

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG50- God And Global Warming

We hear so much today about global warming and the pollution of our planet and the things that are going on around us. I want to talk today in this podcast about one possible solution, which at least I have not heard about as a potentiality on the evening news or in any of the local newspapers. That is, could the global warming problem have something to do with our relationship with God in the human race? This is something that society is not really liking to talk too much about, but I think it is something that we need to consider as a real possibility.

First and foremost, we must realize that this planet, this earth that everyone seems so concerned about, is not ours. It is the Lord's. In Psalm 24, starting at verses 1-4, it says, "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, the world, and those who dwell in it. For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood and has not sworn deceitfully." We see that not only the earth, but also everything it contains, which would include us, belongs to the Lord. So to try to find solutions to the problems of this planet, and to exclude the possibility that these issues may be connected to us as the inhabitants of this earth and our relationship with God, I think is folly.

I want to read one other Scripture because what we just read out of Psalms is actually repeated in the New Testament in 1 Corinthians, starting at chapter 10, verse 26. Very simply, "The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains." This earth and everything in it is God's. It belongs to God, it is God's. We must recognize that when God created the earth and when He created mankind, He created a relationship between Himself, the earth, and mankind. And it is the problem of that relationship, I believe, that is the problem with global warming, or with pollution, or with any of the other problems that we see transpiring in our earth today.

I want to start by going back to Genesis 1:26-29. It says, "Then God said, 'Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 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.' Then God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you.'" We see God created man. He created him in His own image. He created them male and female, which actually seems to be a big question today. But the solution once again, as we usually find, is right here in the Scriptures. He created mankind, male and female; and He created mankind and He placed him over the earth to rule over the earth. He says, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth. Subdue it and rule over it," in verse 28. And He repeats that same thought again as we go down through this story of creation.

In Genesis 9, starting at verses 1-3, it says, "And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. The fear of you and the terror of you will 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. Every moving thing that is alive shall be food for you; I give all to you, as I gave the green plant. Only you shall not eat the flesh with its life, that is, its blood.'" We jump in here to Genesis the ninth chapter. This is the story of Noah. Now, we know what is transpiring in this story is the fact that man corrupted the earth, and therefore God came to Noah and said, "Build an ark, because I am going to destroy the earth due to the corruption of man." And when He blesses Noah, He again repeats the commission over mankind that He had brought forth originally in Genesis at the creation, which is that man was to rule over the earth and all of the things that are in the earth. We see that this is once again being stated, man was created by God to rule over the earth, to be in charge of the earth.

I want to read one more Scripture about this in Psalms 8 starting at verse three. It says, "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You are care for him? Yet You have made him a little lower than God, and You crown him with glory and majesty!" Verse 6, "You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet." Again, we have this restated, God is the creator. He is the true one and only God of the universe, and He created not only the whole of the universe, but He created very specially the earth, this earth, this planet we live upon. And when He created it, He also created man, and He made man to rule over this earth. Now, we are to do that in a relationship to God. And when we lose that relationship with Him, we find that things begin to disintegrate and fall apart, and they do not work. So humankind being commissioned to rule over the earth can only succeed if it is done in a proper relationship with God Himself.

This is the problem, that mankind is leaving God and wants to do everything without God's involvement. We have left Him out of our home life. We have refused to have Him be a part of our schools and our education. We have eliminated Him from our government. And progressively, we are kicking Him out of every remaining part of our lives. I am here in this podcast to just state very emphatically, it will not work. We cannot break from our relationship with God who is our Creator and fulfill our responsibility of overseeing this world. I don't care how much we try to fix the problems that we see transpiring in this planet or on this planet. We will never fix these problems outside of the proper relationship that we were created to have with God in the first place.

I want to read out of John, the fifth chapter, starting at verses 19-20. "Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself is doing; and the Father will show Him greater works than these, so that you will marvel.'" Again, in John 5:30 it says, "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." Christ Himself, Yeshua, said, "I do nothing on My own initiative," and this is the problem that we see in the age that is surrounding us.

Man has come to the place, either in our own minds we have matured or we have progressed or whatever, to the point where we don't need God. We don't need Him in our schools. We don't need Him in the greater society surrounding us. We don't need to include Him in our government; and we try to eliminate Him from our court system, and from every other part of our life. We eliminate the Scriptures, His Word, out of our life, and then we try to find solutions and answers for things. Again, I'm here to say

in this podcast, it will not work. Things will only work correctly if we come back to including God in our lives. We must get Him back into our lives. We must bring Him back into this earth and to the necessity to find solutions for what we have brought this earth into.

We have to ask ourselves this question: is the globe being destroyed by our sin and disobedience? Well, let's see what the Scripture has to say. We will go to Isaiah the 24th chapter, starting at verses 3-5. "The earth will be completely laid waste and completely despoiled, for the Lord has spoken this word. The earth mourns and withers, the world fades and withers, the exalted of the people of the earth fade away. The earth is also polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the everlasting covenant." Now we hear a lot about this with global warming and pollution and the cries about the planet that are going on. Well, it is man that is making the problem; and I would have to agree with that. It is man. But it is not because of a certain lifestyle, or how many cars we drive, or this or that. The problem of pollution is a problem of the inhabitants of the earth, but it stems from our transgression of the laws of God. It stems from our violation of His statutes and the breaking of the covenants that He has made with us.

He is to be our Lord. He is to rule over our lives. He is to guide us and to be the One that we love and worship and follow. As Christ Himself said, "I can do nothing on My own initiative. I have to have the Father in My life." And if we think that we can remove God from our lives, God from our society, and God out of every aspect of what we are as the rulers over this world, and then try to fix the pollution and try to fix the global problems that we are facing, it's absolute impossibility. Yes, I would agree, humanity is the problem. But it is not necessarily the problem as society is saying it, or the scientists are saying it today – the false narrative we get about global warming and the things that are taking place on the planet. The problem really is the way that we have transgressed the Lord. We have refused to allow Him to be the Lord over our lives. We have refused to live according to His Word. Therefore, we have transgressed His laws. We have violated His statutes. We broke every covenant that He has tried to make with us. Therefore, the earth... In verse 6 it says, "Therefore, a curse devours the earth, and those who live in it are held guilty." This is the problem.

The earth is being devoured, but it is because of the curse of God that is brought on the earth due to our lack of a relationship with Him that is in proper order. We must get that order correct and back. You can't fix the earth unless God Himself is willing to remove the curse that He has placed on it due to our sin and disobedience. In Leviticus 18:24 it says, "'Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for by all these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled.'" He is speaking to Israel as they are getting ready to go in and possess the land of Canaan, and He says that the previous inhabitants of the land had defiled themselves. Therefore, God was removing them and bringing Israel in; and He warns them, don't defile yourself as they defiled themselves, by doing what? Sinning against Me. In verses 25-28 it goes on to say, "'For the land has become defiled, therefore I have brought its punishment upon it, so the land has spewed out its inhabitants. But as for you, you are to keep My statutes and My judgments and shall not do any of these abominations, neither the native, nor the alien who sojourns among you (for the men of the land who have been before you have done all these abominations, and the land has become defiled); so that the land will not spew you out, should you defile it, as it has spewed out the nation which has been before you.'"

If you want to say, "What's going on in the earth today? What's going on with global warming exactly? How is it transpiring? What's the science behind it?" The science behind it is of little importance compared to the theology behind it. The theology behind it is that the earth is in the process of spewing

us out because of our violations. The land does not want to break its relationship with God, even if we as mankind are willing to break our relationship with Him being Lord over our lives. Leviticus 20:22 says, "You are therefore to keep all My statutes and all My ordinances and do them, so that the land to which I am bringing you to live will not spew you out."

We have got to see that history is repeating itself, and that the land is under the curse of God because of the defilement of mankind. So the land itself turns against us and begins to spew us out. Oh boy, what's the answer? Well, the answer is the salvation that comes from God. I want to read to us out of John the third chapter and I'll go to verse 16, John 3:16-19. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil." So we see that man is choosing, even though God has taken all of the initiative to come down and bring about for us the ability of salvation. It is a choice of mankind: do we choose light? or do we choose darkness?

We see that Christ did not come into the world to judge the world. And when we read that word, it's the word *cosmos*, which means "the earth," which really in Greek means "the order." If we look at what is happening to the earth today, we say, "Well, the sea is in imbalance. The sea level is raising, and there are more storms today than we have had because everything is out of balance because of what is happening with global warming." Everything is out of order because mankind is out of order. We are what is out of order. We are breaking the divine order that God created when He created us and made us to rule over the earth. We were to be under Him, and we were to be in submission to Him and under His Lordship and rulership. Because remember where we started, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. The fact that He placed us in the earth and the fact that He gave us rulership over the earth did not mean that He quit owning the earth Himself. We were to be in His stead, and we were to be under Him.

God is not looking to judge the world. He is not looking to judge the cosmos or mankind; but the order is broken. He sent His Son into the world to re-establish the order that we are to have. Under the Lordship of Messiah we are to live. And if we are able to live under the Lordship of Messiah, who rules in our life and guides us by His Spirit, then we will have an ability to fix the things that are going wrong in this planet. But what we see, just like we do in John 3, is that men love the darkness rather than the light, and we have been choosing to walk in darkness. We have been choosing to close our hearts and our minds and refuse Him.

In Zechariah 7, starting at verses 12-13, it says, "'They made their hearts like flint so that they could not hear the law and the words which the Lord of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets; therefore great wrath came from the Lord of hosts. And just as He called and they would not listen, so they called and I would not listen,' says the Lord of hosts." We find ourselves in the same place. It's going to take a real energy on our part to seek God with all of our hearts, because we have shut up our hearts and our ears for so long when He has called to us like He was calling in John the third chapter, sending His Son into the world, saying, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes on Him." But we have refused to believe. We have refused to open our hearts. Therefore, God has closed His heart, and we find ourself in a place where things are increasingly going wrong. Why? Because it's going to take more than just some little prayer. It's going to take fasting,

crying out to God, seeking Him with all of our hearts to break the years of refusal that mankind has had on this earth. We have got to make up for the deficit of calling out to Him.

In Isaiah 59, starting at verses 1-4, it says, "Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity. Your lips have spoken falsehood, your tongue mutters wickedness. No one sues righteously and no one pleads honestly. They trust in confusion and speak lies; they conceive mischief and bring forth iniquity." This is the society we find ourselves in, by and large. What is good is called evil and what is evil is called good. People are not pleading in righteousness. There is not honesty. There is confusion and speaking of lies, and mischief is being created.

This is the thing that we have got to see. We must overcome, if there is an ability to turn around the fate and the path that this earth is on of being destroyed, destroyed by our sin and by our rebellion. Human efforts and energy to save the planet are not going to be a substitute for our hearts turning to God. There is no technology that will substitute for our turning our hearts back to God, to please Him and to do His will. God is not going to just look at a few actions or a few slight words. God weighs the actions. He weighs our hearts and our motivations. And it is going to take true repentance or He will not hear. 1 Samuel 2:3 says, "Boast no more so very proudly, do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and with Him actions are weighed." God is not just going to listen to some little prayer. He is going to weigh our hearts and say, "Is there a true repentance?" Is there really a cry in our generation for things to be reversed – not just reversed in our planet, not just a reversal of some global warming or other pollution things that are going wrong. Is there a cry for our hearts to return to Him?

Luke 16:13 says, "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." And when Yeshua addressed the Pharisees, He said to them in verse 15, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God." And right now we see people trying to create actions and policies that will be esteemed among men. But I tell you, they are detestable in His sight, and they will not be a solution to the problem, because the only solution is that we return in our hearts unto God. And this we must do.

In Proverbs 21:2 it says, "Every man's way is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts." And we are in that place. Proverbs 16:2 says, "All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives." Our motivations, our thoughts, our hearts are being weighed right now; and we are seeing the result of it in what is transpiring surrounding us on this planet. We are looking outwardly at the circumstances that are taking place due to the way we have related and walked with God over many, many years; and we have a deficit that we must recover. The solution to global warming, as well as all the issues of pollution and the destruction we see in our planet, is not going to be brought about by scientists and politicians. We need a global revival, the hearts of humanity crying to God asking for forgiveness and deliverance from the destruction that we have set in motion.

This is what Noah preached while he was building the ark. I can only pray that we have more success than Noah. In Romans 8, we see the glimmer of hope, the light at the end of the tunnel, starting at verses 19-22, "For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope

that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now." See, the creation is crying out. This futility that we find ourselves in is not because the creation wants to lose its order and to fly into confusion and go into destruction. It is put under this futility by God Himself because of our actions and our lifestyle. But the anxious longing of the creation – if we could hear it, the earth is crying out for the salvation of our God, and it is eagerly waiting for the revealing of the sons of God, the sons of God that will be brought forth in this hour if we can cry out to Him. If we can seek Him with all of our hearts, He will transform us into His image, and we will have the ability to release creation from its futility; because it was not subjected to this futility even because God wanted it that way, but it was subjected by God to this futility in hope.

God Himself has a hope that we can turn this around and make the changes that are necessary until the sons of God coming forth are able to pray and cry out to Him, are able to submit to His Lordship and walk in His will with a cry, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on this earth as it is in heaven," and see the breaking of this futility and curse that has come upon the earth. So I believe that we have an answer, and that answer is our hearts before God, seeking Him with everything that is within us.

If we can remember just a few points: the Scriptures are clear that the pollution, destruction, and futility of our planet earth are due to humanity's disobedience and refusal of God's instructions, not because of problems with science. As believers, we must repent of our wicked ways and seek the Lord with all of our hearts to release an outpouring of His Spirit and revival through this planet. And as Romans the eighth chapter proclaims, sons of God will come forth and set the planet free from its futility. We believe for that with all of our hearts, in the name of the Lord.