

The 'carbon balance' ...and Armageddon

● The earth's climate cycles

It is claimed that there is already too much carbon dioxide in the atmosphere today (now around 385 parts per million depending on the location) and growing at more than one part per million per year. Nobody really knows what the ideal level should be as changing levels of carbon dioxide have an effect on plant absorption and growth rates. 800 ppm is considered unhealthy to human beings.

Check the following page: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/carbon_oxide#_note-0

Global warming seems to be a reality although the world has gone through warm and cool periods in the past. From 900AD to 1300AD temperatures were thought to be warmer than today.

Check the following page: http://wikipedia.org/wiki/medieval_warm_period

It is still uncertain why the earth's climate oscillates between lengthy cold and warm periods and this has become yet another last days challenge for the 'wisdom of men'. Some think that changing phytoplankton populations in the oceans have a big bearing on the carbon cycle while others think that 'solar wind' has an effect on climate.

● Carbon release at Armageddon

We are now entering another warm period with much **added man made carbon release** which will include the coming incredible pollution release in the Armageddon period. What will happen when the Armageddon period is in full swing in the earth and, **'the day comes that will burn as an oven'** (Mal.4:1)

All that **earthquake, volcanic and warfare activity** of this period will release an incredible amount of carbon and other gases into the atmosphere, not to mention the inevitable oil well fires in the Middle East. We saw just a sample of this problem towards the end of the gulf war.

Well, there is no need to be too alarmed. To illustrate why this is not a problem we will use Summer fires ('wild fires' in USA, 'bush fires' in Australia) as an example. These annual fires in both hemispheres release an incredible amount of carbon and other chemicals into the atmosphere but this is eventually offset by the regrowth of those grass and trees when the rain comes. All this fresh regrowth over time absorbs carbon dioxide and at least goes some of the way towards restoring the carbon balance. This will also be the case at the dawn of the kingdom age. All the regrowth as a result of reforestation and **'the desert blossoming as a rose'** (Isa. ch35), will help maintain the atmospheric balance and keep temperatures as God meant them to be at creation.

● A promise God has sworn to keep

● **"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer and day and night shall not cease."** Gen.8:22

In a covenant of promise from God through Noah He guarantees the continuation of the world's seasons and food supply (Gen.8:21-22). This is just further good news for this world and a people who at this stage in history can see **no way out** of this present time of trouble.

● Trees are not the biggest oxygen producers!

Rainforests and particularly the Amazon are sometimes referred to as 'the lungs of the earth'. This is really an overstatement as seaweed and phytoplankton produce up to 75% of the world's oxygen and absorb 25% of the world's carbon. There is a tendency to forget the incredible role of the world's oceans when discussing topics of an environmental nature. This could be one reason why the **perfect balance of oxygen and nitrogen** in the atmosphere has been maintained despite the huge deforestation that man has indulged in over the years. Only slight changes in the oxygen level can have disastrous effects on human life. Oddly enough the bad farming practices of today which allow fertiliser runoff into the oceans have had the effect of increasing the growth of oxygen producing sea grasses, hence slightly offsetting some of the effects of past land clearing.