

360 Tossed to and fro

In the midst of the hullabaloo of this current election campaign, we note with some surprise how a new “image of gold” now towers over the proceedings – that of climate change. For some years this concern has been held in the public eye by such means as TV nature programmes, a Swedish schoolgirl and Extinction Rebellion, but all of a sudden it has gained a focal importance in this election campaign.

So politicians are outdoing one another with their promises of borrowing billions of pounds to be spent on everything they can think of, with the promotion of “green issues” and the “tackling of climate change” at the top of their spending lists. Jargon abounds - “low-carbon” activities, emissions reduction, “retro-fitting” older properties, “carbon neutrality”, “de-carbonising”, and best of all, the “Green Revolution”.

All this is fanned on social media and by the instant, interminable media coverage that has become such a feature of our times. So in “tackling climate change”, (unlike some other “images of gold”, this one is not sinful in itself but is less clear-cut than is assumed) we have before us a good example of how an “image of gold” is created and magnified, demanding widespread attention and acceptance by one and all. “Wot’s not to like?”, to coin a phrase! But as with other “images of gold”, non-compliance is seriously frowned on and attracts an array of accusations and insults.

Thankfully, in the light of this sudden climate-change frenzy, God’s Christ-redeemed people need not be “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (from Ephesians 4.14a), Instead we can turn gratefully to His Word for a proper sense of perspective on this (and on every other) matter of current concern. What principles and promises does the Lord God give us regarding “climate change”?

For a start we note that this new climate-change “image of gold” is utterly godless. We hear not a word from the politicians or pundits about Almighty God our Creator, or our divinely-appointed stewardship of this, His amazing creation, or our accountability to Him. It is the same old, old story – “Never mind God, keep Him out of it”. But what do we read in God’s Word? - “the fool hath said in his heart, There is no God” (Psalm 14.1).

Now evidently various current measurements do point towards some global warming in which human activity may play a part, thus requiring

appropriate human response; fair enough. Other measurements do not point that way however, and for all we know, human activity, which is getting 100% of the blame, may in fact have only minimal effect if the earth, by God's allowance, is simply passing through one of its natural climatic phases.

Certainly throughout Scripture God's sovereignty over His creation is absolute, not surprisingly, and the future of this planet is very clearly mapped out for us. There will never be another global Flood of divine judgment, (an event totally ignored these days, as foretold in II Peter 3.3-6), and "while the earth remaineth", the seasons and harvests "shall not cease" (from Genesis 9.20-22). Equally we know that God often uses "natural events" to give clear warning of His righteous anger and impending judgment, both in biblical times and thereafter; in view of the present state of this world He clearly has ample reason to do just this right now.

After the "seizing-away" of Christ's true church (I Thessalonians 4.13-18 / I Corinthians 15.51-52) and the seven-year period of the antichrist and the great tribulation (Revelation Chapters 4-19), the millennial reign of Christ on this present earth will occur (Revelation 20). This is to be followed by the present heavens and earth "passing away" and being "burned up" (from II Peter 3.7-10, see also Matthew 24.35), with a glorious "new heaven and a new earth" taking their place (Revelation Chapters 21-22).

Here before us is the Creator's revealed programme for this planet, there for all to see. What a prospect of joy and hope for all who, by God's grace, are "in Christ" by faith, with their names written in the Lamb's book of life (eg., Revelation 3.5, 21.27); but what an awful prospect otherwise (eg., Revelation 13.1-9, 17.8, 20.12-15, (21.27) / Daniel 7.10 / Romans 1.16-32). This is God's Word, with a status infinitely greater than the words of any politician or media pundit. We do well to believe these things and make them known.

For "... all things [are] naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do", and "[It is] a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God" (from Hebrews 4.13b and 10.31). Being at peace with God by faith in Jesus Christ matters more than anything else in the world (egs., Romans 5.1-2 & 8.1). Get that right first, and then tackling climate change, along with all else on the to-do list, is seen in its true perspective.

