



# REPENT AUSTRALIA

*"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

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## GREENHOUSE: CATASTROPHE OR CONSPIRACY?

In September 2002, 109 heads of state gathered in Johannesburg for an Earth Summit to thrash out the eradication of poverty and the preservation of the earth's environment. Greatly concerned that the planet is becoming a dangerous gas chamber and that something must be done to curb the Greenhouse Effect, the much-trumpeted meeting was set up to implement environmental promises made at the 1992 global convention in Rio and to ratify the Kyoto Protocol which aims to reduce emissions below the levels produced in 1990. At present the United States and Australia have not signed, much to the chagrin of the rest of the world.

### **Greenhouse Debate**

Yet not all in the scientific world are convinced about the dire consequences of the Greenhouse Effect. Debate ranges between claims that greenhouse will unleash a cataclysmic upheaval in earth's life-support system and others that it is another international conspiracy of the rich and powerful to oppress the poor and powerless. Firstly, however, it must be clarified that the greenhouse effect is real. Without a natural greenhouse effect to maintain global temperatures 33 degrees above what they would otherwise be, the earth would be a lifeless chunk of rock and ice spinning in the vast void of space. Since life depends on water it follows that the water must be warm enough to remain in a liquid form. A blanket of gases in the atmosphere – mainly water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide – that trap some of the sun's radiation as it strikes the earth and keeps the surface warm, preserves the Greenhouse Effect.

### **Sharp Rise in CO2**

However, monitoring of the earth's atmosphere from the early 1960s onwards has shown a sharp rise in CO2 levels. An Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in Toronto in 1990 predicted that global temperatures would increase by one-third of a degree each decade over the next century (i.e. three degrees by 2100) and that sea levels would rise about 4 inches a decade. This, according to the IPCC, would melt the ice at the North and South poles and result in flooding of low-lying lands, submerging cities and destroying property. The IPCC, however, admitted that this prediction was fraught with uncertainties. The reasons given for this CO2 increase are twofold: emissions of our industrialized society from automobiles, factories, smelters, power stations etc burning fossilized fuels such as oil, wood, coal and gas; and the removal of vast areas of forest, especially in the tropics. Furthermore, according to articles in the journal *Science* that if the current trend continues Earth would suffer "cascading ecological effects" and lead to landscapes populated mainly by species such as "rats, ragweed and cockroaches".

### **Coalition of Self-Interests**

On the other hand anti-greenhouse proponents claim that this greenhouse scenario is the product of a coalition of self-interests such as researchers in search of funds, politicians looking for a cause and a sensation-seeking media. A NASA report, after ten years of research, could find no basic alteration to the average temperature of the earth. Though variations have occurred from time to time in various places there was no evidence to indicate that the world is growing steadily hotter. Other evidence from the US also refutes any substantial changes to weather patterns compared with earlier times. Moreover, it has been either forgotten or conveniently ignored that natural particles such as **sea salt and volcanic dust in**

**the atmosphere are ten times greater than any man-made pollution.**

### **Exchanging the Truth of God**

Whether or not the Greenhouse Effect is a calamity in the making or an international conspiracy one thing is certain. The environmental movement with its extreme views of the world, that all species have an inherent right to exist and that nature should be valued even to the exclusion of human welfare, is completely at odds with Holy Writ. **“Professing to be wise, they become fools... and exchanged the truth of God for the lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator.”** The message that man is just another animal provides no comfort for the soul. But our destiny is far above the rest of creation, for, as the psalmist has said, God has made man a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honour.

### **One-World Government**

It also seems evident that greenhouse scare tactics are designed to further the cause for a one-world government to ensure that emission controls are not in the hands of recalcitrant governments who refuse to toe the line and so imperil the earth's future. But they are in for a huge disappointment. Despite all these man-made efforts “to save the planet” the earth is destined for a far different future. The Bible makes this fact abundantly clear. “By the same Word the present heavens and earth are reserved for fire, being kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men.” Nevertheless, that is not the end of the story. Far from it, for the end will far exceed all that has gone before. **“But in keeping with God's Blood Covenant promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.”**

### **God's Will**

While it is necessary to safeguard the environment as best we can it is far more important that we fix our attention on the One who has this earth in the palm of His hand. For He alone is the Creator and Upholder of all things and His Will will ultimately be done on earth even as it is done in heaven. Even now **“the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs”** for it **“eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God”**. The hour is late and soon, very soon, **“the creation itself will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God”**. Be warned! For the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him and all the best laid plans of man will come to naught!

### **PRAYER**

Omniscient Father, Almighty God, Ruler of the universe, Author and Finisher of our faith, we rejoice with thankful hearts and renewed minds as citizens of Your Kingdom of Righteousness, yielded to Your Holy Spirit to love, praise and worship **You for who You are**. Father, we gratefully thank You for the reality of Your indestructible eternal Kingdom – Your rule of matchless grace, unfathomable love, infinite in wisdom and knowledge, unsearchable in understanding, ingenious in creativity, unquestionable in sovereignty, supreme in authority, limitless in power, timeless in existence, majestic in splendour, awesome in holiness, absolute in justice, unbending in mercy, unparalleled in greatness and terrible in wrath!

Merciful Father, forgive the folly of those who flout Your Holy Word and worship the creation rather than the Creator. Open the eyes of their hearts, we pray, to repent and have their minds renewed by the omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit that they may see Your invisible hand in all the glorious beauty You have created and humbly acknowledge Your eternal power and majesty. Sovereign Lord, we thank You that we dwell with Christ in God by Your Spirit, victorious over the Prince of the power of the air (the devil) and all his evil works. Gracious Father, we thank You also for Your loving kindness in caring for **all** mankind, irrespective of race, culture or religion, so much so that You sent Your only Son **JESUS** to die on the cross to save them from the penalty of their sin and to usher them into Your Righteous Kingdom. Help them to understand, however, that if they reject **JESUS CHRIST** they shall stand condemned. On the other hand Father, we thank You for those who have been touched by Your grace to repent and be transformed to enter Your glorious Kingdom of love, peace and joy. We prayfully ask **all** this in the majestic and triumphant name of **JESUS**. Amen.

**R.A.:** Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify God with the Brotherhood of Man and in love and faithfulness to bring the honour due to His Holy Name. Amen

**REJOICE & SHARE IN FAITH THIS MESSAGE IN PRAYER WITH OTHERS & BE BLESSED TO BE ONE IN CHRIST**