

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*

IN CHRIST JESUS.

(Philippians 3.13-14 NASB)

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WHO CAN COUNT THE CLOUDS BY WISDOM? #1

Do you know the ordinances of the heavens, or fix their rule over the earth? Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that an abundance of water will cover you? Can you send forth lightnings that they may go and say to you, 'Here we are'? Who has put wisdom in the innermost being or given understanding to the mind? Who can count the clouds by wisdom, or tip the water jars of the heavens, when the dust hardens into a mass and the clods stick together?" (Job 38.33-38 NASB)

I enjoy reading what God spoke to Job. His words bring creation into focus as the marvel of God, the Creator of all things. Of course, God the Father created through His beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation, for by Him all things were created (Colossians 1.15-16 NASB).

Now, in a previous issue [#02-0816 March 14, 2008], I wrote on how some Christians are embracing the environmental movement that seeks to reverse global warming because the movement has decreed that it is primarily a man-made phenomenon; therefore, man can and must solve the so-called crisis that our earth and all mankind face. I am prompted to write on this matter again after reading that March 29, 2008 was Earth Hour '08 when the environmentalists of the world sought to draw attention to their apocalyptic global warming crisis by shutting off lights around the world for one hour. It was hailed as a symbol of commitment people will make to the cause for the rest of the year. Many are painting a bleak picture of this earth as they proclaim the earth's temperature is rising due to mankind, as if it is out of control, and this will lead to all sorts of catastrophic changes. Unfortunately, the media-driven debate over climate change has moved from science to politics, which changes the debate from one based on facts to one based on expediency, power, and greed. Politicians will work the argument and take action to get the most votes and retain power. Some in the scientific community will work it to fund their pet projects. The capitalists will work it to make as much money as they can off the so-called crisis. Others will have sinister motives and twist the arguments to achieve their hidden agenda, whatever it is. And to be fair, there will be many who will buy into the scare who honestly believe it and want to do their part to fix it. I would place the believers who are embracing this movement in this latter group.

I am reminded of Paul's exhortation to the Corinthians: **But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ** (2 Corinthians 11.3 NASB). We must guard ourselves from being led off into areas that will lead us away from the One to whom we are betrothed. **But I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil** (Romans 16.19 NASB).

Interestingly, as I was posting the March 14, 2008 issue on this subject, I received in the mail a complimentary copy of a book titled *Unstoppable Global Warming — Every 1,500 Years*, by S. Fred Singer and Dennis T. Avery (Rowan and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2008), because I was previously employed as an environmental professional. The planet upon which we live has never been static; it is in a continual state of flux as it moves through various cycles. For example, a major global warming-cooling cycle occurs every 135 million years as "*our solar system passes through one of the bright arms of the Milky Way*" (page 35), and there are 100,000-year Ice Age cycles. However, there is now evidence of a new cycle that could explain the current global warming that most likely began in the

mid-19th century. The authors compile much compelling evidence from the scientific community “to offer the relatively new but already convincing evidence of a moderate, irregular 1,500-year sun-driven cycle that governs most of the earth’s almost-constant climate fluctuations” (page 1). They state: “The Earth continually warms and cools. The cycle is undeniable, ancient, often abrupt, and global. It is also unstoppable. Isotopes in the ice and sediment cores, ancient tree rings, and stalagmites tell us it is linked to small changes in solar activity” (page 3). Again quoting: “Between the full-scale, 100,000-year Ice Ages, the Earth’s climate has been dominated by a moderate, natural, irregular 1,500-year cycle. The most recent examples of the cycle include the Roman Warming, which started about 200 B.C. — and paired with its other half, the Dark Ages — ended about A.D. 900. The Medieval Warming — Little Ice Age cycle lasted from 900-1850. Our Modern Warming (1850-present) is most likely the first half of the next cycle” (page 39-40). Piecing together all the scientific evidence, the authors conclude that the 1,500-year climate cycle goes back at least a million years, which obviously removes human activity from the equation.

What is fascinating about this new evidence is that it indicates that the 1,500-year cycle (actually a 1,470-year climate cycle, plus or minus 500 years), is affected by the 87-year Gleissberg sun cycle and the 210-year DeVries-Suess sun cycle. It has been postulated that these cycles are superimposed on each other and come close to the 1,470-year cycle. “Seven of the longer 210-year solar cycles and seventeen of the shorter 87-year solar cycles fit neatly into the earth’s 1,470-year climate cycle” (page 26). They conclude: “The current warming trend is following the same pattern as the natural solar-driven warmings in previous 1,500-year cycles. The warming began too early and too suddenly for man-made CO₂ to be a likely candidate as its driving force” (page 38).

Now, in understanding climate change, scientists use computer models (software) in which they dump vast amounts of data for supercomputers to analyze, based on man-made equations. One factor in the equation is the effects clouds have on the earth’s temperature. On page 145 appears this title: **We Really Don’t Know How To Model Clouds**. It is noted that “the climatic effect of clouds is so complicated that the leading climate models provide conflicting answers on their impact” (page 146).

This brings us to the Lord’s conversation with Job when He asked: **Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Who can count the clouds by wisdom, or tip the water jars of the heavens, when the dust hardens into a mass and the clods stick together?** I believe that this was the Lord’s way of saying that the understanding of clouds is too complex and that we need the wisdom of God to understand it. But who amongst the scientific world is seeking God for His wisdom? Computers cannot give us the answers, only the Master Genius and Creator of the universe can.

Well, I have four points to make with only a few lines remaining, so I will have to cover the other points in a subsequent issue.

The first point is that climate warming may be a good thing and perhaps even God’s doing as He ushers the earth into the millennial kingdom of Christ. Mankind was created to live under optimum conditions. In fact, this book states: “The Holocene Climate Optimum lasted for about 4,000 years — from 9,000 to 5,000 years ago” (page 26). In other words, there was an optimum climate in the days of Adam. Don’t you think that Elohim knew what temperature to set the earth’s thermostat in order to keep Adam and his race comfortable?

Think about it; we are warm-blooded, not cold-blooded. This alone should tell us that we are more suited to warmer climates than to colder ones. In fact, “freezing weather kills far more people than hot weather” (page 10). As for me, I vote for warm any day! I will be so bold as to state that if the earth’s temperature begins to warm gradually, it is a good thing, for the Lord is bringing His earth into the optimum climate for mankind and His kingdom to flourish for the next 1,000 years. Bring it on!