

Overflowing *Earth*

The way God designed the world to work
and man's role in fleshing it out

James G. Landis

*A vision of a plentiful planet functioning according to God's plan
in an age when disbelief causes ungodly men to destroy the very earth
they worship and the people that inhabit it.*

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Dedication

Wilmer Myers Landis

My dear father who:

- Saw the magnificence of God in a thunder storm.
- Loved the land and the soil.
- Led me to marvel at a newborn calf.
- Championed grassland farming.
- Taught me honesty, thrift, and hard work.
- Valued efficiency and productivity.
- Dared to try new things.
- Befriended the needy and the downtrodden.

— *James G. Landis*

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Foreword

We live in an age of fear. Men doubt the very future of the planet.

Some politicians, media, and preachers alike proclaim that in only 30-50 years the polar ice caps will melt. The oceans will rise 15 feet. Whole countries and seacoast cities may be inundated and destroyed.

Likewise, many propound a pandemic of black plague proportions, caused by super viruses or bacteria resistant to known medications. It is commonly believed these mysterious pathogens, spurred on by jet travel, could wipe out whole populations before the frightening killers could be brought under control. Notice the hysteria accompanying several cases of avian flu, swine flu, or a few heads of contaminated lettuce.

Other fearmongers predict worldwide shortages—food, water, oil, power, and even pure air. The masses are supposed to believe that man is polluting the earth by his use of it. Man’s “footprint” is destroying “Mother Earth.” In the glazed eyes of many self-proclaimed prophets, man is the culprit. Therefore they reason that major changes must be forced upon how man lives in order to save Planet Earth. In the twisted thinking of fallen man, man should stop cultivating a garden and let the whole earth return to its “natural” uncultivated state.

Are these things so? Is man really *going to cause*, at some future date, a global cataclysm by using the earth today to sustain a higher standard of living? Are the wonders of the modern world—air conditioning, airplanes, cars, computers, electric lights, heating, herbicides, hybrid seeds, insecticides, running water, tractors, trucks, vaccines—really ruining “Mother Earth”? Do the fears of future destruction of the planet merit the forced abandonment of many of these life-giving advances?

The doubtful factual evidence for future destruction of the planet by man’s present uses of the earth pales in comparison to the obvious harmful

effects of man's activities today. Nations launch wars that have been the greatest destroyer, murderer, and source of terror in the Twentieth Century. Nations amass atomic bombs but forbid the building of nuclear reactors for energy creation. Nations forbid drilling for oil in the most likely places and say that the world is running out of oil. Nations ban the use of DDT to eradicate mosquitos that spread malaria¹—a killer disease taking over 1,000,000 lives per year—and go to hysteric lengths to control mad cow disease which *may have caused* three or four human deaths. Nations subsidize and even require the murder of millions of unborn babies while guarding the lives of wolves, tigers, bears, eagles, whales, and cats and dogs.

In contrast to this message of doom and gloom, the people of God proclaim a supernatural message of peace and plenty. If the People of God look into the natural laws written on their own hearts, into the historical evidence, and into God's owner's manual (the Bible), we find that God designed the earth to be a garden of plenty filled with living human beings that obey and worship Him.

While mankind has often strayed from God's plan for man and his earthly home, God's design has not changed. And it is in an adherence to God's design that man can find peace and plenty on the earth.

The purpose of this treatise is first of all to set forth clearly what God's plan for planet Earth was from the beginning, and then to encourage the People of God to live the plan out. My belief holds firm that history, science, and all of man's experience supports the truth that God's design is the very best for planet Earth. And if man chooses to abide by God's way and his will, the earth will be a place of abundance.

Man's reasoning and man's fears about the future of planet Earth, or more importantly, man's future, must never replace a commitment to the truth or adherence to God's plan. The past is littered with corpses of

1 DDT was developed as the first of the modern insecticides early in World War II. It was initially used with great effect to combat malaria, typhus, and the other insect-borne human diseases among both military and civilian populations.

On June 14, 1972, William D. Ruckelshaus, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, issued an order canceling nearly all Federal registrations of DDT products. —United States Environmental Protection Agency, history.

A quote from the current director of US AID, Adm. Tim Ziemer: "If DDT is used properly, there's no scientific evidence that would require us to remove it as a public health intervention." —*World Magazine*: March 13, 2010 issue, page 49.

tragedy and scarcity when man disobeyed God's natural and moral laws (theft, murder, adultery, idolatry, coveting, lying). We should learn from the past. There is no better way for man on earth than to follow God's design and way.

This treatise examines the underlying beliefs that govern man's actions on Planet Earth. Although I favor honest scientific inquiry and will quote many things science believes to be true, this booklet does not seek to prove particular teachings of science true or false.

Neither is this treatise a Fox news attempt to be "fair and balanced." Rather, I aim to know the truth and present it well. Often, sticking to the truth is considered radical, not an effective way to build consensus. But if the truth is unpopular for a time, I have the confidence that the truth will endure. And for now and forever, God's way is best.

Therefore, I base my arguments on a religious and common-sense approach governing how God's people should live on God's earth. This adherence to following God's plan for the earth creates a vision of God's desire that the earth should bring forth abundantly to meet the needs of man. And this vision of an overflowing earth clings tenaciously to God's promise shining forth from every rainbow:

*While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
And cold and heat,
And summer and winter,
And day and night
Shall not cease.*

* * * *

Terms

Planet Earth

There are three designations for our planet used in the book:

1. When referring to Earth as a planet I want to capitalize “Earth” but not “planet.” This is consistent with capitalization of all planet names as is commonly done: Jupiter, Neptune, Mars.
2. When referring to Planet Earth as an object of worship or special relationships by earth worshippers and environmentalists, I want to capitalize both “Planet” and “Earth.”
3. When referring to the earth as a place to inhabit under God’s direction, I would not capitalize it at all.

The People of God

My desire is to use “The People of God” as a broad designation indicating anyone acceptable to God. My aim is to not alienate anyone who accepts God as the Creator God and who, by faith,² is willing to accept God’s revelation to man as truth. God will be the judge of who is or is not acceptable to him, but I am writing to those people who fear Him along with honest doubters.

I do not expect that those who are anti-God and pro evolution will be convinced of truth by this book. The Spirit of God must first convince such scoffers that there is a God.

Divinity

I have chosen not to capitalize pronouns of divinity except in cases of quotations from the Bible or other sources. This is the commonly accepted

2 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command.
— Hebrews 11:3 (NIV).

standard in much of today's writing and in some Bible translations.

Overflowing Earth

A vision of the abundant earth God designed and desires; an earth spilling over with good things in bounteous supply and able to meet every need of man on an earth filled with people.

Lord of the Earth

“Let the waters bring forth abundantly
the moving creature that hath life.”

Genesis 1:20

God’s express will for the earth from the beginning was that it should bring forth abundantly of every living thing. He ordered the living things to “be fruitful” and “multiply” and “fill” the earth.

God used the same command when he created man in his own image. “And God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.’” After the flood, God’s design for an abundance of human life on the earth remained the same. Nothing had changed. “And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.’” Only six verses later, God repeated his divine commission to Noah and his sons: “Be fruitful and multiply, bring forth abundantly on the earth and multiply in it.”³

After the flood, God revealed more of his desire to see an earth teeming with living things. He said in his heart:

Never again will I curse the ground because of man. . . . And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.⁴

God’s design of an abundant earth teeming with living things collides sharply with the belief of men who see a despoiled and depleted earth dying under the tragedy of human domination. These same men, many

³ Genesis 1:28; 9:1,7 (RSV).

⁴ Genesis 8:21-22 (NIV).

of whom refuse to acknowledge⁵ that God made the earth and everything in it, also refuse to obey both God's inherent laws and his written word. These scoffers repeat the words of Pharaoh, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him? I do not know the Lord and I will not *obey* him."

Yes, who is this God who made the earth? Is he the living God, or is he only a figment of our imagination? Or as Charles Dickens' Scrooge might express it, "God's only a bit of undigested beef showing up in a dream."

God created the heavens and the earth. This is the only rational explanation for the cosmos, the solar system, planet Earth, and the wondrous life that inhabits it. The Bible says in Psalm 19:1-4:

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world (NIV).

The evidence of a Creator God spangles the heavens with brilliance and vastness . . . and lets man tremble in insignificance. The more one learns of the cosmos, the more one realizes there must be a Creator God.

Any other explanation for the order and the intricacies found in the universe, from the greatest of the stars to the tiniest living cell, makes no sense at all. The chances of one living cell or of the largest star creating itself are not 1/100 of one percent. The chances of a series of accidents causing the cosmos, or of it all beginning with one big bang, are zero percent.

Yet, there are those who deny that God exists and then grope about in darkness and fasten their minds on just such impossibilities. They deny God. They believe in ridiculous hypotheses. Believers in an eternal God should not be surprised at this blindness, for Romans (1:19,20,25) describes atheists perfectly:

What may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. . . . They exchanged

the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator (NIV).

Those who argue against a Creator God cannot take inert materials and create the first living cell—a cell that moves about and recreates itself. Naysayers cannot alter the course of the planets or even travel the 25 trillion miles to the nearest star. No man can reproduce any part of the universe or explain in any rational way how it came into being. All the evidence points to the entire cosmos as the work of an All-Powerful God.

So what do we learn about God by gazing into the heavens? The numbers in time and distance and stars cannot be counted. Numbers with long trails of zeros can be calculated, but they cannot be fathomed by the frail human mind.

Likewise, a God without a beginning is incomprehensible to mere men. God always existed. The time when God created the cosmos—the system of order and harmony combined in an unbounded universe—man does not know. Nor can he know. Job came to that conclusion when he thought about God and his creation. He says of God in Job 9:8-10:

Who alone stretches out the heavens,
And tramples down the waves of the sea;
Who makes the Bear, Orion, and the Pleiades,
And the chambers of the south;
Who does great things, unfathomable,
And wondrous works without number (NASB).

The cosmos lie far beyond man's ability to comprehend. The huge numbers used by astronomers numb our minds. According to observations made from the Hubble space telescope, covering only a sliver of the sky, astronomers estimate there are 80 billion galaxies, with a similar number of stars in each galaxy, in the observable universe (not all of these will be spotted or named within the foreseeable future!).⁶

⁶ <<http://www.faqs.org/faqs/astronomy/faq/part8/section-4.html>>. This field covers an area of sky of only about 0.04 degrees, meaning that we would need 27,000,000 such patches to cover the whole sky. Ignoring such factors as absorption by dust in our own Galaxy, which make it harder to see outside in some directions, the Hubble telescope is theoretically capable of detecting about 80 billion galaxies.

Furthermore, some astronomers tell us these galaxies, with their heavenly hosts, are arrayed in an observable universe spanning 93 billion light-years in diameter. Therefore, the edge of the observable universe may now be located *about* 46.5 billion light-years away from planet Earth, with unknown vast spaces and innumerable galaxies flung far beyond what man can observe.⁷

If these astronomers have calculated correctly, if they understand the laws of physics correctly, and if the laws of physics as we understand them have remained unchanged for 93 billion years, then it means that the light that we now see from these distant stars took 46.5 billion years to arrive at the earth. I don't think anyone would hesitate to say that the astronomers are guessing or estimating when they come up with such numbers. And when so-called scientists begin speculating about how those worlds came into being 46.5 billion years ago, we should laugh at them. They do not know.

And to add doubt to such imaginations, consider these bold statements by Professor Mark Whittle at the University of Virginia.⁸

- The universe began 13.7 billion years ago in a “hot big bang.”
- Ripples frozen in space at the instant of inflation formed the seeds from which galaxies grew.
- The universe will expand forever at an accelerating rate.

Notice the slight scientific discrepancy between 46.5 billion years and 13.7 billion years.⁹ And what caused the supposed Big Bang? No one knows what happened one million years ago, let alone 13.7 billion or 46.5 billion years in the past.

But this we do know: The more astounding the findings of the scientists, the harder it is to accept the preposterous guesses about the origin of the cosmos, and the easier it is to accept that a Creator God made it all.

7 *Wikipedia*: “Observable Universe.”

8 *Cosmology: The History and Nature of Our Universe*. Great Courses Crafted by The Teaching Company, Chantilly, Virginia.

9 These huge discrepancies in estimates illustrate the uncertain nature of the speculations. In this case, one proposed explanation is that the Big Bang took place 12.4 - 13.7 billion years ago. However, the universe has expanded ever since, and thus it *appears to us* as though the light we see is actually 46.5 billion light years distant.

How God did it and when He did it remains beyond the comprehension of the human mind.

Furthermore, there is no evidence to say that the Creator God created all the universe at one time and then stopped creating new worlds. Just for his good pleasure, God could be flinging a billion stars or a new galaxy into his cosmos every so often. And the little sideshow that began on this planet some 6,000 earth-years ago could be only one of trillions in his universal theater. Man cannot span time and space to prove God has not decorated other worlds with living beings that praise him. Besides, His Word tells us other beings and places existed before God created living things on the earth (John 17:24; Ephesians 1:4; I Peter 1:20).

Neither can anyone prove that God does not alter the physical laws of all His created worlds, as he did on planet Earth during the flood in the time of Noah. The Bible talks of the mistake scoffers make when they maintain that the earth remained unchanged since the beginning of its creation:

They deliberately ignore this fact, that by the word of God heavens existed long ago, and an earth formed out of water and by means of water, through which the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished (II Peter 3:5-6)(RSV).

By denying the reality of the flood in the time of Noah, these scoffers missed the fact of the cataclysmic changes that occurred on the earth at the time of the flood.¹⁰ In the same way God altered the natural laws that governed Planet Earth at the time of the flood, God may have intervened in the laws that govern the cosmos. Hence, man cannot possibly explain everything about the cosmos based on the premise that all parts of it have functioned in exactly the same way since their creation.

Man actually knows very little about the billions and billions of stars, the planets, and the vast spaces that make up the cosmos. But everything man does observe in the cosmos points to an awesome, eternal Creator God who created stunning, impossibly complex worlds, possibly a long, long, long time ago.

And He is a living God that is still active in the cosmos and on planet Earth. The Apostle Paul described God thus to the philosophers on Mars Hill in Ancient Greece:

10 Whitcomb, John C., *The World That Perished*. Baker Books, 1988.

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth . . . because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else (Acts 17:24-25, NIV).

I find this view of an eternal, living, active Creator God exhilarating. Nothing is impossible with Him. Whatever true understanding of cosmic facts comes along, I rest secure in the knowledge that my God did it.

We do not need to try to force our theology to conform to the speculations of atheistic scientists and philosophers—they were not there and do not know—and then go looking for millions and billions of years in the Genesis account. We must first get our theology right. Then we may rest secure in the knowledge that observable facts and true science will always come trotting along to support a correct interpretation of the Genesis account.

So what does a correct understanding of the Genesis creation account tell us? We have raised three propositions in our discussion thus far:

- The creation of the entire cosmos did not happen all at once.
- The cosmos appears to have existed for a very, very long time.
- God existed long before he created Planet Earth.

We believe the Bible supports all three of these statements and that they are in harmony with the creation account as recorded in Genesis and affirmed throughout the Scripture. Let us look at Genesis One. I want to offer an interpretation of the text that is consistent with the view of the eternal, active, all-powerful Creator God I have projected.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters (Genesis 1:1-2, KJV).

In the first two verses the writer is giving the setting for his account. This common practice in any narrative account prepares the reader for what follows. In giving the setting for this account, the writer establishes several important facts necessary to prepare the reader for the action that follows:

- The Creator God existed prior to the making of the earth. This Creator God had made the earth and the heavens¹¹ around it. The earth

11 A number of translations use “heavens” instead of “heaven.” It is likely “heavens” refers

was not the result of a spontaneous “big bang” or any other space phenomenon.

- The earth and the heavens already existed at the beginning of this account. The account does not tell us how long they existed before this time.
- The earth had no mountains or valleys (without form).
- The earth had no plants or animals or life of any kind (void), and never did foster life prior to this time.
- The earth was covered with darkness and water.
- The Spirit of God (“was hovering,” NIV, NKJV, ESV; “was moving,” NASB, RSV, CEV) above the face of the waters. The verb tense here indicates description. Thus this description belongs to the setting rather than being a part of the action in the following verses.

I believe verses one and two furnish the setting for the Genesis account. The ESV, the NIV, and the RSV support this natural break between verse two and verse three by a space in the formatting. Other translations include verses one and two in a single paragraph and then begin a new paragraph with verse three.

The writer does not say how long this barren planet may have existed in this condition. Planet Earth could have been a recent creation in its void condition, or it could have been very, very old. But in verse three, around 6,000 earth-years ago—determined by other scriptures—the action begins; and a part of that void body is transformed, in six 24-hour days, into a garden filled with living things.

There is one other sentence in Genesis 1 that we want to look at. Verse 16 describes God’s action on the fourth day. It tells of the creation of the sun and moon to mark seasons, days, and years and to govern the day and night on Planet Earth. Then in what I view as an aside, the writer records, “He made the stars also.” The thought is that the writer of Genesis wanted to make sure that all men would understand that at some time God made all the stars. He was not saying that God made them all on that fourth earth-day.

to the space surrounding the earth instead of the entire universe. See II Corinthians 12:2.

I personally find this interpretation of the Genesis account consistent with the entire Biblical revelation, and it in no way conflicts with any of the findings of honest scientific inquirers. Whatever mind-stretching finding or theory that man proposes about God's creation, we can rest in ease and say, "If it's true, that's the way God made it."

There are some problems with alternative views of the Genesis account that do not recognize the break between verses two and three. One interpretation insists that God made the entire cosmos in six earth-days. Where was God up until then? Was the creation of the universe a one-time event? Has God stopped creating stars and worlds ever since? Why does the universe appear to be much older than 6,000 years of age? Is Planet Earth and its beings the center of God's whole universe?

Another interpretation would explain that the six days of creation were spread out over millions of years and evolved very slowly—more or less without God's direction. Then at what point did the Genesis record begin to be six literal days? What about the seventh day which God hallowed? Is all the rest of the Biblical record also figurative and only more or less accurate?

There may be valid answers to some of these questions, but the theories behind them may arise because of a faulty understanding of the Scripture.

The People of God want to be careful we do not try to defend wrong ideas from the Scripture. We do not need to slay the opposition. It is not we who are under attack. If the idea or teaching we promote is the truth, and men reject it because of unbelief, they are fighting against God. As God told the prophet Samuel, "The people have not rejected you, they have rejected me." This does not mean we must be timid or uninformed of the issues, only that we cannot force other men to find God, and the case is all the weaker if we present our argument with bad information or wrong interpretations.

God welcomes honest inquiry into the wonders of His creation. For the more man learns about the universe, the greater his God becomes and the more man shrinks in his own eyes. David said in the eighth psalm:

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place; what is man that you are mindful of him, or the son of man that you care for him?
(NIV).

An honest view of a Creator God results in humility. When confronted by teachings beyond our understanding, it's better to say "I don't know" than it is to defend a wrong interpretation of Scripture. For when we insist on erroneous ideas, we "may even be found fighting against God" (Acts 5:39).

For example, prior to the Third Century BC, many men held the generally accepted belief that the earth was flat. Some men argued this belief to be correct because the Scriptures used the term "the four corners of the earth."¹² However, other references in the Scripture, such as Proverbs 8:27 and Isaiah 40:22, picture the earth as a circle. So the People of God should have no problem reconciling these word pictures in the Scripture with the observable spherical facts.

Another example of misdirected interpretation by religious people was the opposition to Copernicus,¹³ who proposed that the earth orbited around the sun instead of the sun moving around the earth. The argument went that the Bible says in Joshua 10:13, "So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hastened not to go down about a whole day." So men of the Church reasoned that if the sun stood still, it meant that the sun moved, and not the earth. Obviously their interpretation was faulty.

However, a wrong interpretation of Scripture did not lessen the Church's opposition to the idea of the earth and the planets moving around the sun (heliocentric). Instead, it intensified. In 1600, a man named Giordano Bruno was convicted of being a heretic, partly for teaching that the earth moved about the sun. Among many other things Bruno insisted that a God much bigger than the God of the Sixteenth-Century Church had made many planets throughout an infinite universe where life-living creations of God—existed. Bruno was burned to death.¹⁴

In 1610, Galileo Galilei,¹⁵ an accomplished scientist known as the Father of Modern Science, began openly teaching the Copernican view of

12 See Isaiah 11:12; Revelation 7:1. The Flat Earth Theory was common prior to the Third Century BC.

13 *On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres* by Copernicus was published in the year of his death, 1543.

14 Turner, William. "Giordano Bruno." *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. Vol. 3. New York: Robert Appleton Company, 1908.

15 The Vatican's reaction to Galileo Galilei, by Mary Bellis. >http://inventors.about.com/od/gstartinventors/a/Galileo_Galilei_3.htm>.

a heliocentric system where the earth moved around the sun instead of the whole universe revolving around a stationary earth.

In 1615, two clerics denounced Galileo before the Roman Inquisition and condemned heliocentrism as “false and contrary to Scripture.” Galileo boldly suggested that the Church may have the wrong interpretation of the Scripture. This was a very serious infraction, for in those times the Church insisted that she herself was the only one who had the authority to interpret the Scripture. Nevertheless, in 1616 Galileo was cleared of any offense and ordered to abandon his support for heliocentrism.

Sixteen years later, Galileo defended his views in his most famous work, *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems*. In the book, two characters argued for the two world systems—Salvati for a sun-centered system and Simplicio for an earth-centered system. A third man, Sagredo, remained neutral in the mock debate. Salvati appeared very wise, much like Galileo, as he propounded the arguments for the sun-centered system. On the other hand, Simplicio sounded very foolish when he put forth reasons for the earth-centered system. The Pope suspected that Simplicio represented himself (probably correctly).

In 1632 Galileo was again tried by the Inquisition, found “vehemently suspect of heresy,” and forced to publicly admit that he was wrong when he taught that the earth moves around the sun. Legend has it that immediately after his confession, Galileo whispered to a colleague, “But the earth still moves.”

Galileo made a good point. No matter what man believes or teaches, it does not change the truth. Men who fear God desire to know the truth; they do not need to fear that “science” will find some “evidence” that proves the Scripture false. The People of God can be assured that the truth will always confirm a correct interpretation of the Scripture. They should never disregard truth or knowingly accept false evidence to support their pet interpretations. An honest and open heart to the truth must always accompany any knowledge of God and his ways.

In contrast to honest inquiry into the wonders of God’s creation by truth-seekers are atheists with impressive credentials. They pose as scientists, philosophers, and professors, but they are determined to prove there is no God. These men care nothing for the truth. Professing to be wise, they become fools and worship the creation and themselves rather than the Creator. Such men, smart as they think they are, will never know the

truth. Psalm 14:1 declares, “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” The People of God cannot convince such atheists with sound reasoning or logical arguments, because these men care not for the truth.

A good current example of this are “scientists” who refuse to even consider the universal evidences of intelligent design, which point to a Creator God. Instead, such unbelievers accept the ridiculous, unproven theories of evolution and drag others with them into the gutters of their own delusions. Beware of such false teachers. A paraphrase of I Timothy 6:3-5 can apply here: “If anyone teaches *there is no Creator God* and does not agree *that that same God made the earth and all things in it*, . . . he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about *vain theories*. *These men are deprived of the truth and are in it for the money.*”

The vastness of the cosmos stretches beyond the human reach either to comprehend or influence it. The cosmic bodies in myriad sizes and colors hurtle ever onward, declaring the greatness of the God who made them.

Seeing then that it is impossible for the universe to spring into place without the hand and voice of the Creator God, man should recognize and honor Him. For God, as the Creator, owns the worlds he has made. When God creates, He also sets in place the laws that govern the stars, the sun, the planets, and life on the earth. The whole universe moves and functions according to unfathomable commands and unimaginable power that whirls the worlds onward through space. And God’s inherent laws also govern the tiny speck of the cosmos we call planet Earth.

In this chapter, we have gone to some length to show that the acceptance of the Creator God is foundational to the understanding of truth. Proverbs 1:7 says: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Psalm 111:10 adds: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”

The People of God accept God as the living Creator God who spins the stars through infinite space and guides their courses. We bow our hearts before this awesome God and enquire of Him how He designed the earth, and how He desires it to function. With reverence and respect, we look into the Word of God to search out what the Lord of the Earth has in mind for planet Earth.

Did the Lord of the Earth create a finite planet with limited resources that could supply only the needs of a limited population until they were depleted?

Or did the Lord of the Earth design a wonderful planet full of unlimited resources that are well able to supply every need of an unlimited population?

* * * *

Chapter One Highlights

- God's express will for the earth from the beginning was that it should bring forth abundantly.
- God's glorious design and desire for planet Earth existed before he reached out and touched it with his finger.
- God stamped his entire creation with many evidences of its origin—the vastness of the cosmos, the intricacies of plant and animal life, the difference between man and the animals, the recorded revelation, and the knowledge of right and wrong (conscience).
- The more astounding the findings of the scientists, the easier it is to accept that a Creator God made it all.
- God is still active in the cosmos and on planet Earth.
- God welcomes honest inquiry into the wonders of His creation.
- Truth will always confirm a correct interpretation of the Scripture.
- God, as the creator, owns the worlds he has made.
- We bow our hearts before God and enquire of Him how He desires the earth to function.

Man's Role in God's Design

“Fill the earth and subdue it.”

Genesis 1:28

While the entire cosmos speaks of God's wondrous design and order, God revealed his special design for the earth to man, and then charged man with the responsibility of executing God's purpose on the earth. God desired that his entire creation should glorify Him. Therefore he placed a special being, made in his likeness, as the administrator over his entire living creation that dwelled on planet Earth.

The Creation of Man

Biologists estimate that between 10 and 100 trillion cells comprise the human body (obviously no one ever counted them). That incomprehensible number of cells equals 500 times the unimaginable number of 200 billion stars calculated to be in the Milky Way Galaxy.¹⁶

Apart from the sheer number of cells in the human body, the complexity of each one of those cells staggers the human mind. To this day, the smartest scientists aided by the most powerful computers, have not been able to replicate one of those cells or to breathe into inert substances the breath of life. The simplest man can take life (kill), but the smartest of them cannot give life to even one cell.

16 Some recent estimates have upped the number of stars in the Milky Way Galaxy to 400 billion! Such wide variances should warn us that everybody is guessing and nobody is counting.

Neither have the smartest men been able to alter the genes enough to make one specie into another specie or to improve a monkey enough to make him a man. And the crossover species imagined to have formed the transition from one species to another exist only in the mythology of godless men theorizing about the origin of living things, particularly the origin of man.

Although godless men theorize about the difference between man and the animals, they cannot explain it. Neither philosophers nor scientists can decode what makes man superior to every living plant and animal or define the spirit within man that sets him apart from every other living thing. Outside of a Creator God, there is no other explanation.

Indeed, instead of trying to show man's superiority compared to the animals, unbelievers in a Creator God try to bring man down to the level of the animals. Then these same men set animals up as relatives of the human family, who they deem, have a right to exist equal to that of mankind. Witness the extreme penalties for killing an eagle, a bear, a tiger, or wolf. In some instances, the penalty is more severe than the murder of a human being. Witness the affection and respect bestowed by pet lovers on a deceased animal's funeral and body disposal.

Going one step further, some men who deny a Creator God worship Planet Earth, who, in their minds, man must not use (exploit) for his own benefit. And so the godless ones murder their own children to appease the goddess of Mother Earth.¹⁷

Thus we find that in spite of the impossibility of man coming into being by time and chance, there are still men coming up with absurd explanations as to how it all happened. They cannot prove their vain theories nor duplicate one living cell. Yet they will not accept the fact that there has to be a living Creator God who made it all.

The reason for the denial of a Creator God is not hard to explain. A Creator God implies that God owns man and has built into man powers and limitations beyond which he cannot go. And God has given man an owners manual spelling out the directions for man to follow. To those who do not want to abide by the inherent limits of man as a created being,

¹⁷ "Hillary Clinton announced that the Obama administration plans to spend \$63 billion on 'family planning and reproductive health programs worldwide' — abortion." "Global ObamaCare & the 'Good Club' Billionaires," William F. Jasper. "The New American, 15 February 2010, page 25.

or submit to the rule book God has given, there is one other way. He can deny that a Creator God exists and vainly search for some other explanation for his own existence.

While I have not yet shaken hands with God, by faith (Hebrews 11:2), I accept the evidence of his eternal power in the cosmos, on the earth, and within our own beings. The Creator God is the Living God who revealed to man His plan for the earth and how he wanted man to live on it. It is to that revelation, the Bible, that I turn to find out man's role in God's design.

On the sixth day of the creation God brought forth this wonderful array of living creatures to inhabit the earth. Then He made man, a human being with trillions of living cells. Genesis 1:26 declares two things about God's design of mankind:

Man was distinct from all the other living things God had made. God created man like himself in appearance and possessing other godlike qualities—the ability to commune with God, reason, and freedom of choice.

Man was superior to all the other living things on the earth. God's explicit instructions leave no doubt all the earth and everything in it was placed under man's authority. "Rule over the fish of the sea . . . the birds of the sky . . . the cattle . . . all the earth . . . every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." Man was to be a little god with all the living things subject to his authority.

Man's Commission

Right after God created Adam, He gave Adam a special commission and the authority to carry it out:

And God blessed them: and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it: and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth" (Genesis 1:28).

Let us look at the commission and see what it reveals about God's design for an abundant fruitful earth with man serving as earth's overseer. These principles, established in the beginning, govern man's stewardship of the earth and have never been revoked to this day.

• *Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth* (Genesis 1:28).

God placed Adam in the garden of Eden that He himself had planted with an appealing variety of nourishing and edible foods. (Genesis 2:8,9). We would understand that the garden of Eden covered only a very small part of the earth's surface. God's commission to Adam was that he should spread out over the whole earth and fill it with his offspring.

After the flood God enforced his original divine commission to "fill the earth." From the account in Genesis 11 we deduce that man wanted to build a city and dwell in one place in defiance of God's command to spread out. In response God confused their language and "scattered them abroad over the face of the whole earth." So even though the earth had changed drastically during the flood, God's commission to man had not changed since Adam. After the flood God still wanted man to preside over a populous earth.

So what kind of population numbers did God have in mind when he said, "Fill the earth"? God did not set a limit on how many children or descendants Adam should have. He only says that Adam should be fruitful and multiply and "fill the earth." Was filling the earth an impossible task for Adam? Let us play with numbers the way some of our science-minded friends count human cells and stars.

According to the Biblical record Adam lived to be 930 years old. Let us assume that Adam and Eve had only two living children in the first 80 earth-years of their life. Thus the population of the earth doubled in the first 80 years. Now let us calculate that after the first 80 years the population of the earth doubled every 25 years. That would mean that in Adam's lifetime there would have been 34 generations with a doubling of the population in each generation. Based on that simple calculation, the population on the earth when Adam died, could have been an astonishing 8,589,934,592 people.

Given what we know, a population of over eight billion people would have been possible in Adam's lifetime. That huge number—huge by our standards—is over two billion people more than the present estimated population of the earth. God did not set a number limit on Adam's charge to "be fruitful and multiply" and to "fill the earth."

• *Subdue the earth* (Genesis 1:28).

From the beginning, Adam had a huge work cut out for him. He did

not just loll around in the garden while Eve sang for him and brought him choice fruit to eat.

When God placed Adam in the garden of Eden, he charged Adam to “work, keep, cultivate, till, take care of” (all words used in various translations) the garden (Genesis 2:15). And we must remember that Adam’s “work” was to take place in the garden before the fall of man—work came before Adam sinned.

So what did God intend that Adam should do in the garden as His caretaker? I would propose that the garden was a wild mixture of plants and trees. As God demonstrated in all the rest of his creation, God willed that man should use his God-given creative genius to bring order and design to the flowers and the trees. He wanted Adam to increase the productive ability of the earth by arranging, selecting, breeding, and increasing plant life, so that there might be a larger supply of food for a larger population of humans, birds, and animals. In short, God wanted man to have a garden instead of letting things grow “wild.” This was Adam’s “work.”

Furthermore, at the time God made Adam and Eve, the Garden of Eden covered only a small part of the earth’s surface. God’s design and desire was for man to direct in the spread of ordered design, beauty, and utility of life throughout the whole earth. God wanted mankind to use the garden of Eden as a miniature model for the whole earth. In God’s design, Adam was not to stay in the garden of Eden all his life, but he and his descendants were to make the whole earth a Godly choir under man’s direction where good plants, trees, and animals grew in abundance.

“Subduing” also means to bring order out of disorder, to control with purpose, to tame rather than let run wild, to cultivate instead of remain “natural.” The environmental movement today challenges every one of these concepts that give mankind dominion over the earth—natural is better than cultivated, wild is better than tame, diversity is better than planned order.

Indeed, man’s authority over the whole earth, to subdue it and use it for the benefit of man, strikes at the very heart of the Mother Earth religion. In contrast to a worship of the earth in its “unspoiled” condition, the People of God recognize the authority under God to design and build an overflowing earth—making clay into bricks, sand into glass and computer chips, harnessing the atom to make electricity, smelting ores into useful

metals, burning coal and oil to power machines, cutting trees for lumber and paper, planting gardens and fields, damming and pumping water to nurture animals, crops, and people—using man’s godlike qualities to harness earth’s abundant resources to “fill our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17).

- *Rule over every living thing* (Genesis 1:28).

At the creation God included every living thing in man’s commission to rule the earth. God knew that all living things would increase more profusely under man’s dominion than they would if left to their “natural” or “wild” state. And it would follow that God wanted abundant food for both man and animals as the population rapidly expanded to “cover the earth.”

After the flood, God expanded the available food supply for man to include any animal, bird, creeping thing, or fish. “Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant [in the beginning] (Genesis 9:3).

Obviously, if God intended man to eat animals, birds, and fish, man needed to kill them. God approved man’s killing of animals and the managing of them for food with one main stipulation: man was not allowed to eat the blood of other living things. God explained the reason blood was to be held sacred in Leviticus 17:11; “The life of a creature is in the blood.”

After the flood God made clear that an inherent dread of man was implanted in all living creatures: “And the fear of you and the terror of you shall be on every beast of the earth and on every bird of the sky; with everything that creeps on the ground, and all the fish of the sea, into your hand they are given” (Genesis 9:2). To enforce this instinctive terror of man upon all animals, God ordered the immediate death of any animal that took the life of a man.

Clearly, according to God’s design and order, man was to rule over every living thing. The express purpose of this rule was to manage the earth—animals, birds, fish, plants, trees, rocks, water—so that it could supply the needs of man. There is no mention of “animal rights” or any other conditions suggesting that animals or any part of the earth is off limits to the stewardship of man.

Let me make one thing plain. Man’s rule over all living things in no way condones the torture of animals, birds, or bugs. Rather it instills a

profound respect and reverence for the sacredness of life carried in all living things. And man should not kill wantonly or carelessly, but carefully and with purpose.

God established the rule of man over the earth in the beginning and it continues to this day. The People of God either accept this order set up by God, or they waver and waffle about in a vain effort to appease those who think man came from a monkey. Either the People of God must claim the authority given them by God or they surrender that authority and bow down to the creation rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25).

There is no half-way point on this issue. Man has the right, under God to propagate the plants and animals or to eradicate them. The animals have no spirits or “rights to exist.” No cow, eagle, bear, wolf, mosquito, fly, rat, or snake need be spared from extinction if they interfere with the pursuits of man in “filling” the earth with people.¹⁸

None of the animal species furnish genetic links in an imaginary evolutionary chain spanning millions of years that culminated in a man that can talk and think. Either God created the world and gave man authority over the earth or he did not. The People of God should make it plain to all that they accept the authority and responsibility given by God to rule over His creation.

Man’s needs take precedence over the existence of all the animals and over every thing on the earth. Therefore, man has a God-given right to cut trees, build dams on the rivers, mine the minerals, generate electricity, harness the atom, eradicate mosquitos, and dare I say it, shoot the wolves and tigers?

Rules of Conduct

Man’s commission to “fill the earth,” to “subdue it,” and to “rule over every living thing,” came from God. As with every commission that comes from a higher power, God set conditions and limits upon the authority he delegated to man.

Here we mention two types of limitations. The natural limitations are inherent in the creation. Man has no choice in how these natural processes operate. For instance, no matter how fast man flaps his arms, he

¹⁸ I can think of no rationale or biblical authority that would require the preservation of a particular specie.

cannot fly like a bird. No matter how hard man tries, he cannot breathe under water like a fish. Man must eat and drink to live. Life comes from living things. The species reproduce after their kind. Death comes to all living things. There are many more illustrations of inherent qualities in the created things that cannot be altered by man.

The other kind of limitation God placed on man is what we shall call a moral one. By “moral” we mean: What God decreed as right or wrong in man’s conduct. These moral rules of conduct apply only to man; they have no bearing on the animals or plants. Beasts or birds or fish do not choose to do right or wrong. They are guided only by their instincts embedded in their genes. But God has created man with the power to choose whether he wants to obey or disobey the moral rules of conduct (laws) God set up for him.

Man may choose to obey or to disobey God’s laws, but he cannot change what God has declared right or wrong for man. Not one of the moral laws God has established can be made of none effect by a majority vote of the people; by congress, president, king or dictator; by clergy, council, pope, or rabbi. God’s laws establishing right and wrong supersede any proclamations by man. For instance, no president can make it right to murder. No judge can make it right to steal. No preacher can make it right to commit adultery.

If man denies God and his authority to set up these moral laws, man has no basis for deciding what is right and wrong other than his own personal strength. Truly, a society that rejects God and his moral laws becomes a society where “the survival of the fittest (strongest)” rules. This lack of morality guides the conduct of the individual all the way up to nations that commit mass murder. And the logical conclusion of the whole matter is that the victor in the most brutal warfare must be right because he won the war.

The supreme nature of God’s laws over man’s rules determines God’s authority over man and how he wants man to oversee planet Earth. In man’s rule over the earth, man must abide by God’s natural and moral laws if the earth is to prosper under his care. If man does not abide by God’s laws, he will suffer the consequences of disobedience.

In many cases God has “fixed” the consequences for moral disobedience (defined as sin) when he created man. In the same way there is a cause-and-effect relationship in the breaking of the natural laws (people

that jump off a cliff get hurt). There is also a cause-and-effect relationship for breaking the moral laws (adultery destroys family relationships). Beyond the natural consequences, God will also inflict whatever punishment he deems just.¹⁹ Not every sin brings immediate retribution, but be assured that God will exact a price for willful disobedience.²⁰

Conversely, God adds a blessing when man submits to His moral laws (working instead of stealing). Where men seek to obey God's moral laws and live in harmony with the natural laws God set in order, men reap God's blessings in addition to the fruits borne by his natural laws (sowing seed and harvesting a crop).²¹

Many of these moral laws God established right in the beginning when he made man. Some of them may not have been recorded in the Biblical record until a later date, but it is likely that at least all of the Ten Commandments were instilled in Man from the very beginning.

Four moral laws that we are sure God made plain to Adam and Eve are:

The sabbath day was to be a holy day of rest (Gen. 2:2-3).

Man and woman were to mate for life (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:8).

Murder was wrong (Gen. 4:10; 9:6).

Man was to worship God (Gen. 4:3-4).⁶

How many moral laws God made plain to Adam and Eve right in the beginning we may not be sure of, but we do know that disobedience to the commandments of God always brought consequences: The serpent had to crawl on his belly. Eve experienced severe pain in childbirth and she was to be ruled by her husband. Adam's toil greatly increased and he knew the certainty of coming physical death. Both Adam and Eve were driven from the garden so they could no longer eat of the tree of life and live forever.

19 Witness the universal flood (Gen. 6:13) and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen. 19:1-25).

20 "For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain terrifying expectation of judgment ... For we know Him who said, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay ... It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God' (Hebrews 10:26-31).

21 "For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous" (Psalm 1:6).

"For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; you surround them with your favor as with a shield" (Psalm 5:12).

Those the Lord blesses will inherit the land" (Psalm 37:22).

"The Lord loves the righteous" (Psalm 146:8).

For his murder of Abel, Cain bore the punishment of a disgraceful mark upon his body along with a special curse on the ground he tilled.

Lamech complained to his two wives that if Cain was punished seven-fold, then he would have to suffer seventy-seven fold for his murders.

When God became angry at the total wickedness of man—he sought to do evil continually—God destroyed the whole earth with a flood.

Man then holds the key as to whether he will or will not live on an overflowing earth according to God's plan and desire. If man obeys God's commands and lives in obedience to the inherent laws God established in the beginning, the earth is well able to yield its plenty.

But if man denies God and his laws, the consequences of disobedience cannot be turned aside and the natural result is the reign of evil and scarcity and destruction on the earth.

The point here is that when man obeyed God's commandments, he enjoyed the blessing of God and the earth produced well for him. But when man disobeyed God, God cursed the ground and man did not prosper as well (Gen. 4:4).

The same principle still operates today. Man cannot escape the universal command that God wrote upon his very being. Obedience to God and his design brings God's blessing upon the earth and there is abundance.

Disobedience to God's plan brings God's judgment and consequences both upon man and planet Earth.

God commissioned man to be His steward and caretaker on the earth. His commission to the human race was for man to multiply his own race as well as the living plants and creatures with the express purpose of supplying the needs of man.

* * * *

Chapter Two Highlights

- Man must fear God before he will understand his role on the earth.
- Man was created superior to all other living things.
- God charged man with the responsibility of executing his purposes on planet Earth.
- Man's commission from God included:
 - Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth.*
 - Subdue the earth.*
 - Rule over every living thing.*
- God wanted man to direct in the spread of ordered design, beauty, and utility of life throughout the whole earth.
- God's laws of right and wrong supersede any proclamations by man.
- Man must abide by God's natural and moral laws if the earth is to prosper under his care.
- Man is authorized by God to use every living thing for his food.
- Man can accept God's plan for Planet Earth and become a joyful part of nurturing abundance on the earth.

* * * *

Plenty in God's World

“He did good, and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons.”

Acts 14:17

Let us summarize our study thus far. An eternal God created an infinite universe; one far greater than man can comprehend or influence. God sprinkled the cosmos with innumerable stars and hurled them on their courses through ever-expanding space.

According to man's present understanding of the universe, God made some single gigantic stars that would take a jet plane, flying at 600 mph, 1100 earth-years to fly around them. What astounding cosmic explosions such stars would make if they collided. Yet guided by God's infinite power these giant stars hurtle through the heavens without mishap.

Coming closer to earth, man observes the sun, a smaller star God set in an exact place to give light and life to the earth. If this star dimmed only slightly or burst into hyper heats, life on the earth would be quickly devastated. Man realizes how much earth's life depends on energy from the sun and yet he can do nothing to alter the amount of energy the sun produces. The following story illustrates man's helplessness:

A professor giving a lecture on energy declared that the world will perish in seven billion years' time because the sun will then burn out. A listener in the audience became very agitated and asked the professor to repeat what he said. After the professor repeated his statement, the questioner heaved a sigh of relief, “Phew! I thought you said seven million years!”²²

The same unlimited all-powerful God that created the vastness of the

22 Sauvy, Alfred. 1976. *Zero Growth*. Translated by A. Maguire. New York: Praeger.

cosmos and supplied the infinite amounts of energy needed to expand it forever, the same awesome God set the sun a-blazing in the heavens for seven billion more earth-years. Does it make sense that this same infinite God would create a finite earth incapable of sustaining the life he created on it? Does it make sense that the same unlimited marvelous God would commission his overseer on the earth to “be fruitful and multiply” and to “fill the earth” and not make it possible for man to carry out his commission? No, all the evidence we have looked at shows that God has provided an overflowing treasure house from which man may draw out plenty to meet the needs of an unlimited population. Within and surrounding the earth, God has hidden immeasurable quantities of food, materials, and energy. Man, using the rope of wisdom and knowledge God has endowed upon him, must draw out of the earth the abundance God desires man to enjoy.

Seeing then that God desires man to make the earth a place of abundance, we set forth in this chapter arguments to prove that man, with God’s blessing, is physically able to reach into the storehouses of the earth and create plenty to supply man’s every need. Man, in God’s design, builds, creates, plants, husbands, cultivates, harvests and manipulates the natural order to make it more prolific and more useful to an ever-expanding population of human beings.

A basic principle here is that the natural order of the earth is of little use to man—a standing tree, clay, ore, oil, grass, sand, hide, wool, fire, minerals, chemicals, atoms. Only when man creates products out of the raw materials—lumber, paper, glass, bricks, concrete, fiber, cloth, computers, engines, wire, pipe, pesticides, herbicides, stoves, electricity, antibiotics—do these “resources” become of value to man. Therefore it is the services that these materials provide to man that become important in creating bounty and not the source or the supply of raw materials from which they are created.

The important concept here is that there is no limit to the ingenuity of man to replace one resource with an entirely different one whenever it becomes advantageous to do so. This has been the history of the human race since the beginning of time. And the larger the world’s population and the greater the accumulation of knowledge, the greater becomes the ability of man to create abundance.

Lord Kelvin, the famed Irish-Scottish scientist (1824-1907), made two statements of relevance here:

Scientific wealth tends to accumulate according to the law of compound interest. Every addition to knowledge . . . brings gains of permanent value into the great storehouse of philosophy [scientific knowledge].

A demonstration of this step by step advance in the growth of knowledge and its compounding effect could be: telegraph, telephone, facsimiles, computers, faster computers, internet modem, high-speed internet, wireless communication. None of the machines would have been possible without the ones that came before it.²³ And none of them would have been possible without the creative ingenuity of mankind. The applications of knowledge compound in every field as well as the knowledge itself, allowing astounding progress in the power of man to meet all human needs.²⁴

There is nothing new to be discovered in physics now. All that remains is more and more precise measurement.

I wonder if Lord Kelvin didn't make this statement in the conceit of youth. It certainly doesn't fit with many other statements he made during his remarkable life. Consider the following statement Lord Kelvin made in 1900 at the age of 76:

Present science has no right to attempt to explain gravitation. We know nothing about it. We simply know nothing about it.

This statement would better fit the dramatic understandings and inventions that unfolded in the Twentieth Century. With a century of hindsight we can readily determine that physicists didn't know it all in the 1800's. Neither do they know it all today..

The point is that with the great advances in knowledge and application, the condition of humanity throughout the world has improved.

23 Each of these advances are built on a multitude of complex bits of knowledge and techniques that are necessary before the next advance can take shape. And the larger the pool of knowledge and the more people involved, the faster come the steps forward.

24 Another remarkable side-note in the communications story is that the more advanced these services have become, the cost of them has steadily declined until I can communicate with nearly everyone in the world virtually free.

Today, it is physically possible to feed and clothe everyone in a world of 6.6 billion people, even though the number has doubled from 3.3 billion in 1965.

The increase in world population testifies to the improvement of the condition of humanity in the last century. One of the big reasons for the population increase in the last 40 years has been fewer childhood deaths from disease, better health, and an increased average life span of 30+ years throughout the world. Because the average life span of the world's people has increased by 30+ years, the total number of people has increased dramatically. Fewer people have died. If two billion fewer people die in thirty years the birth rate could still be declining while doubling the population. The better conditions for humanity throughout the world account more for the doubling of the population than does an exploding birth rate.

Nevertheless, the capability of feeding the entire world population and of providing good water with present technology remains as doable as it was in 1968 when Paul Ehrlich wrote in *The Population Bomb*,

The battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970's and 1980's hundreds of millions of people will starve to death in spite of any crash programs embarked upon now. At this late date nothing can prevent a substantial increase in the world death rate.

Looking back it is easy to see that mass starvation due to world food shortages did not happen. An article in Wikipedia states, "The world food production grows . . . at a rate much higher than the population growth, in both developed and developing countries, and the food per capita level is the highest in history."²⁵

All statistics testify that world food production can more than keep up with population expansion. Jerry Taylor writing in "The Growing Abundance of Natural Resources" gives the following facts:²⁶

- Since 1960 there has been a doubling of world food production.
- Although global population has doubled since World War II, world grain production has tripled.

25 See also: "Human Appropriation of the World's Food Supply." <global.change.umich.edu/current/...food/...food.htm>..

26 *Market Liberalism: A Paradigm for the 21st Century* edited by David Crane and David Boaz

- Agricultural abundance has translated into improved health for even the poorest in the Third World. Fully 81 percent of the world's countries, including China and India, report average caloric intake of 90 percent of recommended levels.
- In the United States real prices of 15 commodities—barley, broilers, carrots, cattle, corn, cotton, eggs, milk, oats, oranges, rice, sorghum, soybeans, wheat, and wool—have dropped by an average of 38% between 1980 and 1990.
- Basing the price of food relative to wages between 1950 and 1990, the price of food has declined by 74%.
- Overshoot [using resources faster than they are created by nature] is in direct contradiction to every possible measurement of resource scarcity . . . ever since the development of agriculture.

Who would argue that the world will run out of sand, wool, or water? These “resources” are not limited in any real sense. All that is needed is the ingenuity of the human mind and the energy it takes to make them useful to man. Since there is no limit to the number of ideas the human mind might produce, the only thing lacking would be the amount of energy needed to convert resources such as sand and water and ores into products and services useful to man.

But the doubt raised by fearmongers is that there will not be enough energy to sustain the needs of the world's 6.6 billion people if they all live on the same level of comforts as the people of the richer nations. Here again, let us focus on statistics that tell us what has happened rather than on uncertain projections of what might happen in the future. Julian Simon sums up chapters of theory and data in two sentences:

The statistical history of energy supplies is a rise in plenty rather than in scarcity. . . . The appropriate interpretation of these data is that they show an unambiguous trend toward lower cost and greater availability of energy.²⁷

We have demonstrated that using man's ingenuity to create abundance to meet man's every need is possible. But many question if it is desirable or in harmony with God's plan. Huge followings respond to slogans like

²⁷ Simon, Julian L. *The Ultimate Resource 2*. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1996; page 167.

“Eat Wild, Natural, Organic,” and “Primitive.”²⁸ All of these slogans infer that man needs to get back to an earlier date before he “messed” with his environment. These theories deny that God intended for mankind to create abundance on the earth or that man should “draw out” the secrets of the physical universe around him. To the contrary, God delights when people use his wonders.

Let’s think of an example. In a sense, the “drawing out” of these resources is a mechanical process as simple as planting a seed in the ground. A corn seed must be planted at the right depth, in the right moisture, and in the right season. A farmer cannot disregard these natural laws and expect God to bless the seed if, for instance, he just throws the seed on top of frozen ground in the middle of the winter. Man must abide by the natural laws God has placed in effect throughout the earth.

But if man, by wisdom, searches out the natural laws and applies them, the results are predictable—oat seed will produce oats, corn seed will produce corn, and wheat will produce wheat. As God intended, the cumulative knowledge of the natural laws and the wonders of God’s creation builds with time and people. And the more people that inhabit the earth, the more plenteous the supply of food and usable resources. That is the way God designed it.

But no matter how much knowledge man learns, he will never understand all there is to know. As the wise man Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes, 8:17, “Then I saw all that God has done. No one can comprehend what goes on under the sun. Despite all his efforts to search it out, man cannot discover its meaning. Even if a wise man claims he knows, he cannot really comprehend it.”

An earth filled with good things was God’s intent from the beginning. God’s intent and desire is still the same today. But man’s obedience to God’s will and way unlocks the storehouse of bounty the earth holds. To reap the bounty God desires for mankind, man must abide by both the

28 An example of some of the nonsense easily picked up:

“For 700,000 years humans ate a diet of mainly meat, fat, nuts, and berries. Eight thousand years ago we learned to farm and our health declined” (Drs. Eades, “High-Carbohydrates Problems”).

No one knows what anyone ate 8,000 years ago. But isn’t it interesting that someone would believe that after a monkey supposedly evolved into a man, mankind’s health steadily declined?

physical laws of the earth and the moral laws of what is right and wrong that God laid down for man.

The physical laws of the earth are those man by wisdom searches out—bacteria, microbes, genetics, gravity, aerodynamics, electrons, light, hydraulics, cells, and much much more. God has imposed no strictures on honest inquiry into the wonders of his creation. Man will never understand the creation completely or break beyond the limits God has imposed on his attainment. For example, according to my understanding, man will never physically travel at the speed of light or possess the ability to create living things from inert substances.

It is how man uses the knowledge he attains that becomes a moral question. If man uses the knowledge he attains to do good, to improve the condition of man throughout the earth, to heal and to help, God approves. God smiles when men develop vaccines that eliminate dreaded diseases as surely as he rejoiced when Jesus healed the paralytics and opened the eyes of the blind. I believe God approves when men alter genes and develop chemicals that promote soil and animal life, and similarly, he likes discoveries that provide abundant food and water to care for human needs throughout the earth. God smiles at whatever man uses to do good to his fellowman and in doing good he glorifies the Creator God.

Has God tucked away in the sand and the sea and the soil enough resources to feed the earth's rapidly growing population, a population that God wishes to fill the earth? Definitely. Would a God who set the sun a-blazing in the heavens for seven billion earth-years really shortchange his steward of the earth? No. Rather, he is constantly asking of mankind, as he did of Moses in the desert, "What is that in your hand?" God wants His people to search out the wonders of His creation and to use them for the benefit of mankind and for His glory.

Creating a world of abundance is not purely a mechanical thing. The choice is also a moral one. If man obeys the laws of right and wrong established by God, (i.e. The Ten Commandments) there is a natural response of the earth, the animals, and his fellowmen, to his work. This truth should be patently obvious to all but the most dense: Respect for the Creator God as the only God, respect for the sabbath day, respect for parents, respect for life, respect for another's property, sexual purity, concern for others, honesty, diligence, hard work—these virtues create a harmonious productive society. Such a peaceful society naturally produces more

goods than one where sin prevails—selfishness, idol worship, atheism, lies, drunkenness, gambling, vices of all kinds, violence, fraud, theft, murder, indolence, sexual promiscuity, and war.

In addition to the natural blessings that come from obeying God's law, God rests his supernatural blessing upon His people. "When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him" (Prov. 16:7). The Old Testament reveals promise after promise that if the People of God will keep his statutes and do his commandments, God will bless their land with abundance (Deuteronomy 15:5-6; 28:1-14). God's approval of man's obedience causes a supernatural flourishing of the natural blessings resulting from obedience to God's moral laws.

The book of Proverbs dispenses much mechanical advice on ways of living that produce a natural increase (put another way, $2 + 2 = 4$).

- Be diligent. "The hand of the diligent makes rich. He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely" (Proverbs 10:4-5).
- Keep business before comforts. "Prepare your work outside, and make it ready for yourself in the field; afterwards, then, build your house (Proverbs 24:27).
- Mind your business. "Know well the condition of your flocks, and pay attention to your herds" (Proverbs 27:23).
- Be productive. "He who tills his land will have plenty of food, but he who follows empty pursuits will have poverty in plenty." (Proverbs 28:19).

Moses tied the fruitfulness of Canaan and the well being of the People of God to their obedience to the Lord God. "That you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments, which I command you . . . that it may be well with you . . . in a land flowing with milk and honey" (Deuteronomy 6:2-4).

In his farewell address to the People of God, Moses promised God would bless them with great physical blessings if they kept all His commandments. "Blessed shall be the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl" (Deuteronomy 28:4,5).

The Psalms run over with testimonies of God bestowing physical blessings on the righteous. Illustrative of these is Psalm 37:25. "I have

been young, and now I am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his descendants begging bread.”

Most of the People of God can readily accept the statement that the riches of the earth in God’s storehouse are infinite. But it’s not nearly so easy to believe that the resources of the earth man uses are infinite. Although it seems counter-intuitive that man could use a resource and not decrease it’s supply, it’s still true for a number of reasons we want to discuss.

First is **the matter of supply**. Aluminum is the most abundant metal element in the earth’s crust,²⁹ and the chance of its supply becoming an economic problem is nil.

Next is the **replacement by alternatives**. In the heyday of whaling, whale oil supplied a huge market for whale oil lamps. One could easily have argued that a great crisis would develop when the whales were hunted to extinction and there would be no more whale oil. The crisis never came. Kerosene lamps and natural gas lamps operated at a greatly lower cost than whale oil lamps and replaced them. Today no one wants to burn whale oil in lamps. We don’t care if the price of whale oil is \$10.00 a pint or \$20.00 a pint. No one would want to use it in a lamp even if the price of it was 10 cents a pint. The advantages of an incandescent electric bulb are so superior to a whale oil lamp that the only place one might find a whale oil lamp now is in an antique store.

The same thing is true of copper wire. In the late 1800’s copper wire demonstrated clear advantages over other possible metals that might have been used to transmit electricity such as silver or tin, either in price or in conductivity. Because copper wire worked well to conduct electricity and to transmit telephone and telegraph signals, companies strung thousands of miles of copper wires across cities, continents, and oceans. Using copper wire, millions of people brought the wonders of electricity and telephones to their homes.

With the thousands of miles of copper wire used, in 1952 one could easily have projected that the world would run out of copper by the year 2000. Statistics could have been used to show that if the population of the world tripled and every person in the undeveloped world acquired a telephone, communication needs could easily force a meteoric rise in the

29 “Aluminum and Bauxite,” Mineral Information Institute.

price of copper. But instead of running out of copper in 2000, the estimated reserves of copper ore have increased fourfold, extraction costs have declined, and efficient recycling of used copper have all worked to increase the supply of copper and hence lower the price.

But the biggest thing of all that would have upset a 1952 forecast of scarcity and depletion of the world's copper by the year 2000 has been a decrease in its use—electric, telephone, and telegraph wires; plumbing, roofing, etc.

Aluminum is now much cheaper than copper to use in power lines and its transmission qualities are satisfactory. As a result, other alloys and aluminum have replaced copper in practically all transmission lines.

The third reason for the increase in the amount of “natural” resources while using them is **the matter of obsolescence**. New and better things come along that decrease the desirability of the older material. A fundamental reason for the waning demand for copper in communications networks has been the invention of fiber optics that use glass and light to transmit signals instead of electricity and copper.³⁰ With its far superior characteristics, fiber optics cables have made copper cables obsolete.

For instance, a copper cable capable of transmitting 3,000 telephone calls simultaneously can be replaced by a fiber optic cable capable of carrying 31,000 telephone calls at the same time. In addition, the fiber optic line delivers over 150 times the signal strength of the copper cable over the same distance. The fiber optic cable also weighs 42% less than the copper cable and presents no safety hazard due to the transmission of electricity. Fiber optic cables use only light signals and do not use electrical energy. So the use of fiber optic cables demonstrates a clear superiority over copper cables in practically all communications networks.

The same thing holds true in plumbing. Most copper plumbing is now being replaced with other materials that have superior qualities of durability and ease of installation. As a result, the demand for copper wanes and the real price declines. But even if copper water pipes could be installed in a home at lower prices than current materials (doubtful), who would want them? No one wants to use obsolescent copper pipe and fittings when a longer lasting, more serviceable product is available.

30 In 1870 a famed Irish scientist, John Tyndall, demonstrated that light follows the curve of a stream of water pouring from a container. The whole fiber optics revolution is built on that phenomenon.

Further improvements in fiber optics and piping come rapidly as knowledge and technical skill increase, thus further decreasing the demand for copper in wire and pipe. And one can easily see that copper wire plays a much smaller role in the revolution going on with cell phones and wire-less communication of all sorts.

Considering the examples of whale oil and copper, it should be easy to understand that scarcity or depletion of any particular resource should be of little concern. The value of any resource from copper to whale oil is determined by its usefulness to man. So as man finds other better ways to provide services of value to the human race, the importance of past resources used to provide those services declines.

So I repeat again this stunning statement that has been true since the beginning of the world. The depletion or exhaustion of earth's resources should be of little concern. Human ingenuity has always found a better way to replace the resource with far more abundance and better services than provided by the earlier method.

Consider how sparing of wood a typical modern home is compared to a log cabin. And how much more spacious and more comfortable and more sanitary and more productive the modern house is! The world is not going to run out of trees. I have seen figures that show that there are more trees today in North America than there were when the Europeans first came.

The same thing is true with oil and natural gas.

So we might fairly ask the question, are these supposed dangers to planet Earth and man's very existence really so? The answer is a resounding "NO"!

All the fears of global warming, depletion of resources, and global catastrophe fly in the face of obvious evidence. More people are living longer and better lives than ever in the history of mankind. For the first time in several thousand years, many many people are not just struggling to eke out an existence. Now millions of people talk about what to do in their leisure time. Even for many of the world's poorest, their lot has improved. Statistics show that the number of people throughout the world who now have ample food, good water, and medical supplies is growing. Indeed, statistics again prove that, using only current technology, the resources of the world are more than adequate to meet the water and food needs of the whole world's population. And using only then present technology, Julian

Simon wrote in the 1980's that the world could produce enough food to sustain a population of 35 to 40 billion people (seven or eight times the world's population at that time).

By every measurable standard, the economic condition of the human population has been improving as the number of people estimated to be in the world increases. The very fact of the rapid rise in world population during the last century argues that the condition of the world's people is improving.

The world has not dramatically increased the birth rate. Rather, because of the increase in the overall life span, people have stopped dying at the same rate as in past millennia.³¹ The very fact that the average life span in the last century has risen dramatically from 35 years to 70 years proves that mankind's overall physical condition is improving.

While United Nations estimates of population and life span must be considered imperfect, UN statistics do show a distinct rise in both life span and world population during the Twentieth Century. People in wealthier countries show a higher life expectancy than the people in poorer countries. This should not surprise anyone as they have the means to acquire ample food, good water, and medical attention when needed.

The point here, however, is not to prove that the lot of the poor is improving by every measurable condition, but that God has created a world with abundant resources that if used properly could care for an almost unlimited population.

The earth's bounty depends upon man to create it by using knowledge and skill and work. When good or evil men search out the natural physical laws of gravity and plant and animal husbandry and the atom, plenty can come forth.

The proof is in. There can be plenty and abundance in God's world. The Green Revolution coupled with cheap energy generated surpluses of food that caused food prices to plummet. Transportation systems now make it possible to deliver food and goods cheaply anywhere in the world. Rockets can launch satellites that enable worldwide communications and global positioning systems to aid travelers. Harnessing the atom makes it

31 I recognize the long life spans recorded in the Old Testament and offer no explanation for them. But to my knowledge, ever since the days of the ancients, the provable life span of most people has been less than 70 years. The average life span, when including childhood deaths, has been far less.

possible to furnish unlimited power for electric generation forever.³² So the fair question then is, “Why is the whole world not reeling in abundance?”

Ah-h-h. There are enemies of plenty. Let us examine some of them in the next chapter.

* * * *

Chapter Three Highlights

- An earth filled with good things was God’s intent from the beginning.
- All the evidence shows that God has provided an overflowing treasure house from which man may draw out plenty.
- The “natural” order of the earth is of little use to man.
- Today it is physically possible to feed and clothe everyone in a world of 6.6 billion people.
- The more people that inhabit the earth, the more plenteous becomes the supply of food and usable resources.
- No matter how much knowledge man acquires, he will never understand all there is to know.
- God has imposed no strictures on honest inquiry into the wonders of his creation.
- It man uses the knowledge he attains that becomes a moral question.
- The riches of the earth in God’s storehouse are infinite.
- The value of any resource from copper to whale oil is determined by its usefulness to man.
- There can be plenty and abundance in God’s world.

* * * *

32 Simon, *Ultimate Resource 2*, p. 181.