

REASONS

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Hope Amid the Noise

By Anastasia Young



On a flight a few months ago, I sat next to a young father, Dan. After exchanging pleasantries, Dan began telling me about his two-year-old son, clearly his pride and joy.

When I asked, “Do you want to have more kids?” Dan’s demeanor changed. His brow furrowed. “No. I absolutely do not want to bring more children into this world,” he said. “Climate change is real, and 20 years from now the whole planet might be starving. *I am truly terrified for my son’s future.*”

Sensing an opportunity, I commented that my boss, Dr. Hugh Ross, had just finished a book on climate change. Dan’s curiosity was sparked. “What does he have to say about it?”

I explained that Hugh is both a Christian and a PhD scientist, and then went on to share how Hugh’s book looks deep into Earth’s climate history, which has been anything but stable—that is, until more recently.

Only in the last several thousand years, I told him, has Earth experienced the climate stability

that humans have benefited from and grown accustomed to. But, I added, conditions do change—and have, as the data verifies. Before I could say more, Dan began to protest, “But we’ve done this to the planet! We’ve brought this on with our own carelessness!”

“Yes and no,” I said, pointing out that Earth’s climate stability was never *intended* to last forever. I pointed out that while we have the power to do damage, we also have the power, with God’s help, to undo it, to extend a livable climate for some time.

Settling back into his seat, Dan replied, “That gives me hope.”

His response affirms that through RTB, you are addressing one of the greatest and most desperate needs of our day, the need for hope. And you are equipping me and many others to experience 1 Peter 3:15: “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect . . .”



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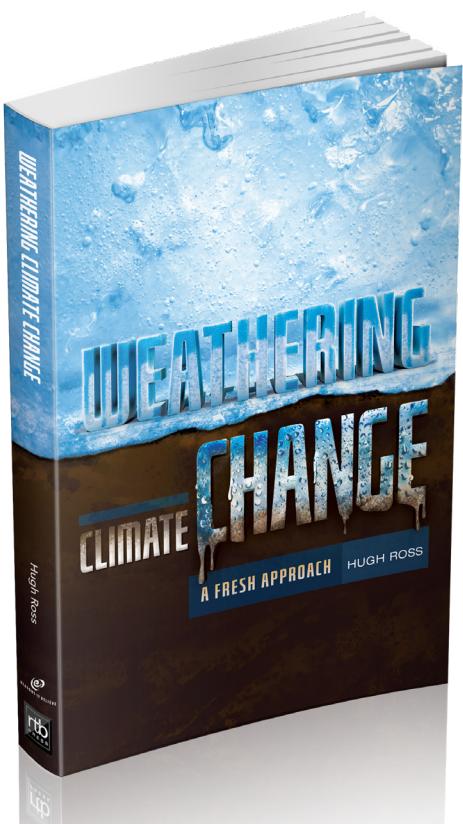
An Inside Look at Weathering Climate Change

A Conversation with Hugh Ross



Q: With all the emotion surrounding the topic of climate change, what motivated you to jump into the mix with a book about it?

A: Two things prompted me to write this book: For one, significant information has been missing from all the discussion and debate I've heard or read on this subject thus far, information that demands careful thought. For another, I found that a detailed history of Earth's climate provides dramatic new evidence of the exquisite fine-tuning of our planet, fine-tuning that points to God's redemptive purpose and plan for humanity.



Q: What are some of the biggest obstacles you've observed to rational consideration and dialogue about climate change until now?

A: It's difficult to have a balanced conversation when parties hold tenaciously to polarizing views. Reactions to research data on the topic have ranged from dismissive skepticism that change is occurring and accusations that scientists are lying to the public to overwhelmed alarmism and aggressive demands for immediate, drastic action.

Q: What is one of the more important, perhaps unexpected, points you want the reader to take away from reading your book?

A: I want to offer solid evidence that the climate stability we've experienced since the dawn of human civilization is actually the exception, not the norm, for our planet. Climate stability cannot be taken for granted as something permanent, as a God-given right. Rather, it appears to be a God-given gift for a specific time, with a clear intent.

Q: Some people say that we must save the planet at all costs for the sake of all life on Earth. Others view the planet as temporary, anyway, and believe our focus should be on maintaining the quality of life we've come

to enjoy. As a scientist and a Christian, which of these sides do you find yourself on?

A: My view is that we don't need to "pick a side" and fight one another. According to Genesis, we are stewards over the home God created for us, charged with managing it for the benefit of all life. In my book, I suggest some surprising and practical ways we might be able to extend climate stability for everyone's benefit—economically and ethically, as well as spiritually.

Q: Any final thoughts as to what makes *Weathering Climate Change* stand out from the many other books on this topic?

A: My goal is to bring a fresh perspective to the controversy, one that accounts for both human nature and divine wisdom, one that helps the reader discover the potential for both realism and hope in the face of this environmental challenge.

You can receive *Weathering Climate Change* as a thank-you for your gift this month. Visit give.reasons.org or use the enclosed form to make your gift and request your copy today.

"RTB has provided personal growth spiritually and intellectually. The materials are gifts I give to others and wonderful tools to open dialogues that gently lead to faith discussions. And what better time to give than when the world faces a pandemic. . . . That's where faith becomes vibrant!"

-Michael Luchtenburg, Monthly Partner

Your partnership and dedication are invaluable. This crisis has been financially difficult for so many, which is why we are praising God for those of you who have stepped up to help us through this uncertain time—especially our Monthly Partners. To join this special group, visit reasons.org/MonthlyPartners



If science solves problems during times of crisis, what good is Christianity?

In the midst of the SARS-CoV-2 outbreak, we see clear advances in the medical field that are helping to keep the public safe and healthy. While the effect of Christianity on public health might be less visible, science and Christianity work together to benefit humankind. The primary goal of science is to seek answers to questions in the world so that we might develop new technologies to benefit society. By contrast, the heart of Christianity is to cultivate a relationship with the Creator of the universe, which influences how Christians interact with and care for all of creation.

As exemplified in the life of Jesus, two fundamental tenets of Christianity are that each individual has inherent worth and that Christ-followers are called to care for the sick and vulnerable. While upholding these values is a perpetual calling in the Christian life, these concepts have also been adopted as motivating forces throughout the medical field. Only when we couple the innovation of science with a Christlike love for humanity can we create a healthy and safe environment in which human beings can flourish.

—Fazale Rana

For more on this topic, visit
reasons.org/why-christianity?

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How can Christians disagree over topics like human origins?

People who are committed to seeking the truth can and often do disagree with one another. This is due to the fact that there are multiple possible explanations for any given set of data. People who acknowledge this underdetermination of theories often qualify their acknowledgment by adding that observational and empirical data can rule out certain theories as inconsistent with the data.

Yet the underdetermination of theories also means there will always be theories in conflict that are empirical equivalents. This means that they both account for the empirical data, but they do so differently. Some theories may require more ad hoc (unevidenced) assumptions or additions to fit the same data into one or more plausible theories.

As Christians, we should be committed to showing Christlike character marked by respect and humility as we pursue and help others pursue truth. In light of this underdetermination and empirical equivalents, humility and respect are especially significant when we disagree on important topics like reconciling scientific data and biblical accounts of human origins.

—AJ Roberts

For more on this topic, visit
reasons.org/how-christians-disagree