

For the Love of God
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Feb. 13, 2011

- I. Can I open with global warming?
 - A. Well --- not really -- because we all know that it is just a fear tactic of the radical left along with their co-conspirators -- the liberal scientific elitist.
 - B. But whatever you want to call it, it is making the ocean shipping companies very, very happy;
because very soon they will have an open shipping lane over the North Pole that will cut thousands of miles off shipping routes and cutting their expenses by the millions of dollars, or yen, or euro.
 - C. But whatever you want to call it, it is also going to bring about one of the largest evolutionary prods in human history.
 1. Species will either have to adapt or become extinct as increased desertification, melting icecaps, rising waters and strained food supplies will change livable environments into unlivable ones.
 2. Even the Defense Department is preparing for the wars that will result from these changes.
 3. But, one very important form of adaptation will not necessarily involve eventual physical

adaptations, none the less will be very important to a species survival, and that is an animal's ability to migrate; to move to a more livable environment.

a) Humans are actually quite good at this, as far as they are able to get up and walk, drive and fly.

For instance, in the Bible when Jacob's family left Canaan and moved into Egypt because of the famine that was brought on by the then changing environment that took the land from fertile to barren.

(1) But of course in a world that today is becoming less and less permissive of immigration; the immigration itself will lead to hostile environments and death.

(2) Egypt's current rebellion is, as much or more, the result of rising food prices due to environmental changes and international resource allocation as it is to any desire for democracy.

And a change in government will not solve that problem.

(3) We saw how quickly the privileged could get out of Egypt, but how well

will the poor masses do at migrating?

- b) But humans are just one of the species that will be migrating to adapt.
 - c) The problem is that as species migrate then encounter new natural enemies, ones that they may not be adapted to.
 - (1) An out of this world example comes to us from H. G. Wells', *The War of the Worlds*, where the migrating aliens from Mars couldn't adapt to the germs and bacteria of earth.
 - (2) Animals that cannot adapt to their new environments will face the same fate.
4. Of course just the opposite scenario will be the case for some species who are quite happy where they are currently residing, but species that are migrating into their area may bring them to extinction.
- a) Such will be the case for many soft bodied, immobile or slow moving animals in the deep waters of the North Pole.
 - b) Already scientist are seeing that as the waters warm, sharks are moving into the area and having a feast upon the

thousands of defenseless species than never before had such a natural enemy.

c) This is just one example of the migration that is beginning to occur as Atlantic species are beginning to merge with Pacific species.

Such mingling will create new species and bring others to extinction.

5. And the water is where it is really all happening. Scientists tell us that most of the global warming is taking place not on land or in the atmosphere, the air we feel; but in the oceans -- 94% of it to be exact. It is the water that is absorbing most of the warming.

II. Yes, the natural world will be making some drastic changes and by virtue of which species adapt and which don't, there will be a natural selection as to which will stay and which will become extinct.

That process is called "natural selection," and it is the basis for evolution.

- A. We won't put any moral or value judgments upon it.
 - B. It's just the way things are.
 - C. Some will suffer and some will prosper.
- III. Now I suppose that at this point, it may not matter if this radical change, that we won't call global warming, is the result of the over populating cancer upon the earth known as the human species or if it is just some natural change that would happen whether we are here or not; because whatever you want to call it, and on whom ever you want to place the blame; it's happenin' and in the immortal words of Karen Carpenter, "We've only just begun."
- A. The question for us is, "Do we want to do anything about it?"
 - B. Colorado is supposed to become a Mediterranean climate. Not bad.

Especially if you like wine.

But of course most of world will also want to live here.

Property values will definitely go up, but I'm not so sure about the quality of life.

And, it really wouldn't be nice to forget about the millions, possibly billions of people who will be affected negatively by this change.

And, it will be the poor who will suffer the most.

C. So the question for us is,

“Do we want to do anything about it?”

And, does that passage from Deuteronomy help us with that decision; especially the following part:

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses.

Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the HOLY ONE your God, obeying God, and holding fast to God...

IV. To help us answer this question, I want go back to the ancient story of Noah and look at it again through the eyes of

those who believe God is loving, merciful, forgiving and saving.

- A. But first, let's go back to the original story.
- B. Honestly, the God portrayed there is not very consistent with the God described to us by Jesus.
 - 1. That God was clearly the cause of evil.
 - 2. That God was mean and unforgiving, unmerciful, vengeful.
 - 3. I mean what would you call a Dad who kills all his kids because they didn't mind. He saves a couple of his favorites, but kills off the millions of others.
- C. So what if we were to view the events of the story with an understanding of God as compassionate?
 - 1. I mean, what if we were to re-examine this story but with our understanding of God as we have learned from Jesus.
 - 2. We would find a God who doesn't cause the flood to kill off all but a few humans because they just haven't lived up to God's expectations; but rather the flood is just a natural disaster and

God tries to save all that can be saved and warn folks about it.

3. But, humans are only human, and only a few are paying attention, and many think it's just too expensive to do anything about.

Why spend money now on something that some people say won't happen and if it does, well some say it's not our fault and it just takes away from the money that we can spend on new cars and TVs.

Oops, they didn't have cars and TVs back then. Oh well, you got the idea.

- D. It's like that story I've mentioned before that I just find so profound about the guy who is sitting on top of his house praying and praying and praying.

He's on top of his house because his house is surrounded by flood waters.

He's praying for God to save him.

Well, a boat comes by and offers him a ride, but he declines saying God is going to save him.

Then a helicopter comes by, but he declines again saying that God is going to save him.

Then waters rise some more and he's drowned.

He gets to heaven and he's screamin' away, wanting to talk to God.

So God appears and the guy is just whining

on and on about how much he prayed, but that God never saved him. To which God pointed out that God had sent the boat and helicopter. And pertinent to our situation, God politely reminds the man that God had sent him lots of warnings even before the flood to do something to shore up the dam before it burst.

- E. Most humans however seem to have a lot in common with that proverbial frog in the boiling water; you know the one that doesn't jump out as the water is getting warmer because it is happening so slowly he doesn't notice it until he just falls asleep and boils away.
Right now, hey we're just chillin' and enjoying the relaxing little bubbles in the hot tub.
- V. Well, whatever you want to call it, and whatever caused it; it's happenin'.
So the question is,
"Like Noah, do we heed God's warning and do something about it, or like all those other folks, do we just sit back and see what happens?"
- A. The scripture encourages us to choose life.
- B. And I am almost certain that some life will go on.
Life on the planet will adapt.
I'm just not sure how things are naturally gonna sort out and if we will make the cut.
We probably will.
As a species we're very adaptable;
but there will be incredible tragedy that will

befall millions, billions, of individuals.
Some of it's already started.
And I am more than sure that the insurance
companies will blame God calling all the
upcoming disasters "acts of God."
Like God hasn't tried to warn us.
I mean why do you think God gave us
science?

- C. Well, all I can say is God has given us fair
warning and encouraged us to choose life.
God is still speaking. Is anybody listening?
- D. So what's next?
- E. For the love of God –
what are we going to do?