



CLIMATE CHANGE

FOR KIDS

...and
parents
too!

**KEN HAM &
JESSICA DEFORD**
EDITED BY AVERY FOLEY

For Ages
9 & up

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*The heart of man plans his way,
but the Lord establishes his steps.
—Proverbs 16:9*

Introduction

From 1971 to 1974 I studied for a science degree at a university in Australia so I could become a science teacher. For my degree in Biology and Environmental Science, I had several courses dealing with how man should interact with the environment. At that time in Australia, I didn't have the opportunity to go to a Christian university and study from a biblical worldview perspective.

My professors taught me from a secular worldview, meaning they started with man's beliefs about the universe and built their thinking to understand the world we live in on that foundation. Because of their foundation of man's word, they started with the view that the universe, including the earth and all life, arose by natural processes – no God was involved – as life supposedly evolved over millions of years by chance and random processes.



The Unisphere Globe
in New York



By Ken Ham

In the secular worldview, man is not special, as we're just another animal. Man doesn't have the right to have dominion over the earth and all living things. There is no such thing as sin, and man is basically good. Because of this evolutionary teaching, I was told that everything natural is good. My professors didn't believe sin had affected the earth in any way. Because they didn't believe that God created man and that man had sinned, they didn't believe in the saving gospel. Their belief was that man could save himself and man could save this planet for the future.

They certainly didn't believe what God said in Genesis 1:28, "*Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*"



The textbooks I had been given stated that humans were producing too many people and this would cause overpopulation and destroy the earth within 10 years ... but that never happened.

I was told that the ice caps were melting because of all the pollution man was putting into the atmosphere and this would flood the continents and cause great devastation ... but this never happened.

I was told we were running out of oil and gas and so we had to stop using gasoline cars ... but then we found there was plenty of oil and gas to last probably hundreds more years.

I was also told that because the earth and life had evolved slowly over millions of years, if man made any negative changes to the planet, then it could take nature a very long time to repair it.

Many years later I saw a movie featuring American politician Al Gore making all sorts of similar predictions about how man was causing climate change and this would devastate the earth ... but his predictions didn't come true either.

We have many politicians and others today claiming man is causing climate change and this will destroy the earth in just a few years. They claim we have to stop using oil and gas as it's polluting the world and is on the verge of causing massive destruction.



CLIMATE CHANGE PREDICTIONS ¹		✓ TRUE	✗ FALSE
1950s	It was predicted Earth would run out of fossil fuels, a concern also echoed in the 1970s		✗
1960s	Antarctic ice sheets would melt from global warming and create a drastic rise in sea levels		✗
1970s	Secular scientists feared a new ice age was beginning, warned of food shortages, erratic weather because of global cooling		✗
1980s	Predictions of massive man-made emissions from cars, factories, or other sources would be catastrophic		✗
1990s	Solar activity cycles linked primarily to the cause of climate change		✗
2000s	Damage to the earth or biomes will take very long periods to be renewed		✗
2013	Predicted global warming per surface temperature data results from a 15-year study		✗

In fact, some such people are claiming the earth will be destroyed in a few years if this supposed man-made climate change isn't stopped. But I have quite a different prediction. I predict that, in another 10 years, we will find these predictions haven't come true either for two reasons:

1. God's Word makes it quite clear that man can never destroy the earth (Genesis 8:22).
2. Real observational science (not the radical interpretations of some of the data) does not support the alarming claims of these activists.

▶ **As you'll discover in the next section of this book, yes, the climate is changing – but it's not your fault and it won't destroy the earth!**

The Science of Climate Change

So, what is climate change? Well, we can define it in the first part of this book as “significant and long-lasting change in the Earth’s climate and weather patterns.”

What is climate and weather?

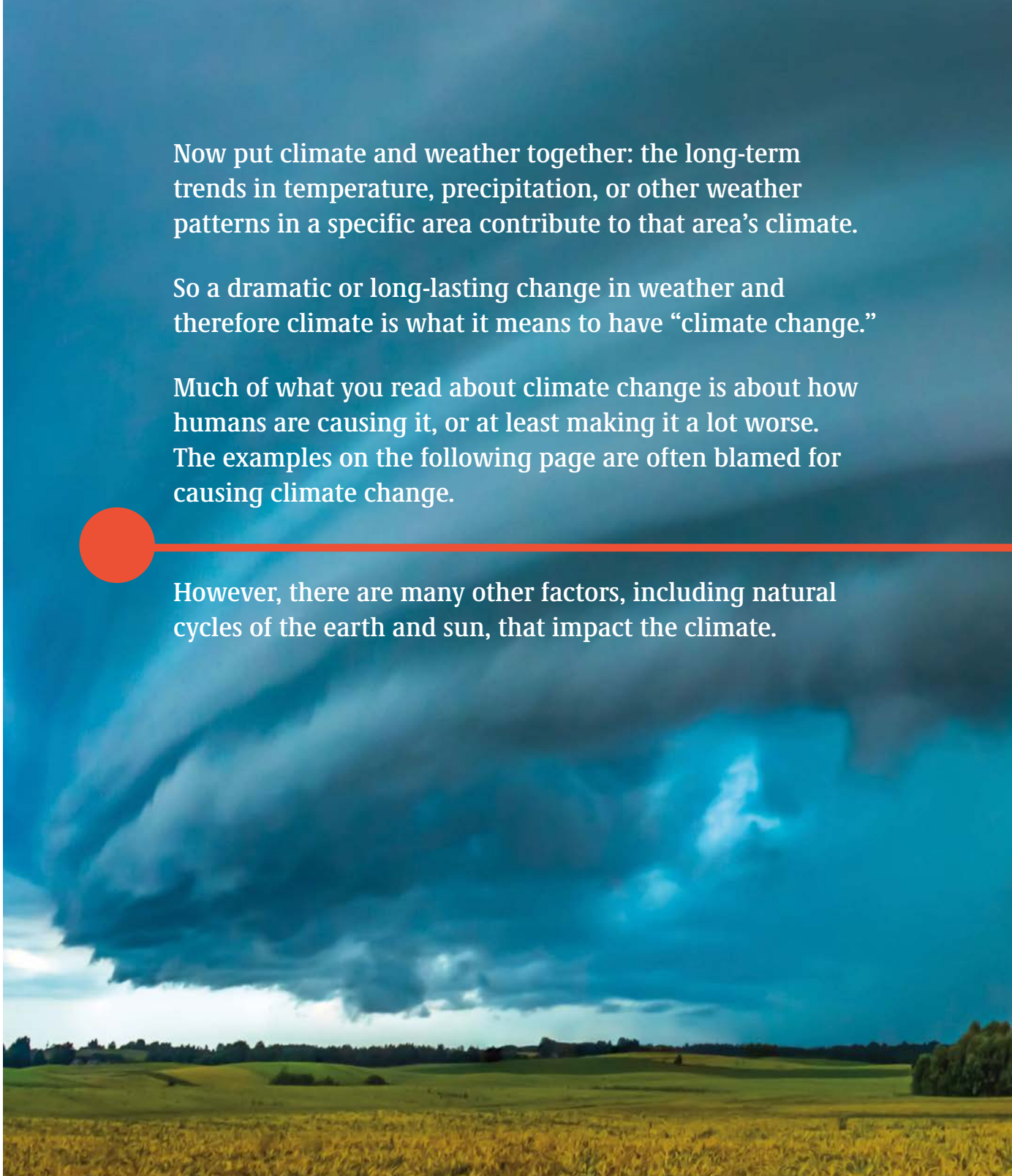
1. **CLIMATE** is the average weather conditions over a long period of time.
2. **WEATHER** is the current atmospheric conditions such as the temperature, wind, or precipitation (rain or snowfall). This changes on a day-to-day or even an hourly basis.

Now put climate and weather together: the long-term trends in temperature, precipitation, or other weather patterns in a specific area contribute to that area’s climate.

So a dramatic or long-lasting change in weather and therefore climate is what it means to have “climate change.”

Much of what you read about climate change is about how humans are causing it, or at least making it a lot worse. The examples on the following page are often blamed for causing climate change.

However, there are many other factors, including natural cycles of the earth and sun, that impact the climate.



IT'S COMPLICATED



Do Climates Change?

Secular scientists and creationists agree that climates do change. The question isn't "do climates change?" (Yes, they do). The question is "are we causing it, and does it matter?"

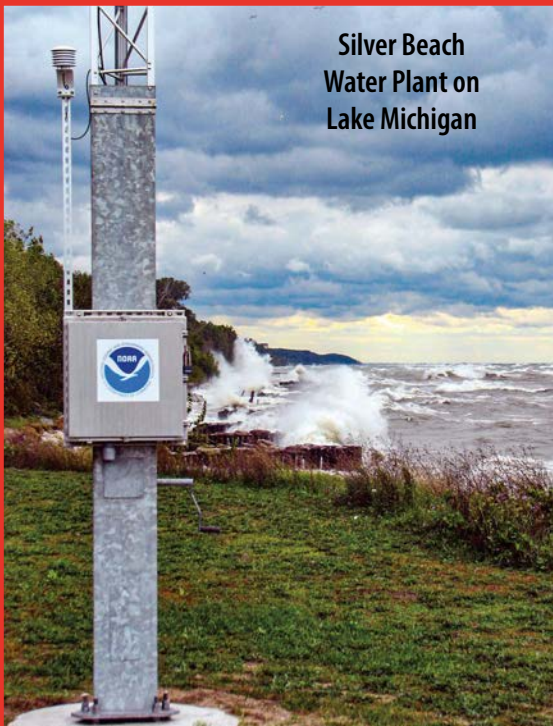
Ever heard of "global warming"? While it's not the preferred term today (climate change is), it's what most people actually mean when they say "climate change."

This warming is what so many people fear. They believe that human activity, such as industry, manufacturing, and burning fossil fuels (like oil and gasoline) since the Industrial Revolution of the 1800s, is causing Earth's temperature to rise. They believe if we don't bring down this "fever" soon, Earth, and all the life that lives here, is doomed.

► **Global warming is the overall warming of the earth's surface over an extended period of time.³**

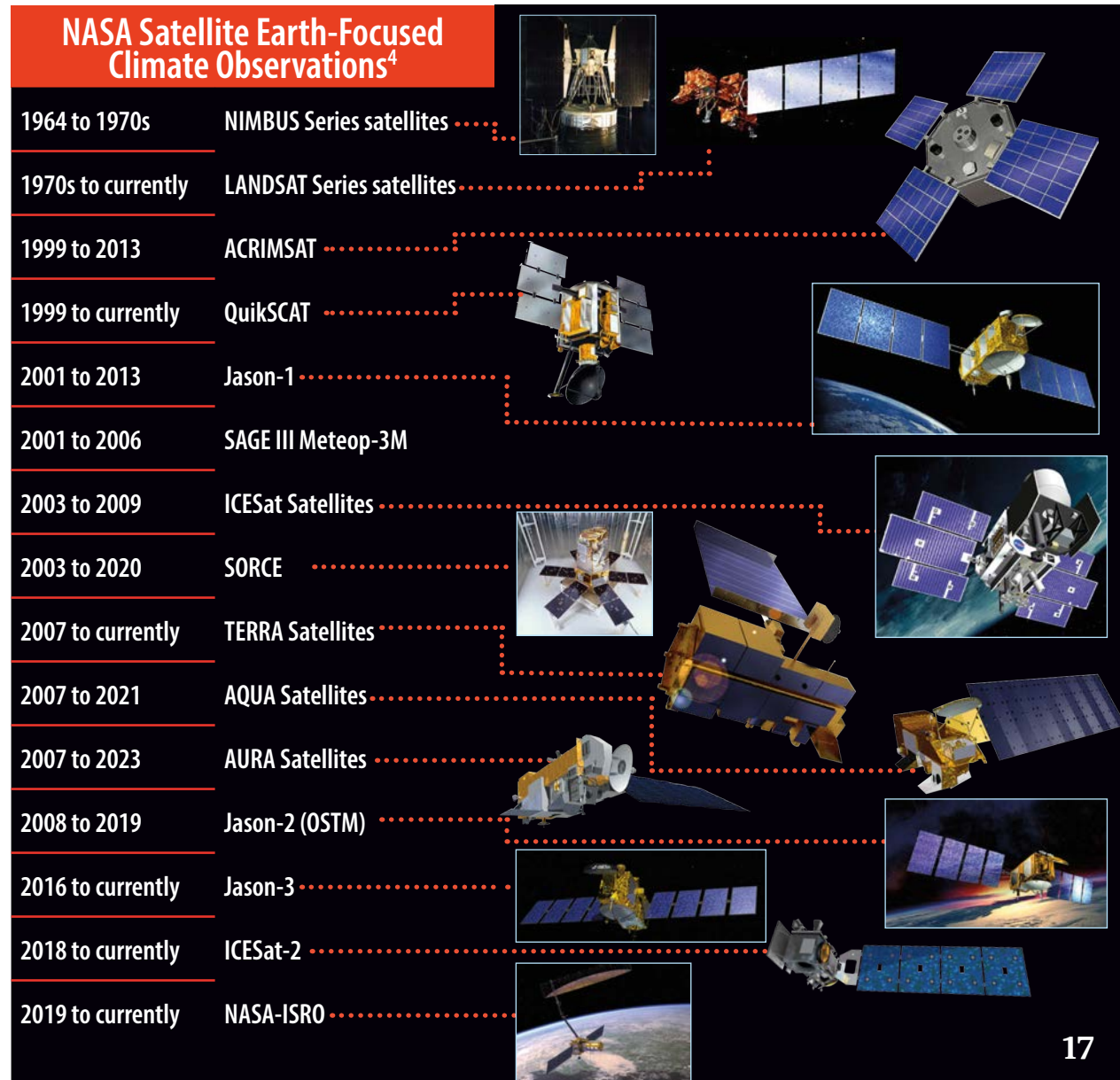


To know if the earth is warming or not, scientists measure the earth's global surface temperature. That's not an easy task either (the earth is rather large, after all!). To do it, scientists have been taking land-based temperature measurements at weather stations since 1880. But there are some problems: these weather stations are not evenly spread out around the earth, and day-to-day weather changes at the station locations can limit the data that is collected.



Silver Beach Water Plant on Lake Michigan

So, in an attempt to get a better data set for monitoring global temperature, scientists also began to monitor global temperature by satellites in 1979. **That means we only have about 140 years of temperature data,** and only about 40 years with more accurate global data!



What Does the Data Say?

The observational data shows that the global surface temperature of the earth has been warming over the past 100 years or so since it has been recorded. (Remember how we said that, yes, climates do change.) But should we panic over this warming? Consider this: we know climates are cyclic and ever-changing. So, let's do what scientists do: ask some discerning follow-up questions.

Let's Ask

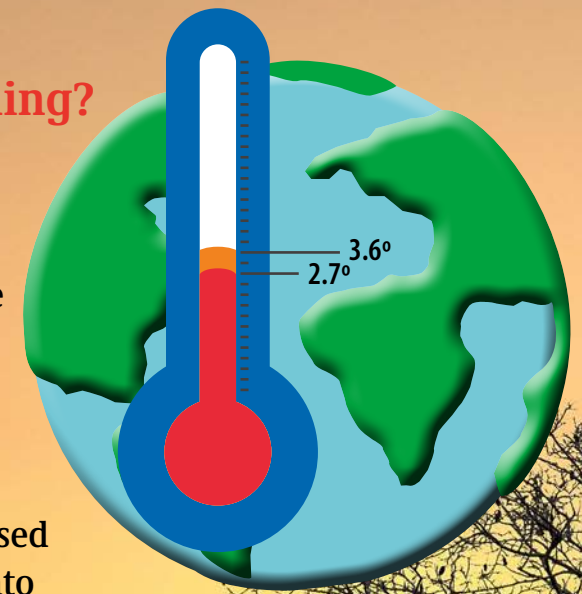
1. How much has the global surface temperature increased?
2. Is the increase in warming part of a natural climatic cycle?
3. Is global warming occurring because of human activity?

How Much Warming?

The amount of global surface temperature warming that has happened over the past 100 years is estimated to be between 2.7 to 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit (1.5 to 1.8 degrees Celsius). But this warming estimate didn't come solely from the observational data collected at weather stations and by satellites. It's based on computer models.⁵ What you input into these models will decide what predications the computer model provides.

So the predictions don't necessarily reflect the real-world, observational data. And one study that compared computer climate models to the observational data found every single climate model they studied overpredicted warming! The models didn't match the actual data. Computer models can be good, but they aren't perfect, and the biases or the quality of data the computer receives will impact its predictions.⁶

So how much has the earth warmed since the 1880s? We don't really know!





But wait ... there's more! Climate researchers generally assume Earth maintains a constant average temperature and that our atmosphere traps more heat from the sun than what is returned to outer space. But if either of those assumptions are wrong, (and there's evidence that both are wrong!) the models will make wrong predictions.

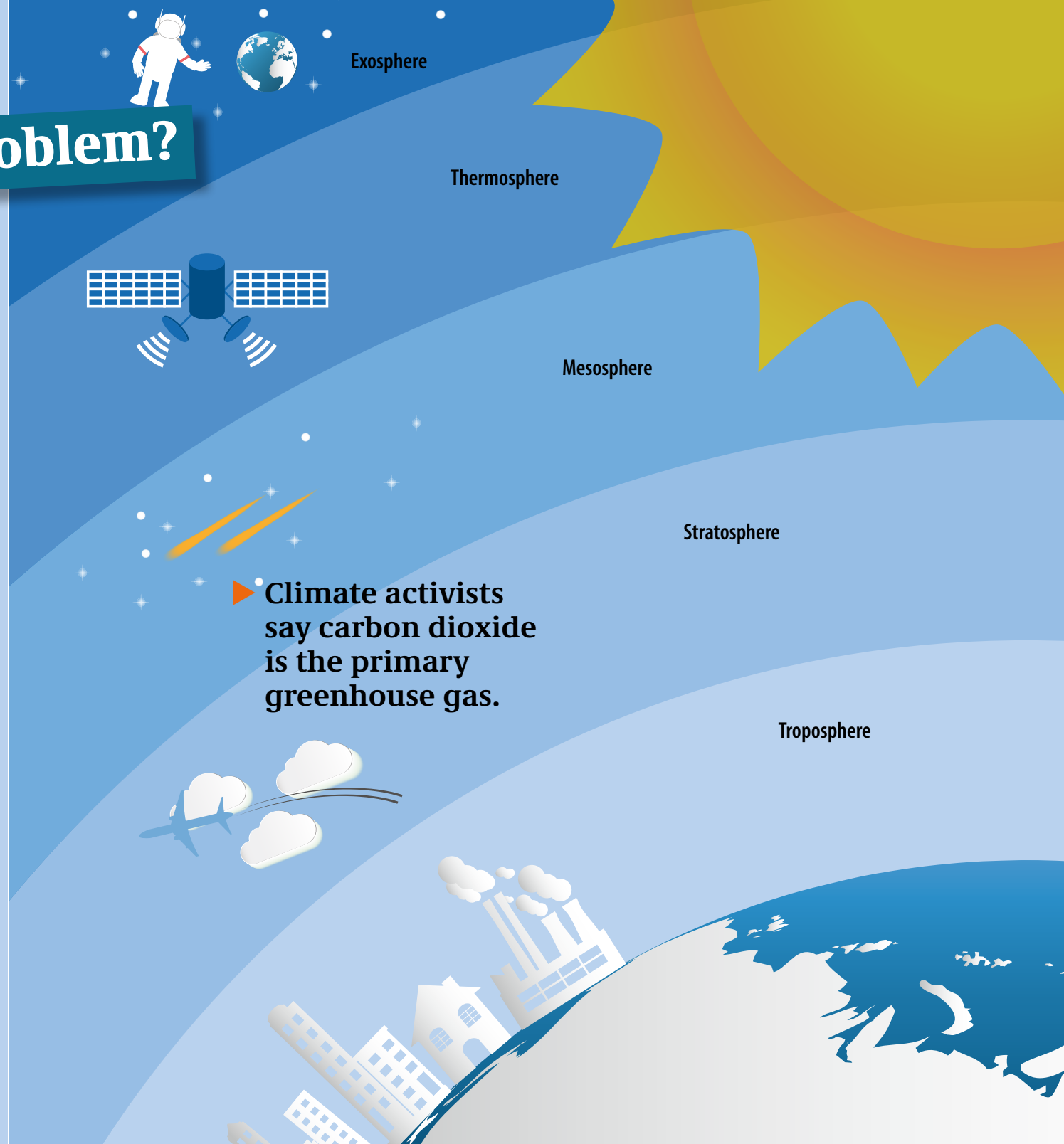
Climate change alarmists often use this kind of image to make it seem like excessive warming is occurring very quickly.

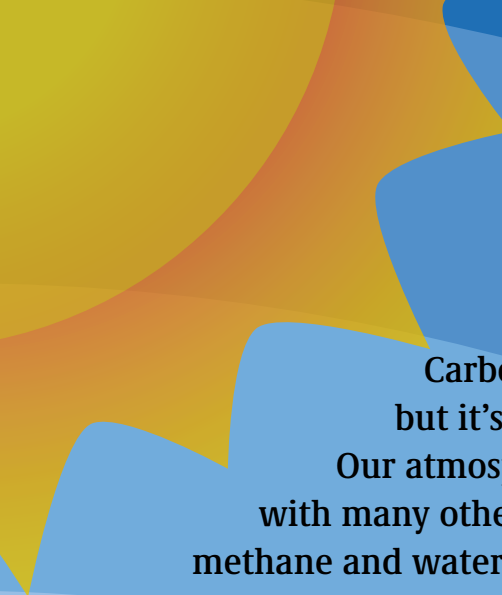
Are We the Problem?

Now we need to talk about greenhouse gases. Human activity, primarily the burning of fossil fuels such as petroleum, coal, and natural gas, is seen as the cause of climate change (global warming). In other words, we're the problem.

Just like the glass panels of a greenhouse prevent heat from escaping, greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO₂) are believed to trap infrared energy (heat) from escaping into outer space. Since humans burn fossil fuels and burning fossil fuels produces CO₂ and CO₂ traps heat ... we must be responsible for any warming ... right? Not so fast!

▶ **Climate activists say carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas.**






Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas, but it's not the only one.⁷

Our atmosphere was designed by God with many other greenhouse gases such as methane and water vapor.

Water vapor is the most abundant greenhouse gas and accounts for somewhere between 60–95%⁸ of the greenhouse gas effect. So, CO₂ is not the most important greenhouse gas! Water vapor is. So, no, we are not causing the warming we've observed in the past 100 years.

Did you know that carbon dioxide levels have only been continuously monitored since the 1950s? That's only 70 years of data!⁹ Past carbon dioxide levels are inferred from tree ring and ice core data based on wrong evolutionary dates of hundreds of thousands of years.



Examples of water vapor

You have learned a lot about climate change science, so let's do a quick recap.

Building the Right Foundation

Is climate change real? Well, first, we learned and understand what we mean by the term “climate change.” According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, “climate change” is defined as “significant and long-lasting change in the Earth’s climate and weather patterns.”³⁶

So do biblical creationists believe in “climate change”? We sure do, as we have observed significant and long-lasting changes in this earth’s climate. We know some areas, like the Sahara desert, used to be very lush and well-watered. We know the Vikings used to farm in Greenland, but today the world’s largest island is like a frozen wasteland. In fact, the earth has gone through a number of “climate change” events



over the past 6,000 years, some more significant than others. And these events are affecting us to this day, and will continue to affect us into the future.

▶ **Without God’s Word, one can never fully understand the climate changes we observe.**

Now the only way we would know for sure about what has happened to the climate in the past is if someone was there to tell us the events that occurred. Secular scientists have a problem. They live in the present and have to try to figure out what has happened in the past when they weren’t there.



From God's Word

TRUST
God's
WORD!

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

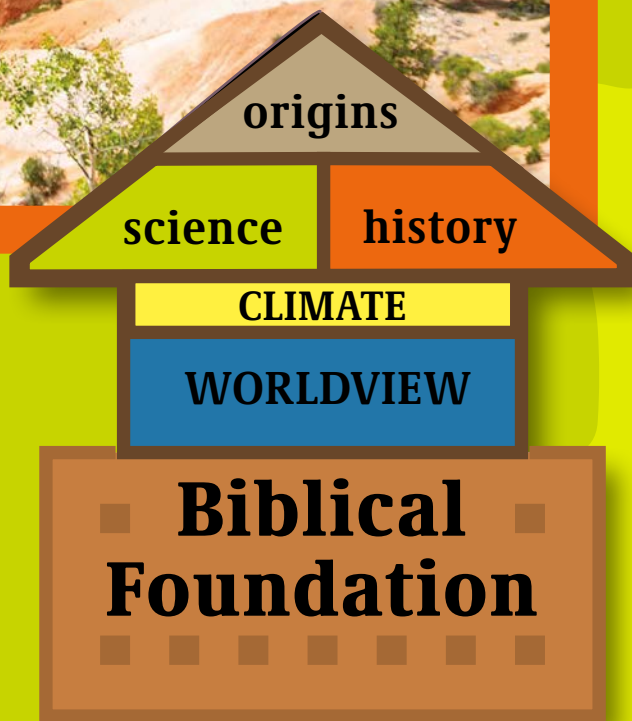
16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the



But for the Christian, God, who has always been there, had people record (in the Bible) the history of Earth and the universe so we can know for sure what happened in the past. Once we know the major events of the past, we can begin to properly understand how these events impacted the earth's climate over time, leading up to our present day.

Those who reject God have an enormous problem. Because they reject God's Word concerning the past, they cannot accurately understand why the present world is the way it is and what will happen to it.

I give God's book, the Bible, a special name. I call it "the history book of the universe." So, we are going to use God's history book (the only 100% accurate history book) to help us understand events that have affected climate in the past and how that affects the earth today. Then we will truly understand climate change from a biblical worldview perspective. It's also important to understand that what we believe about climate change will affect what technology we develop and what policies governments will make that can affect billions of people in regard to their quality of life. So these issues are very important!



How should we look at these issues as a Christian to find the truth? Start with a biblical worldview rather than a secular one.

Biblical Climate Ages

So we let God tell us the key information we need to then build our worldview on that foundation as we consider this subject. Actually, we should do that for every subject if we want to truly have a biblical worldview in every area! But let's deal with this one topic: climate change.

As I've read the Bible to understand "climate change" events that affect us to this day, God has revealed **7** climate ages divided into the history in the Bible.



Groaning
CLIMATE AGE - P. 64



Perfect
CLIMATE AGE - P. 60



Flooding
CLIMATE AGE - P. 66

► **WORLDVIEW** means your way of thinking about everything. For Christians, our worldview is founded in God's Word.



Let's look at each of these **7** climate ages in detail.