

DOOMSDAY! Someday?

2 Peter 3:3-15

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Evidences of global warming today.
- Effects of global warming on our environment and wellbeing
- Projected effects 100 years from now of global warming if measures are not taken to reverse it.
- The Science and Security Board's Doomsday Clock
- Will the world as we know it come to an end through global warming or through a nuclear accident?
- We have a more sure way of predicting the future.
 - 2 Peter 1:19-- *"we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."*
 - The world will undergo vast changes environmentally during the tribulation period
 - The earth is going to continue to support life for at least another 1,007 years

DOOMSDAY! Someday?

- 2 Peter 3:3-13-- *"Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.' For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells."*

A. The Environmentalist's Premise: Uniformitarianism

1. Stated : *"All things continue as they were from the beginning"*
2. Based on "change at a predictable rate", they predict that the world will not be able to support life much longer.

B. The Environmentalist's Problem

1. Their basic premise is flawed due to the universal flood.
 - 2 Peter 3:5-6-- *"For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water."*
- a. The flood was God's judgment on man's sin.
 - Genesis 6:7-- *"So the LORD said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.'"*

- b. Everyone and everything was destroyed except for Noah, his family, and the animals in the ark.--
 - Genesis 6:8-- *"Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."*
2. The environmentalist is willfully ignorant of the evidence for a universal flood. Evolution is not science; it's a religion.
 3. God promises never to destroy the world again by a universal flood.
 - Genesis 9:13-16 -- *"I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."*

C. The Environmentalist's Nightmare: Doomsday!

- 2 Peter 3:7-- *"But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."*
 - 2 Peter 3:10-- *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."*
 - 2 Peter 3:12--*"looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? "*
1. **The Timing of Doomsday?-- "The Day of the Lord"**
 - a. Some place this event at the end of the tribulation and before the beginning of the Millennium as fire is connected with the return of Christ.
 - Isaiah 66:15-16-- *"For behold, the LORD will come with fire and with His chariots, like a whirlwind, to render His anger with fury, and His rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by His sword the LORD will judge all flesh; And the slain of the LORD shall be many."*
 - b. The "Day of the Lord" includes not only the tribulation, the second coming of Christ, but also the Millennial Kingdom age.
 - c. Peter notes that this event occurs sometime during this period of time. *"in which"*
 - 2 Peter 3:10-- *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."*
 - d. It occurs prior to the "day of God", which refers to the eternal kingdom.
 - e. Fire as a means of judgment will be used by God at the end of the Millennium
 - Revelation 20:9-- *"They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."*
 - f. At the Great White Throne Judgment, the "earth and heaven fled away".
 - Revelation 20:11-- *"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them."*
 2. **The Purpose of Doomsday?**
 - 2 Peter 3:7-- *"But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."*

- a. God will destroy the earth because of the “perditions of ungodly men”
 - 1) When Adam and Eve sinned, God placed a curse upon the ground.
 - Genesis 3:17-- *“Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: ‘Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.’”*
 - 2) When Cain killed Abel, God again put a curse on the ground because of spilled blood.
 - Genesis 4:10-11-- *“What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood cries out to Me from the ground. So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand.”*
 - 3) God warned Israel of the pollution of the land by shedding innocent blood.
 - Numbers 35:33-- *“So you shall not pollute the land where you are; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement can be made for the land, for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.”*
 - b. God will destroy the heavens because of the pollution by Satan.
3. **The Process of Doomsday**
- 2 Peter 3:10-- *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”*
 - 2 Peter 3:12-- *“looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat.”*
- a. Jesus’ prediction that “heaven and earth will pass away”
 - Matthew 24:35-- *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”*
 - b. Peter foresaw the disintegration of the entire universe in an instant. The “uncreation of the world”
 - 1) The world came into existence in an instant by the spoken word of God.
 - 2) Jesus Christ today upholds all things by the “word” of His power
 - Hebrews 1:3-- *“upholding all things by the word of His power!”*
 - Colossians 1:16-17-- *“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.”*
 - 3) One day, Jesus will stop speaking, and the world will fly apart
 - c. Peter’s description the disintegration of the universe
 - 1) “pass away with a great noise”
 - 2) “elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”
 - a) “elements”-- the basic atomic and subatomic particles that make up this material world
 - b) Everything will be destroyed, dissolved, vaporized in an instant
 - d. Peter’s vision of a new heavens and a new earth
 - 2 Peter 3:13-- *“Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.”*

D. The Impact of the future DOOMSDAY on You and I?

- 2 Peter 3:11-- *"Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness."*
- 1. We need to be people who can differentiate between that which is temporal and that which is eternal.
 - a. Most everything we see surrounding us is temporal and will burn.
 - b. Very few things in this world are eternal:
 - 1) The Word of God
 - Matthew 24:35-- *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away!"*
 - 2) People-- You and I
- 2. We need to be people who diligently pursue our relationship with Christ in obedience to the Word of God.
 - 2 Peter 3:14-- *"Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless."*
- 3. We need to be people who are concerned for the salvation of others.
 - 2 Peter 3:15a-- *"consider that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation"*
 - 2 Peter 3:9-- *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."*