in the sea, its direction, strength and speed are monitored.

Though storms are quite unpredictable, this early tracking allows enough time for preparation and warning. A storm’s unpredictability is mainly attributed to a combination of trade winds and the jet stream. While trade winds mainly blow towards the west, the jet stream blows mainly towards the east.

Warnings, estimates of potential property damage and expected flooding are set according to the *Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale*. This scale rates hurricanes by wind speeds, intensity, water gusts, storm surges and a few other factors. Notice the following categories and extent of damage.

Category One: Wind speeds between 74-95 mph; storm surges 4-5 ft. above normal; some flooding and little to no structural damage.

Category Two: Wind speeds about 96-110 mph; storm surges 6-8 ft. above normal; damage to doors, windows and roofs of structures and considerable damage to trees and shrubbery.

Category Three: Wind speeds about 111-130 mph; storm surges 9-12 ft. above normal; structural damage to homes and buildings, mobile homes destroyed, severe flooding, large trees are blown down; evacuation of shoreline and low-lying areas; low-lying



In 1992, Hurricane Andrew caused 26 deaths, destroyed thousands of homes, and resulted in billions of dollars in damage in Florida and Louisiana.

PHOTO: Powerserve Technologies, Inc.

areas are cut off by flooding water 3-5 hours before the hurricane center arrives.

Category Four: Wind speeds about 131-155 mph; storm surges 13-18 ft. above normal; major structural damage to homes and buildings; complete uprooting of trees and shrubs; mobile homes are completely destroyed.

Category Five: Wind speeds exceeding 155 mph; storm surges at least 18 ft. above normal; some structures completely blown over; massive evacuation 5-10 miles from the shore; severe flooding, tornadoes are spawned, low-lying areas flooded 3-5 hours before the eye of the storm arrives; complete destruction of mobile homes, uprooted trees and shrubs, etc.

Consider some of the following devastating hurricanes:

In 1900, a hurricane devastated Galveston, Texas. The hurricane, and its accompanying tidal wave resulted in over 8,000 deaths. In today's dollars, it caused over \$809 million in damage. It is considered the deadliest hurricane in U.S. history.

In 1938, a hurricane, nicknamed the "Long Island Express," rocked New England. It caused over \$4.1 billion in damage. Over 600 lives were lost.

In 1969, Hurricane Camille landed in Mississippi, causing the greatest storm surge in U.S. history—24.6 feet. Of the 256 deaths caused by Camille, almost half occurred in non-coastal areas. This was attributed to heavy flooding, powerful winds and slashing rains. It was reported that flooding reached as far inland as Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky. This storm was so destructive that the bodies of many victims were never found.

In 1989, Hurricane Hugo slammed the Carolinas, killing 49, and causing over \$4.2 billion in damage.

In 1992, Hurricane Andrew claimed 26 lives and caused over \$26.5 billion in property damage! Over \$20 billion in insurance claims were filed due to this hurricane.

In 1995, Hurricane Opal resulted in nine deaths and \$3 billion in damage.

In 1996, Hurricane Fran took the lives of 37 people, and caused over \$5 billion in damage.

In November 1998, Hurricane Mitch was one of the strongest late-season hurricanes on record. The system eventually weakened before hitting the mainland, but not before unleashing an estimated 75 inches of rain. The floods devastated Honduras and the surrounding countries. The final death toll was estimated at 11,000—the single greatest loss of life in the western hemisphere in the last 200 years!

In 1999, Hurricane Floyd, a Category Three storm, was felt from New England to the Caribbean islands. Drowning due to inland flooding was the cause of nearly ninety percent of all deaths associated with Floyd. This flooding was due to its powerful and multiple rain bands. Floyd caused over \$6 billion worth of damage.

These are just a few of the deadly storms that have hammered the U.S. in recent years. Studies have shown a recent trend in the development of these storms—they are getting worse!



May 10, 1968, Corpus Christi, Texas: Storms led to flash flooding.
PHOTO: Historic NWS Collection

Between 1995 and 1999, there were 41 hurricanes throughout the Atlantic, Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico. This is the largest recorded number in any five-year period!

Central and North America are not the only areas of the world that have killer hurricanes. Historically, deadly typhoons and killer cyclones have devastated the China coast, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Southeast Asia and areas along the Bay of Bengal.

Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed in these savage storms. In 1970, the single worst tropical storm this century devastated Bangladesh. Casualty estimates range from 300,000 to 500,000 dead. Another storm hit the following year, killing another 138,000.

In October 1991, Typhoon Thelma was one of the worst storms to affect the Philippines. Dam failure, landslides and flash floods caused an estimated 6,000 to lose their lives. Leyte Island, where poor logging practices had stripped the vegetation clean, experienced the highest number of casualties.

This increased hurricane activity

has been linked to El Niño and La Niña. El Niño causes hurricanes in the Atlantic to decrease, but *increase* in other parts of the world. On the other hand, La Niña intensifies Atlantic hurricanes.

Global warming and other climate changes are major contributors to the increased effects of El Niño and La Niña. In turn, these effects are creating the conditions that, when combined, can trigger what some scientists call a “monster” storm.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor Kerry Emanuel estimated that oceans will become three degrees warmer due to global warming. This would increase hurricane winds and rains by 10%! The damage this would cause, on top of the already devastating effects of hurricanes, would be astronomical!

These deadly storms are continuously increasing and intensifying—all men can do is brace themselves!

Rainforests

Rainforests are made up of four distinct layers or communities. Each

layer itself is an environment, but dependant on the others.

The first is the *emergent layer*, consisting of the tallest trees “emerging” through the uppermost part of the forest. These trees are sometimes 250 feet or more above the forest floor. Most of these trees are broad-leaf hardwoods. At this level, sunlight is abundant. The animals that inhabit this layer—butterflies, bats, eagles, monkeys and snakes—rarely go into the layers below.

The second layer is called the *canopy*. Tree branches spread out, forming an “umbrella” that shades the floor below. This is the primary layer of the whole structure. The trees in this layer rise to a height of 60 to 150 feet. Most generally have a smooth, oval leaf that comes to a point. These leaves have a highly reflective property that protects them from higher levels of radiation. This layer filters 80% of the light, preventing it from reaching the layer below.

Thousands of different fruits and flowers are abundant here. Orchids, ferns and mosses grow on and in these

branches reaching for light. Hundreds of varieties of ants, bats, beetles, hummingbirds, monkeys, parrots, sloths, snakes and tree frogs inhabit the canopy.

The third layer is the *understory*. This area receives about 2-5% of the sunlight. The smaller trees, bushes and ferns usually have a dark green leaf. The maximum height of any of these is 12 feet. This is what most people envision when they think “jungle.” It is very hot and humid, with very little air movement. Many common “houseplants” originate here. Insects abound. Many species of animals live here, including frogs, jaguars, leopards, parakeets and snakes.

The fourth and final layer is called the *floor*. Almost no plants grow here—other than a few flowering plants that tolerate deep shade. This is mostly because of the lack of sunlight. Only about 2% of the light reaches the floor. There is almost 100% humidity.

The leaves that fall from the trees and bushes, covering the floor, decompose rapidly. There is heavy competition for the nutrients from this decomposing material.

Most of the nutrients in the rainforest ecosystem are stored in its vegetation rather than its soil. Because there are very little nutrients in the soil itself, the root systems of the trees are very shallow. They fan out rather than grow deep.

Although they account for only about 6% of the earth’s surface, rainforests are home to more than half the plant and animal species on the planet. A typical forest in North America will have from 5 to 12 different kinds of trees. A typical rainforest may have over 300.

Tropical rainforests account for just over half of the world’s 4.2 billion hectares of forests. These tropical forests are decreasing at a rate of 1.2-1.8 % annually. At this rate, they will be gone in 55 years. The reasons for this deforestation are fuel wood consumption, industrial production, infrastructural projects and unsustainable agricultural practices.

Several problems result from the destruction of the forests.

One: Farmers wanting to raise

crops are cutting down the trees, burning the root system and then planting their crops. They sell the wood (mahogany, rosewood and others) to the timber industry for a quick profit. The trouble is that the soil is so poor that they are only able to grow crops for a couple of years. After this, the land is depleted of what nutrients were there and is useless. Very little else will grow. The farmers then move on and cut more trees down and the cycle continues. Ranchers are also into the “get rich quick” scheme and are doing the same, only to raise cattle for a couple of years and then move on.

Two: The loss of the hundreds of species of plants, animals and insects. Once this diversity is lost, we will never get it back. The potential loss of thousands of plants that could be used in medical research is, in itself, staggering.

Three: Once these huge trees and forests are gone, rain patterns change. This is one of the reasons deserts are growing. The more vegetation an area has, the better the balance of rain an area will receive. The less vegetation, the less rain.

Four: If we cut down the trees, how will the earth breathe?

There has been some progress in slowing the deforestation. In 1987, Burger King canceled a \$35 million contract for Central American beef to make a statement about saving forests. In 1992, a group of indigenous people, throughout the Amazon, received title to 2.5 million acres of ancestral rainforest. In 1994, major Hollywood film studios agreed to stop using rainforest hardwoods in set construction. And in 1994, the True Geothermal Energy Company withdrew from rainforest projects and canceled a plan to build a power plant in Hawaii.

But, as forests continue to vanish, all efforts may be “too little, too late.”

Droughts, Heat Waves and Famines

The impact of droughts is devastating and can last just a few months or stretch through, and into, the following decade. Historically, droughts happen on all continents. Throughout Asia, India, China and Africa, the effects can linger until the next drought. Famine

often occurs in the wake of prolonged dry spells—when crops fail, there is nothing to eat. Added to the problem are starving people who will eat any seed they can get their hands on. This depletes the supply for future crops. The cycle continues!

In the Indian drought of 1900, 250,000 to 3.5 million people died. Another drought from 1965 to 1967 killed over one and a half million.

Four Chinese famines were also the result of drought: In 1907, over 24 million people died. Again, in northwestern China, the famine of 1928-1930 killed over three million people. Also, in 1936, five million died, and in 1941-1942, over three million died.

The Soviet Union drought (Ukraine and Volga regions) of 1921-1922 killed between 125,000 to five million. In Sahel, Africa, a recurring drought (1910-1914, 1940-1944, 1972-1975, 1984-1985) has killed hundreds of thousands of people. Six hundred thousand died from 1972 to 1975 alone.

Added together, the loss of human life is staggering: 35.5 million people died in just these droughts!

Most people in the world’s more affluent countries have never experienced anything like this. They cannot imagine going without food or water for more than a few hours at a time. As drought conditions continue and the water supply diminishes, these things will happen again—and in *our* time!

Recently, in areas of Asia, particularly Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, temperatures soared over 120 degrees Fahrenheit, with no relief in sight until the monsoon rains appear, in mid-June. Some reported that birds were “falling dead out of trees.”

Summer came early to the U.S. in 2002. Temperatures soared into the upper 90s in Omaha and McCook, Nebraska. Record-breaking temperatures were also recorded in the St. Paul/Minneapolis area.

The Midwest has been experiencing drought conditions at least as severe as the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, which affected as much as 70% of the country. During that decade, dust clouds, lasting days, would sometimes block out the sun.



Multiple Lightning strikes during a night-time thunderstorm
 PHOTO: NOAA Photo Library, NOAA Central Library; OAR / ERL / National Severe Storms Laboratory

Drought conditions throughout the U.S. are growing worse. Nearly one third of the U.S. is experiencing prolonged drought conditions. Several areas are already suffering from severe water shortages. Drought contingency plans are being developed. Others are already being implemented.

New York City's water supply has reached record lows. While world-shattering events were taking place in New York and other places, people never realized that the amount of rain and snow had been significantly reduced. Reservoirs supplying East Coast cities are only half full. City officials have declared emergency restrictions on the use of water—no recreational use, no washing cars, no watering gardens, suspended street washing.

In 2002, Jeff Ryan of the New York EPA stated, "The water crisis isn't on the horizon—it's already here. People don't seem to realize it." The East Coast is experiencing the most severe drought since records were first kept.

Fishermen who normally fish the streams of the East are finding the streams dried up. Normally, the

streams would be running so deep that they would be hard to wade through. They do come across "pools" loaded with fish. The fish have been trapped with no place else to swim. Unless there is rain soon, those pools will become stale and foul from standing. The remaining fish will die due to lack of food and oxygen.

Montana farmers were applying for emergency federal funds even before the summer wheat harvest began.

Snake River in Idaho is 20% below normal, preventing farmers from irrigating the potato crop. The Colorado River, which feeds most of the water that Los Angeles and Las Vegas use, is 40% below normal.

The winter of 2001 was Maine's driest in 108 years. One thousand wells no longer produce water.

In Los Angeles, the eucalyptus trees are being affected at an alarming rate. It is expected that the City Parks will lose upwards of half of these trees within the next two years: "Of the park system's roughly 30,000 eucalyptus trees, 2,000 sick ones have been removed from picnic areas...Nearly half the remainder are dying or dead..."

Teresa Prosciewicz, chief forester for the L.A. Recreation and Parks Department stated, "...this drought is really a disaster" (dailynews.com).

Both extremes (too wet, too dry) pose a threat of significant crop losses. When a seed receives little or no moisture, it will not germinate. Likewise, when it receives too much moisture, it will drown.

Wildfires

During the 2001 fire season, about 89,000 individual fires burned approximately 3.57 million acres of land throughout the U.S. As bad as this seems, the year 2000 was much more intense: 123,000 fires, consuming 8.4 million acres. This was by far the most active fire season in history.

In 2002, because of the ongoing drought in the U.S., and ice storms that downed several thousand trees and branches, fires may surpass those of all previous years. Rainfall in the South, Southwest and East is far below normal. Conditions are ripe for hundreds of thousands of acres to ignite like a tinderbox loaded with fuel.

The East coast is also dry because of several years of below-normal rainfall. An unusually high number of fires is expected. But the worst conditions occurred in the West and Southwest, where the season began early and more vigorously.

Colorado State University's Ronald Waskom, a water resource specialist, said, "If things don't change, what we are going to see on the news this summer is fires." And that is exactly what has happened! By July 2002, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico had experienced the worst forest fires in their history!

The following extensive quotes come from an article in the *Akron Beacon Journal*: "Nature rules...firefighters can only watch in helpless amazement as miles of evergreen forest erupt in a furious orange blaze...bearing down on suburbs southwest of Denver" ("Colo. Firefighters powerless over nature," June 13, 2002). Named the "Hayman Fire," it has destroyed 618 structures and 137,000 acres of forestland. Forty thousand people were warned or had been evacuated.

"A fire is a chemical reaction that requires fuel, heat and oxygen...In a wildfire, combustion releases hot gases and particles that rise in a column into the atmosphere—30,000 feet high in the case of the Hayman fire. The fire creates its own wind as fresh air rushes in to replace the rising air. A large fire can generate hurricane-force winds of 120 mph.

"This propels the fire up the steepest mountain slopes. Even without direct contact with flames, this convective uplift can dry out, preheat and, in extreme cases, ignite plants in front of the wall of flames.

"The steeper the slope, the faster a fire will move and the hotter it will burn. A fire on a 30-degree slope will spread twice as fast as a fire on flat ground, according to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

"The fire releases large amounts of radiant energy, not unlike the sun. This phenomenon also preheats the ground ahead. So when the fire licks at shrubs and trees, they are fully primed to explode in flames.

"Scientists said the Colorado fires could burn for another month until they are drenched by the annual summer monsoon.

"However, rainfall cannot be guaranteed during a year in which precipitation already is at a 100-year low.

"It's just very scary and way bigger than any of us ever thought a fire could spread in this country," said Wayne Baker, fire management officer for the Pike-San Isabel National Forest."

At the beginning of the 2002 season, the worst fire in the state of New Mexico burned uncontrolled for several days. This fire marked an early start to the normal season. In 2000, the Cerro Grande blaze destroyed 235 homes and left 405 families homeless. This fire was intentionally set to burn off a potential fire hazard. It quickly burned out of control and, in about a month's time, consumed close to 50,000 acres.

After the fire ends, there is potential for mass erosion due to the absence of grasses and bushes. The soil is exposed to rain and is washed away, causing even further problems—mudslides, flooding, ashes plugging up small streams and rivers, etc. The courses of these small tributaries can be changed due to debris. Sewer systems can become plugged and backed up, causing health problems.

The Bible speaks of how "heat," in various forms, will be used to get the world's attention.

Notice: "The LORD shall smite you with a consumption [to make lean by a gradual wasting away of flesh], and with a fever [*febrile* or *feverish* disease (heat)], and with an inflammation [a *burning* fever (heat)], and with an extreme burning [to melt burn or dry up (heat)], and with the sword [a cutting instrument; from a root word meaning to *parch* through drought (heat)], and with blasting [*scorch* (heat)], and with mildew [*paleness* from drought (heat)]; and they shall pursue you until you perish. And your heaven that is over your head shall be brass [lack of rain], and the earth that is under you shall be iron [rock hard because of lack of rain, heat and misuse of soil]" (Deut. 28:22-23).

El Niño and La Niña

El Niño is a warming of the surface waters in the Pacific Ocean near the Equator. El Niño causes flooding in southern California (resulting from twice the normal amount of rainfall), and parts of the Midwest. It also is responsible for cooler (but dryer) than normal winters in the southern half of the U.S., while the northern half experiences warmer than normal temperatures.

During an El Niño year, there are typically fewer Atlantic hurricanes, but this does not imply limits on *strength*. Originally, El Niño denoted a warm southward flowing ocean current that occurred every year around December 25 off the coast of Peru and Ecuador.

La Niña, however, is characterized by a cooling of the surface waters in the Pacific Ocean near the Equator. This has equal or greater consequences than El Niño. It limits the movement of the polar jet over the U.S. This causes a somewhat stationary air ridge to form over the western U.S. and Mississippi Valley. This allows a strong cold front to drift into Florida.

This phenomenon has been blamed for warmer than normal winters in the Southeast, warmer, dryer summers in the Northern Rocky Mountain states, colder than normal winters from the Pacific Northwest to the Great Lakes, and confused winters in the Mid-Atlantic states and the Northeast. This is just another one of the contributing factors of upset weather patterns.

In the 1990s, a series of remote sensing satellites were launched to supplement and enhance observation of the equatorial Pacific Ocean. They have provided much information concerning water temperatures, topography, winds, ocean color and rainfall. Researchers now have the ability to better predict an El Niño or La Niña year.

These observations have also shown how the climate system during El Niño has affected all levels of the marine ecosystem.

Forecasters now face the question of whether this warming will spread



Rockville, MD: A man is rescued from the current of a flash flood.
 PHOTO: Historic NWS Collection

over the central and eastern Pacific. Unusually warm conditions in the Equatorial Pacific continue to be a factor that could contribute to future developments.

Floods

Floods are one of the few natural disasters that can happen almost anywhere. There are generally two types: *ordinary* and *flash*. Ordinary floods are categorized in three ways: (1) coastal floods, due to storms and high tides; (2) river floods, due to rivers exceeding their banks; and (3) urban floods, due to the lack of ground to absorb water—mainly due to urban sprawl, roads and parking lots.

Melting snow, frozen ground, saturated soil, and reservoirs, rivers and streams at maximum capacity, ice floes clogging streams and rivers, widespread heavy rain and deforestation can all cause flooding.

Melting snow from deep snow cover does not normally cause flooding. But if that cover melts too quickly because of abnormally high temperatures, and/or is mixed with rain and snow, under which the soil is frozen, the snow can sometimes cause major flooding.

Little or no rain for an extended period of time can leave the ground

harder than normal. This will cause the rain from a sudden downpour to run off, instead of being absorbed. On the other hand, if an area has experienced more than a normal amount of rain, the ground is already saturated, unable to hold any additional moisture. The only other place for the rain to go is to the lowest point.

In some cases, the amount of water that needs to flow past a narrow area is so great that the water backs up, causing flooding upstream. Areas miles away can have sunny weather—but may still experience flooding due to conditions downstream.

Over a period of time, widespread rain can cause streams, rivers, and reservoirs to reach capacity. Again, when this happens, the water has no place to go. Things will back up and flood areas upstream.

Flash floods happen suddenly—and with very little warning. A sudden heavy rain, or an accident, such as a dam burst or the sudden release of water held back by an ice jam, can cause severe flash floods. These are sometimes so powerful that they can move huge boulders, uproot large trees, destroy bridges and buildings, and create new river channels. Mudslides may also follow flash floods.

Deforestation, due to logging and

fires, is another major problem. As the forests are cut down around the world—and more and more fires destroy trees, bushes and shrubs—nothing is left behind to hold the soil in place. The ground becomes barren. It no longer has the roots to hold the soil. With only a few inches of rain, vital topsoil washes away, flowing downstream. As the current slows, the topsoil settles, plugging up the waterways. This changes the course of streams and rivers. Once the topsoil is gone, very little will grow.

Major floods occur in many parts of the world. Five times during the last half of the twentieth century, there have been catastrophic floods involving the Yangtze River in China. In 1931, drowning, disease and starvation killed 3.7 million—resulting from the country's worst flood ever. Fifty-one million people were affected in one way or another.

Here are some significant floods of the 1990s:

- April 1990, the Arkansas, Trinity, and Red Rivers in Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma, U.S.; 17 deaths; \$1 billion damage.
- January 1993, Gila, Salt and Santa Cruz Rivers in Arizona, U.S.; \$400 million damage.
- May-September 1993, Mississippi River Basin, U.S.; 48 deaths; \$20 billion damage.
- January-March 1995, California, U.S.; 27 deaths; \$3 billion damage.
- May 1995, South central U.S.; 32 deaths; \$5-6 billion damage.
- February 1996, Pacific Northwest and western Montana, U.S.; 9 deaths; \$1 billion damage.
- December 1996-January 1997, Pacific Northwest and Montana, U.S.; 36 deaths; \$2-3 billion damage.
- March 1997, Ohio River and tributaries, U.S.; 50 plus deaths; \$500 million damage.
- April-May 1997, Red River of the North in N. Dakota and Minnesota, U.S.; 8 deaths; \$2 billion damage.
- July-August 1997, Myanmar, Asia; thousands of acres of croplands submerged.

- July-September 1997, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa, India; 1,400 deaths; 2.2 million acres of crops lost.

- October-November 1997, Kenya, Africa; 30-year rainfall records broken.

- November 1997, Somalia, Africa; their worst flood of the century.

- September 1999, Eastern N. Carolina, U.S.; 42 deaths; \$6 billion damage.

Global Warming and the Greenhouse Effect

Climatologists state that global warming trends are changing weather patterns.

There is ever-increasing concern about the global warming phenomenon. Scientists continue to warn that global warming will produce dangerous changes in our climate and environment. These include strange weather effects associated with El Niño, such as droughts, floods, fires and storms. These changes, they assure us, will accelerate in the near future. The general public does not yet realize the dangers of global warming. Most do not fully understand the issue.

There is a balance of atmospheric gases called greenhouse gases. Some of these are water vapor, carbon dioxide and methane. They allow heat generated from the sun to enter our atmosphere as visible energy, warming the earth's surface. As the surface radiates the heat back into the atmosphere, the greenhouse gases act as an insulation barrier reflecting part of this heat. This, in a way, acts as a thermostat, controlling the temperature. Without this process, the temperature on earth would fall below freezing.

During the Industrial Revolution, man discovered a convenient power source: hydrocarbon fuels. These fossil fuels were used to heat homes and to power factories and engines. The benefits of these developments have produced a lifestyle unsurpassed in human history. But because burning these fuels produces a large amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, the natural greenhouse effect has increased. Some estimate that the

levels are as much as 30% higher than they were at the beginning of the Revolution. It is also estimated that, by the year 2050, these levels will double.

Many would argue that this whole issue is moot and/or exaggerated. But there is little scientific proof to dispute it.

Certain factors cause the earth's temperature to change. These include volcanic eruptions, the intensity of the sun and changes in ocean currents. But with this enormous increase of greenhouse gases, the earth is warming at a rate far surpassing the normal cyclical rate.

Although global warming is cause for concern, the greater concern is the changing of the earth's climate system. The past few years have shown that the changing of ocean currents does impact weather patterns around

the world. El Niño is blamed for drought, floods and fires, but global warming does not cause El Niño. It does cause the *effects* of El Niño to be much stronger. It is believed that the combination of global warming and El Niño will intensify its effects and cause the weather to change even more drastically.

According to the World Wide Fund for Nature, global warming has had an impact on the environment in Finland. It has "lengthened [its] growing season, brought about earlier migration by birds and extended the habitat of butterflies" (*The Plain Dealer*, May 25, 2002). The average temperature increased by 1.4 degrees during the last part of the twentieth century. "Winters and springs are now several degrees warmer than usual, while summers have remained close to normal" (Ibid).

Ozone Air Quality Index (AQI)

Index values	Levels of health concern	Cautionary statements
0-50	Good	Unusually sensitive people should consider limiting prolonged outdoor exertion.
51-100*	Moderate	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.
101-150	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion .
151-200	Unhealthy	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion ; everyone else, especially children, should limit outdoor exertion.
201-300	Very unhealthy	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease should avoid all outdoor exertion ; everyone else, especially children, should limit outdoor exertion.
301-500	Hazardous	Everyone should avoid all outdoor exertion .

SOURCE: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

*Generally, an AQI of 100 for ozone corresponds to an ozone level of 0.08 parts per million (averages over eight hours).

Icebergs

On May 15, 2002, an iceberg larger than the state of Delaware—roughly 2,480 square miles—broke loose from Antarctica. The week before, a smaller one (only 211.5 square miles) had broken away.

The increase of icebergs breaking off from the Ross Ice Shelf is alarming scientists. They believe that some of these huge icebergs (up to 4,000 square miles) may be a sign of global warming and could have other environmental implications. They also pose a threat to normal shipping lanes as they travel north and break apart.

Ozone and Smog

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 pollutants from automobiles, power plants, refineries, chemical plants, and other sources come in contact with the sun, 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 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 upper atmosphere—the stratosphere—protects the planet. But this layer of protection is beginning to fade. “Holes” form every year over the North and South Poles, from approximately October to December. In 2000, the Antarctic hole was 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.

These holes allow powerful UV rays to reach the earth—unfiltered. While this does not currently have a direct effect on people, it 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 grow far worse.

Thunderstorms

Man can now produce his own thunderstorms—although he cannot plan when they happen. Scientists, and laypeople, have known for years that, as cities warm up during the day, they hold the heat from the sun into the evening and night. Hundreds of tons of concrete and asphalt are literal storage bins for this heat. City streets are often several degrees warmer than those in the suburbs. Rooftops can reach temperatures exceeding 170 degrees on days when the ambient temperature reaches 95 degrees.

A perfect example is Atlanta, Georgia. A National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) study has concluded that, as the sun sets on a large city, the air around it cools. The heat stored during the day is given off

as a column of low pressure, which sucks in the cooler air. This collision of warm and cool air masses generates clouds and thunderstorms.

Under normal conditions, thunderstorms can occur anywhere as the daytime temperature cools. But “these storms are occurring in Atlanta at very strange times,” says Dale Quattrochi of NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL. “These are occurring at 2 o’clock in the morning.”

After these storms develop, they follow the same path, as would any other storm, eventually dumping rain up to 100 miles away, as far as the Georgia/South Carolina border. One would think that farmers would appreciate a little rain amidst several years of drought. But the rain in these storms is filled with all the airborne pollutants from the city.

Years ago, researchers discovered that, as some thunderstorms approached New York City, they would actually split in two, each half going around the city, instead of through it. The heat surrounding the city would act as an invisible bumper pushing the storm out of the way.

A secondary reason for the increase in these storms is the cutting down of trees. We often hear of this as being a “rainforest” problem. But trees are important everywhere. Trees provide both oxygen and shade from the sun. In a city, this is a “win-win” situation. But as urban sprawl increases, more and more trees are being cut down. Again, if the trees are cut down, how will the earth breathe? Atlanta loses the equivalent of 45 football fields of forest each day!

Researchers will continue to explore this phenomenon. They have studied cities such as Salt Lake City, Baton Rouge and Sacramento. Plans are in the works to also study Los Angeles, Phoenix, Chicago and Houston to see how cities affect local weather and tornado activity.

Tornadoes

Since more tornadoes occur in the United States than in any other country, it is labeled the “Tornado Capital of the World.”

The National Weather Service documents about 1,000 tornadoes touching down each year. Also, it is estimated that an additional 1,000 tornadoes touch down, but are never documented, because they either go unseen or are too weak to be noticed.

Death and destruction increase as the intensity of the tornado increases. The reasons are obvious. But the last few years have seen a decrease in the death toll, mainly due to better awareness and more accurate methods of forecasting. However, the damage is devastating. A “twister” can literally cut a swath through a suburban neighborhood and destroy everything in its path. Yet a house next door can be virtually untouched.

Since 1971, the Fujita-Pearson Tornado Scale has been used to rate the intensity of tornadoes. This scale does not use the size of the funnel to determine intensity, but rather bases it on the damage. These classifications are as follows:

F0: Gale tornado—40-72 mph—Path Length: 0.3-0.9 miles, Path

Width: 6-17 yards. Slight damage; some damage to chimneys; breaks branches off trees; shallow-rooted trees pushed over; damage to billboards.

F1: Moderate tornado—73-112 mph—Path Length: 1.0-3.1 miles, Path Width: 18-55 yards. Lower limit is the beginning of hurricane wind speed; peels surfaces off roofs; mobile homes are pushed off foundations or overturned; moving autos are pushed off the road; attached garages receive damage.

F2: Significant tornado—113-157 mph—Path Length: 3.2-9.9 miles, Path Width: 56-175 yards. Considerable damage; roofs torn from houses; mobile homes demolished; train boxcars pushed over; large trees snapped or uprooted; light-object missiles generated.

F3: Severe tornado—158-206 mph—Path Length: 10-31 miles, Path Width: 176-566 yards. Severe damage; roof and walls torn off well-constructed houses; trains overturned; most trees in forests uprooted; cars

lifted off ground and thrown.

F4: Devastating tornado—207-260 mph—Path Length: 32-99 miles, Path Width: 0.3-0.9 miles. Well-constructed houses leveled; buildings with weak foundations blown off; cars thrown and large missiles generated.

F5: Incredible tornado—261-318 mph—Path Length: 100-315 miles, Path Width: 1.0-3.1 miles. Strong frame houses lifted off foundations and carried considerable distances to disintegrate; automobile-sized missiles fly through air in excess of 100 yards; trees stripped of bark; steel-reinforced concrete structures badly damaged.

F6: Inconceivable tornado—319-379 mph—This is very unlikely. The damage they might produce would probably not be recognizable along with the mess produced by F4 and F5 winds. Missiles such as cars and refrigerators would do serious secondary damage that could not be directly identified as F6 damage. Evidence might only be found in some manner of ground swirl pattern. It may never



June 2, 1995: South of Dimmitt, Texas.
PHOTO: Harald Richter; NOAA Photo Library, NOAA Central Library;
OAR/ERL/National Severe Storms Laboratory

be identifiable through engineering studies.

The worst outbreak of tornadic activity in U.S. history occurred on April 3-4, 1974, and lasted for sixteen hours. Thirteen states reported a total of 148 tornadoes that killed 320 people and injured another 5,484. Added together, these twisters touched the ground for a total of 2,500 miles.

The normal tornado season is March through early June. The record for the most tornadoes in the first two weeks of October—set in 2001—is 83. The average total number of tornadoes in October was 29. There were a total of 59 tornadoes between the 9th and 13th of October 2001 alone. Forecasters now say that October and November are becoming a “second” tornado season.

Financial Effects

Along with the devastation in the wake of these weather phenomena, the cost of rebuilding continues to increase—into the billions of dollars. Can the world keep up with that spending? Will insurance companies survive?

For example, the October 1991 Oakland Hills, California fire was one of the most costly, in terms of insured losses. It did \$1.7 billion damage (\$2 billion at today’s value). Fires account for only 3% of insurance companies’ losses. Another 33% is attributed to hurricanes, 32% to tornadoes and 13% to earthquakes. The Bobcat and High Meadows fires in Colorado in 2000 caused an estimated \$18.5 million in insured damage. The actual figure is even higher when you factor in the uninsured damage.



The key to understanding Bible prophecies is to understand who—and where—the “lost ten tribes” of

Israel are. They can be identified!

The modern Israelite nations today around the world are: Reuben—France; Simeon—Scotland and Wales; Judah—the modern nation of Israel; Zebulun—Holland; Issachar—Finland; Dan—Ireland and Denmark; Gad—Switzerland; Asher—Belgium and Luxembourg; Naphtali—Sweden; Levi—scattered throughout; Benjamin—Norway and Iceland; Ephraim—Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand; Manasseh—United States.

Some secular groups and individuals have done much study and research on this subject. Although some of these studies differ, most agree on the overall location of these tribes. Imagine people who thought for years that they were Gentile finding out they are actually Israelite. (To learn more, request our free book *AMERICA and BRITAIN in Bible Prophecy*.)

These are the people that God promised to bless. The greatest portion of these blessings falls on the tribe of Joseph—Britain (Ephraim) and the United States (Manasseh).

One example of prophecies concerning modern Israel is found in Micah 5. It speaks of the wealth and power of the “remnant,” or the lost tribes, in the end time. Then it speaks of the coming downfall of the United States and the British Empire.

Verse 7 states, “And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a *dew* from the LORD, as the *showers* upon the grass, that tarry not for man, nor waits for the sons of men.” Notice that *dew* and *showers* are mentioned as a direct blessing from God, a symbol of blessing and national wealth.

These nations have been blessed beyond any other nation that has ever existed. But they have taken these blessings for granted and become ungrateful. We are squandering those blessings, not realizing their source. They are now being systematically taken away.

The U.S. and Great Britain were also a tremendous blessing to the *other* nations of the earth. They were able to feed the world with hundreds of millions of bushels of wheat—saving

them from starvation. They helped to stamp out major diseases in third world nations. But because they have not turned to God and have disobeyed what He says in His Word—the Bible—the blessings are being withdrawn. Sudden destruction is coming.

Notice Micah 5:10-11: “And it shall come to pass in that day, says the LORD, that I will cut off your [war] horses out of the midst of you, and I will destroy your [war] chariots: And I will cut off the cities of your land, and throw down all your strong holds.” God can easily do this. *He* determines the outcome of wars (Psa. 33:10-19).

These countries have grown further and further away from God. They have become more and more immoral. They do not recognize that they are God’s people.

Why is God going to punish us? Because of the “witch crafts” and “soothsayers,” the “graven images” and worship of idols made with our hands (vs. 12-14). This punishment comes to Israel prior to God punishing the rest of the world (vs. 15).

It was once said that “the sun never sets on the British Empire.” But the sun *is* now setting. There is little daylight left. The blessings are gone. Because of our sins—individual and national—these curses are coming upon us. Our sin separates us from God. This is the reason there is so much wrong with the weather!

God Promises Blessings— and Cursings!

Deuteronomy 28 is considered the blessing and cursing chapter of the Bible. God specifically says that if we obey Him, He will bless us. The balance of the chapter records what will come to pass if we do not obey Him. We have excerpted a very long portion of this chapter. But in order to grasp its full impact, read this chapter in its entirety.

Notice how God *blesses* those who *obey* Him: “If you shall hearken unto the voice of the LORD your God...blessed shall you be in the field. Blessed shall be...the fruit of your ground, and the fruit of your cattle, the increase of your kine, and the flocks of your sheep.

Aggregate hailstone. Large hailstone with smaller stones visible. Ruler shows radius of this remarkable hailstone. Diameter is approximately six inches—the size of a grapefruit.

PHOTO: NOAA Photo Library, NOAA Central Library; OAR/ERL/National Severe Storms Laboratory



“Blessed shall be your basket and your store. The LORD shall command the blessing upon you in your storehouses...And the LORD shall make you plenteous in goods...in the fruit of your cattle, and in the fruit of your ground...The LORD shall open unto you His good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto your land in his season...” (vs. 1-14).

Notice how God *curses* those who *disobey* Him: “But it shall come to pass, if you will not hearken unto the voice of the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes which I command you this day; that all these curses shall come upon you, and overtake you...cursed shall you be in the field.

“Cursed shall be your basket and your store. Cursed shall be...the fruit of your land, the increase of your kine, and the flocks of your sheep...The LORD shall smite you with a consumption, and with a fever, and with an inflammation, and with an extreme burning, and with the sword, and with blasting, and with mildew; and they shall pursue you until you perish.

“And your heaven that is over your

head shall be brass, and the earth that is under you shall be iron. The LORD shall make the rain of your land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon you, until you be destroyed...you shall plant a vineyard, and shall not gather the grapes thereof...The fruit of your land, and all your labors, shall a nation which you know not eat up; and you shall be only oppressed and crushed always...

“You shall carry much seed out into the field, and shall gather but little in; for the locust shall consume it. You shall plant vineyards, and dress them, but shall neither drink of the wine, nor gather the grapes; for the worms shall eat them.

“You shall have olive trees throughout all your coasts, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olive shall cast his fruit...All your trees and fruit of your land shall the locust consume...The LORD shall bring a nation against you from far...And he shall eat the fruit of your cattle, and the fruit of your land, until you be destroyed: which also shall not leave you either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of your kine, or flocks of

your sheep, until he have destroyed you...

“And you shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters, which the LORD your God has given you, in the siege, and in the straitness, wherewith your enemies shall distress you” (vs. 15-53).

Throughout the centuries, God has used the weather to get man’s attention. God has protected and punished His people by controlling and guiding the weather. When His people please Him, He uses the weather to protect and save them. When their ways displease Him, He uses the elements to punish them. Either way, God ultimately controls things and is allowing these things to happen.

Examples From the Past

God is able to bring about His will when it comes to controlling the weather. He has stated this in many places.

Genesis 2:5: “And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to

rain upon the earth, and there was not a man to till the ground.”

Job 38:26: “To cause it to rain on the earth, where no man is; on the wilderness, wherein there is no man.”

Psalms 78:26: “He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by His power He brought in the south wind.”

Psalms 135:7: “He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightnings for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasures.”

Psalms 147:18: “He sends out His word, and melts them: He causes His wind to blow, and the waters flow.”

Jeremiah 10:13 and 51:16: “When He utters His voice, there is a multitude of waters in the heavens, and He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightnings with rain, and brings forth the wind out of His treasures.”

Jeremiah 14:22: “Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Are not You He, O LORD our God? Therefore we will wait upon You: for You have made all these things.”

Joel 2:23: “Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He has given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.”

Amos 4:7: “And also I have withheld the rain from you, when there were yet three months to the harvest: and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city: one piece was rained upon, and the piece whereupon it rained not withered.”

We have established what God *said* He can do. Here are some examples of Him actually *doing* them. God is not a God who only talks—He is a God of action.

• Noah’s Flood: “For yet seven days, and *I will cause it to rain* upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth...In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month,

the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, *and the windows of heaven were opened*” (Gen. 7:4, 11).

• Joseph’s Famine: “And Joseph said unto Pharaoh, The dream of Pharaoh is one: *God has shewed Pharaoh what He is about to do...And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; it is because the thing is established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass*” (Gen. 41:25, 32).

• In ancient Egypt, Pharaoh was refusing to let the children of Israel leave his country. God caused hail to rain down on the Egyptians: “Behold, to morrow about this time *I will cause it to rain a very grievous hail...upon every man and beast...the hail shall come down upon them, and they shall die...*”

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch forth your hand toward heaven, *that there may be hail* in all the land of Egypt, upon man, and upon beast, and upon every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt. And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: *and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.*”

“So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous...And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field” (Ex. 9:18-25).

• God used a cloud for at least two reasons here: (1) To guide the people while they were travelling, and (2) To shield them and give them shade from the desert sun: “And the LORD went before them by day *in a pillar of a cloud*, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night” (Ex. 13:21).

• God used a strong wind to divide and then dry the ground beneath the feet of the Israelites as they crossed the Red Sea: “And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; *and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a*

strong east wind all that night, *and made the sea dry land*, and the waters were divided” (Ex. 14:21).

• Elijah prayed to stop the rain: “And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall *not be dew nor rain* these years, but according to my word...And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been *no rain* in the land” (I Kgs. 17:1, 7).

• Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind: “And it came to pass, when *the LORD would take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind*, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal...And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; *and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven*” (II Kgs. 2:1, 11).

• Jehoshaphat planned to build a fleet of ships, but some force, possibly a windstorm, destroyed the fleet: “Then Eliezer the son of Dodavah of Mareshah prophesied against Jehoshaphat, saying, Because you have joined yourself with Ahaziah, the LORD has broken your works. And the ships were broken, that they were not able to go to Tarshish” (II Chron. 20:37).

• At times, God has even allowed Satan to control the weather, to fulfill a specific purpose. Notice though that Satan was only able to do what God allowed: “And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he has is in your power; *only upon himself put not forth your hand*. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD. And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house: And there came a messenger unto Job, and said...The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and has burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them...”

“While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother’s house: And, behold, there came a *great wind* from the wilderness, and



Coast Guard surf boat plows through the bar at Columbia River in Oregon.
 PHOTO: Mariners Weather Log; U.S. Coast Guard

smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead..." (Job 1:12-19).

There are also examples in more modern times when God used the weather to fulfill His plan. One has only to search secular history to find some dramatic events that have changed the course of history.

Examples of protection and deliverance by weather related forces: The Spanish Armada destroyed by gale winds, July 19, 1588; French invasion of Britain foiled and destroyed in a heavy gale, 1759; Napoleon defeated at Waterloo because of an "untimely rain," June 17 and 18, 1815; Miracle at Dunkirk, violent storm and Channel calm, May and June 1940.

God's Word shows that He determines the outcome of wars: "You shall not fear them: for the LORD your God He shall fight for you" (Deut. 3:22).

The Final Runup?

Why then are today's weather patterns so odd? Because the people of

this world are not pleasing God. This is Satan's world now: "In whom *the god of this world* has blinded the minds of them which believe not" (II Cor. 4:4). We are near the end of this evil age—when God will soon intervene and set up His kingdom under Jesus Christ.

Whether we like it or not—or can understand it or not—we are *now* under a curse! Our cities are open wounds, which will not heal. They are filled with racial hatred, poverty, riots, crime, pornography and pollution. Our farmlands are cursed with upset weather, drought, floods, insects and disease. The soil has become like rock, with all of its nutrients depleted. Our food reserves are at all-time lows, being shipped to starving people around the world as a quick fix to their problems.

Yes, God Almighty is able to bless nations with rain in season: "Then I will give you *rain in due season*, and the land shall *yield her increase*, and the trees of the field shall *yield their*

fruit" (Lev. 26:4).

But He is also able to, and will, punish nations who rebel against His Law—who profess to be Christians, yet whose actions reflect just the opposite (Matt. 15:9).

Future Hope!

The solution to all of the weather-related problems will come after Christ returns. He will make most of the earth cultivatable, reduce the bare, snow-swept mountains, raise some of the ocean floors and deep desert valleys and change the world's weather patterns. The earth will be more than capable of sustaining even larger numbers of people throughout the millennium.

Deserts will become green and fertile. Places like the Sahara in Africa, the Gobi in Asia and the Kalahari in South Africa will be able to support life. Wastelands in Saudi Arabia, Mongolia and Siberia will also support life.

All the problems stemming from sickness, disease and bad weather will be solved. Take away the weather problems, and several other problems are automatically solved.

Professing Christianity has portrayed God as a harsh, stern God, who loves to see men suffer under pounding storms, weather disasters, war, famine and disease.

But God wants the best for us. He created man in His image to eventually become part of His Family. He wants us to learn that living contrary to His laws brings nothing but hardship, failure, misery and death.

Very soon, the Great God will FORCE His blessings on mankind. A rebellious and stiff-necked world will be required to live God's Way. In His wisdom, He will be merciful and insist that we be happy. If any nation still refuses to live God's Way, He will use the weather to force them: "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso *will not come up* of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to

worship the King, the LORD of hosts, *even upon them shall be no rain.* And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; *there shall be the plague,* wherewith the LORD will smite the heathen that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of *all nations* that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles” (Zech. 14:16-19).

God will accomplish all this by

first changing human nature. He will change people’s outlook on life. He will remove the lust, covetousness, greed and selfishness that drives them toward physical pleasure.

Time is short. Unless you repent and turn around—turn to God—you will be snared by the horrendous events soon to take place (Luke 21:35). There is still time for *you* to turn to God. He is still calling individuals in this last age to do His

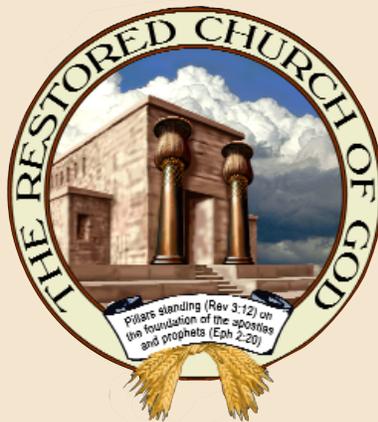
Work, to preach the gospel around the world—to warn the world!

Do you have ears to hear?

Do you want to understand world events?

Will you step out in faith and do what God requires?

“Watch you therefore, and pray always, that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man” (Luke 21:36). □



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