

# How Corrupted Science Produces False Eschatology: A Look at the So-Called Climate Crisis

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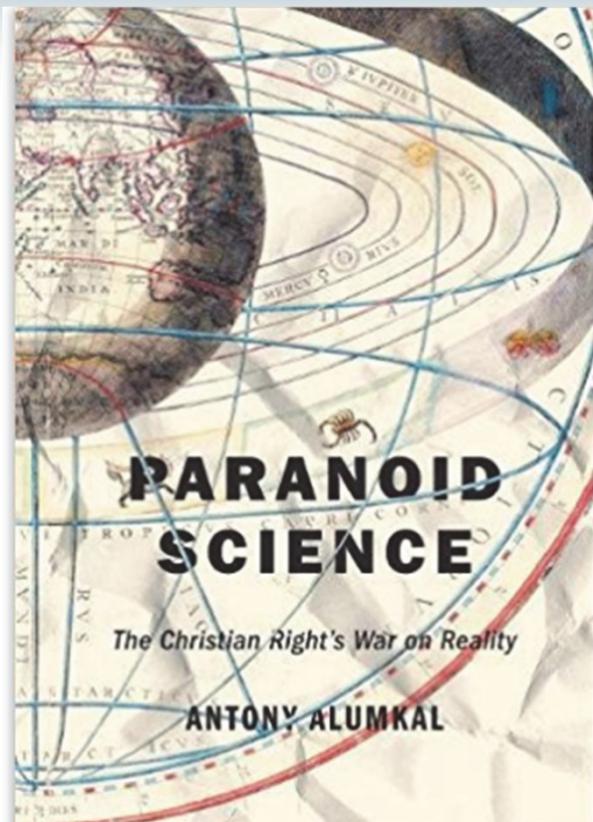
# Visual Presentation of the Paper's Main Points - 1

- **Introduction: the climate controversy today**
- **Biblical foundation & what uncorrupted science looks like**
- **Biblical cosmology & true eschatology**

# Visual Presentation of the Paper's Main Points - 2

- **How “post-normal science” has corrupted “normal science”**
- **How “post-fall” longings of the heart breed desperate hopes**
- **Conclusion: corrupted science + desperate hopes produces a false global eschatology**

# The Big Bad White Evangelical Climate Deniers!



**ANTONY ALUMKAL**  
Assistant Professor of  
Sociology of Religion

**ILIFF SCHOOL OF  
THEOLOGY**  
Denver, CO



“white societies remain unaccountable for climate change”

“white evangelicals deny climate change because of their beliefs about providence and eschatology”

# Threats of Legal Force



**Sen. Sheldon  
Whitehouse (D, RI)**



**Former Attorney  
General Loretta  
Lynch**



**Sen. Barbara Boxer  
(D, CA)**

**Proposed prosecution of climate skeptics under RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act). Lynch referred it to the FBI to consider “whether or not it meets the criteria for which we could take action on.”**

# First Stage in the Rise of Science

## Biblical revelation through Israel on God, man, and nature (Gen 1-9)

**God:** Creator/creature distinction → personal intelligence and control over all = ecological contract

**Man:** alone in God's image as lord of nature → capacity to understand God's design and providential control via ecological contract

**Nature:** is God's handiwork → general (non-verbal) revelation interpreted by special revelation; synergistic with man

# Second Stage in the Rise of Science

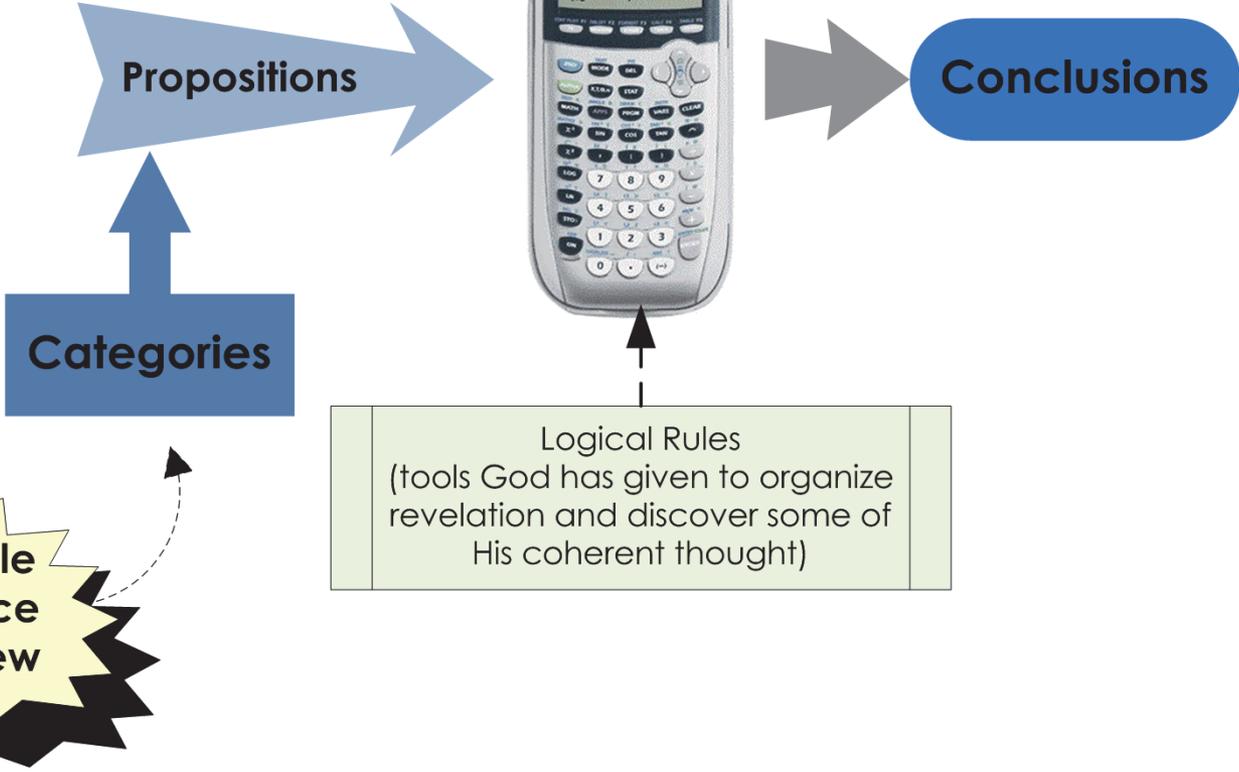
**Biblical revelation through Israel spreads out to the Gentile nations including Greece**

**“In a forthcoming book. . . I will deal with the origins of the new ways of thinking which seem suddenly to appear among the Greeks in the early sixth century B.C. . . .The roots of this movement can be traced in the earlier literature of Israel. . . .We have in Qoheleth [Ecclesiastes] some of the raw material on which the earliest Greek philosophers built their metaphysical structures.”**

W. F. Albright, *Yahweh and the Gods of Canaan* (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1968)

# Tools & Limitations of Reason

“Reason” is merely a calculating machine, not a legislator of reality



# Third Stage in the Rise of Science

## **The Christian Church during the Medieval Period**

**57 Universities** founded between 1088 & 1477 to study literature and nature

**First early scientists:** Albertus Magnus, (botany); Roger Bacon (math, astronomy, optics, thermodynamics); William of Ockham (astronomy, law of momentum); etc.

**Natural philosophy:** critiquing past authorities including the Bible

# Fourth Stage in the Rise of Science

## The Protestant Reformation

**“Sola Scriptura”** would eventually lead to a collision with natural philosophy in studies of the ancient past

**Luther** popularized the concept of “vocation” over the old division between “secular” and “sacred” pursuits

With the **printing press** and the **Bible** translated into the popular language of the people → special revelation spread widely

# Summary: Uncorrupted Science

**A Purpose: to learn about God's design & providence for man's place, security, and thriving in the universe (Psalm 19:1-6; Pro 25:2)**

**Required intellectual tools: rules of logic, capacity to classify to feed logical thinking**

**Time & money: to support vocational science's empirical-based search for truth**

**Ethical integrity: to honestly communicate findings to other scientists and supporters**

# Cosmology & Eschatology

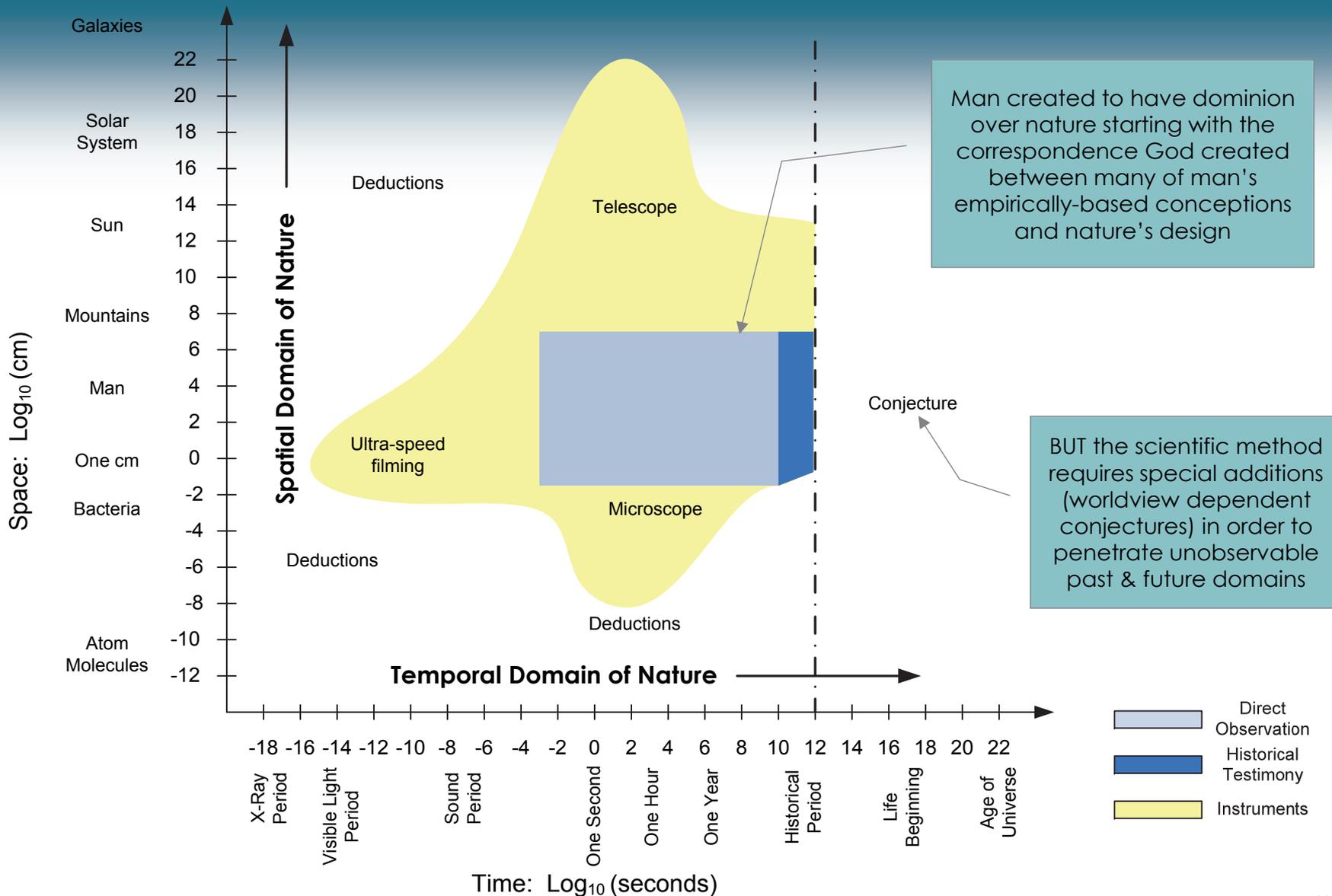
**Cosmology & Eschatology are universal for man (Eccles 3:10)**

**The problem of evil in both man and nature: why? How to mitigate?**

**The problem of destiny: how did we come about? What lies beyond the grave?**

**A cosmology includes origins and future destiny universe**

# Limits of Empirical Knowledge



# Biblical cosmology & true eschatology

**Special Revelation  
on Origins:  
Genesis 1-9**



**Special Revelation  
on End Times:  
Prophetic literature**

***Can accommodationism in Genesis 1-9  
co-exist with Premillennialism?***

# What is “Post Normal Science”?

**“A new concept of science was introduced by Funtowicz and Ravetz during the 1990s. . . .The concept of post-normal science goes beyond the traditional assumptions. . . .The exercise of scholarly activities is defined by the dominance of goal orientation where scientific goals are controlled by political or social actors. . . .The guiding principle of normal science—the goal of achieving factual knowledge—must be modified to fit the post-normal principle. . . .For this purpose, post-normal scientists should be capable of establishing extended peer communities and allow for ‘extended facts’ from non-scientific experts. . . .Scientists have to contribute to society by learning as quickly as possible about different perceptions. . . .instead of seeking deep ultimate knowledge.”**

Eva Kunseler , Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, the Hague

# Summary: ~~Uncorrupted Science~~

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# Vulnerability of “Time & Money” requirement for science



President Dwight  
Eisenhower

**“Partly because of the huge costs involved, a government contract becomes virtually a substitute for intellectual curiosity. . . .The prospect of domination of the nation’s scholars by federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present and is gravely to be regarded.”**

*Farewell Address, 1961*

# Climate Science as corrupted science



**Mike Hulme, Professor of Climate Change at the University of East Anglia (site of “climategate” scandal)**

**Co-writer on post-normal science with Jerome Ravetz as a methodology to be used when “facts are uncertain, values in dispute, stakes high and decisions urgent”**

**“Disputes in post-normal science focus. . .on the process of science—who gets funded, who evaluates quality, who has the ear of policy. . .The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a classic example of a post-normal science activity.” Mike Hulme, *Why We Disagree About Global Warming*.**

# Climate Science as corrupted science



**Mike Hulme, Professor of Climate Change at the University of East Anglia (site of “climategate” scandal)**

**“Self-evidently’ dangerous climate change will not emerge from a normal scientific process of truth-seeking. . .scientists—and politicians—must trade truth for influence. . . .The function**

**of climate change. . .really is not about stopping climate chaos. Instead, we need to see how we can use the idea of climate change. . .to rethink how we take forward our political, social, economic, and personal projects over the decades to come. . . .We need to ask not what we can do for climate change, but. . .what climate change can do for us. . . .Climate change has become ‘the mother of all issues’, the key narrative within which all environmental politics—from global to local—is now framed.”**

# Normal climate science facts

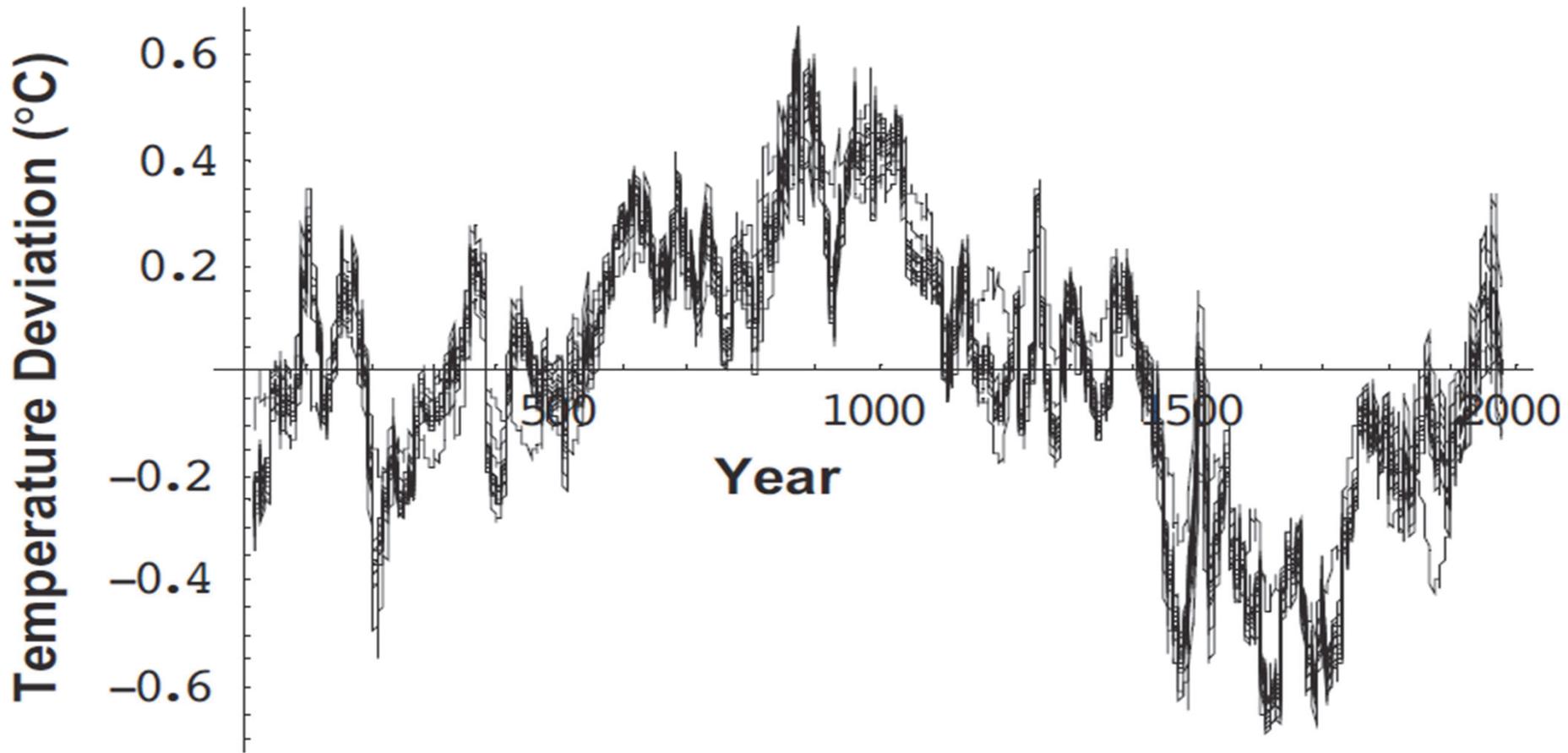
**“The most basic fact about earth’s climate has been nearly forgotten: that warming and cooling trends are quite common. . . . Beginning sometime in the eighth century, the earth began to heat up, producing what now is known as the Medieval Warm Period, which lasted from about 800 to about 1250. As temperatures rose, the growing period lengthened all across northern Europe; the Arctic ice pack receded, making it much safer to sail in the North Atlantic; and it became possible to farm successfully as far north as Greenland.”**

Rodney Stark, *How the West Won: the Neglected Story of the Triumph of Modernity*

# Climate Changes from Historical Records

- **200 B.C. to A.D. 500 Roman “warm period”**
- **500 to 900 Post-Roman “cooling period”**
- **900 to 1350 Medieval “warm period”**
- **1350 to 1850 “Little Ice Age”**
- **1850 to present “warming period”**

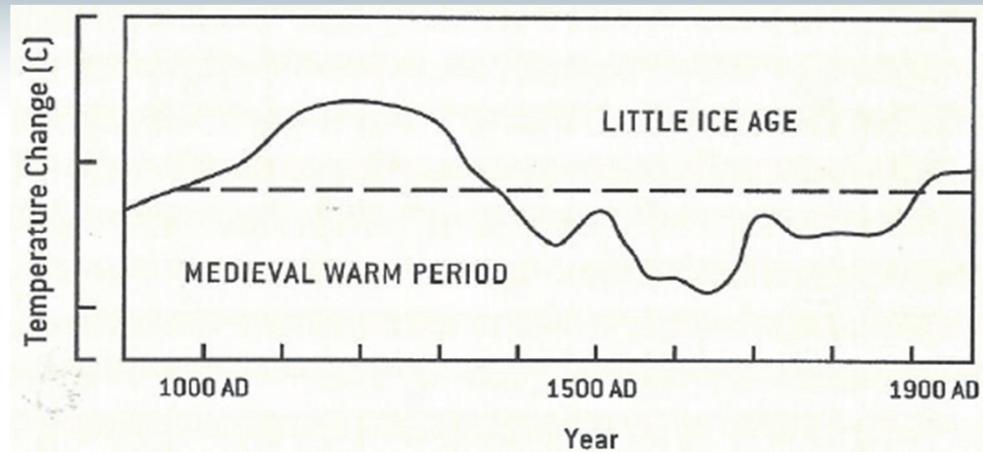
# Climate Changes from “Proxy” Data



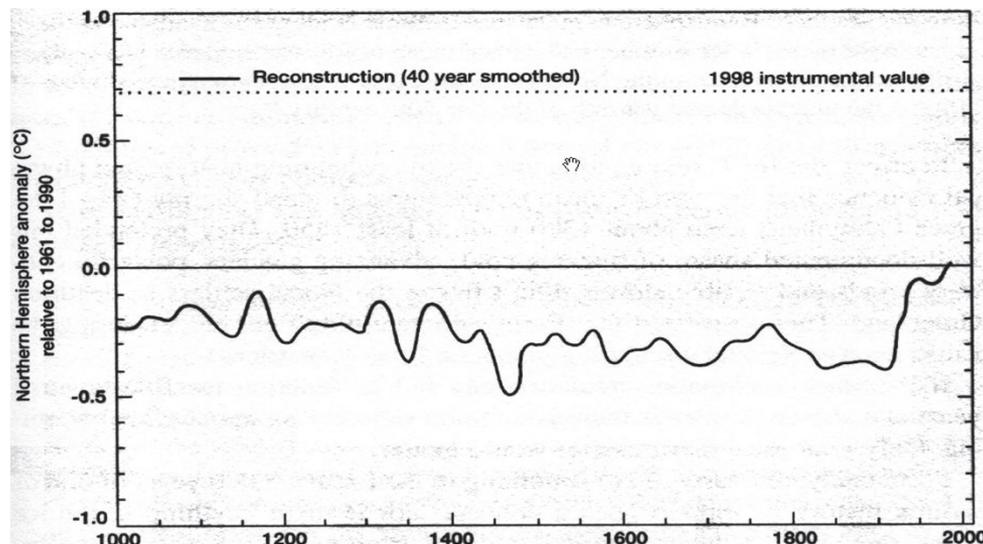
Craig Loehle, “A 2000-year Global Temperature Reconstruction. . . .” *Energy & Environment*, Vol 18, No 7 & 8 (2007), p 1053

# Suppressing the Medieval Warm Period (MWP)

**UN IPCC Report  
1990 “normal  
climate science”**



**UN IPCC Report  
2001 with the  
Mann’s hickey-stick  
correction (after  
“post-normal  
climate science”  
began**



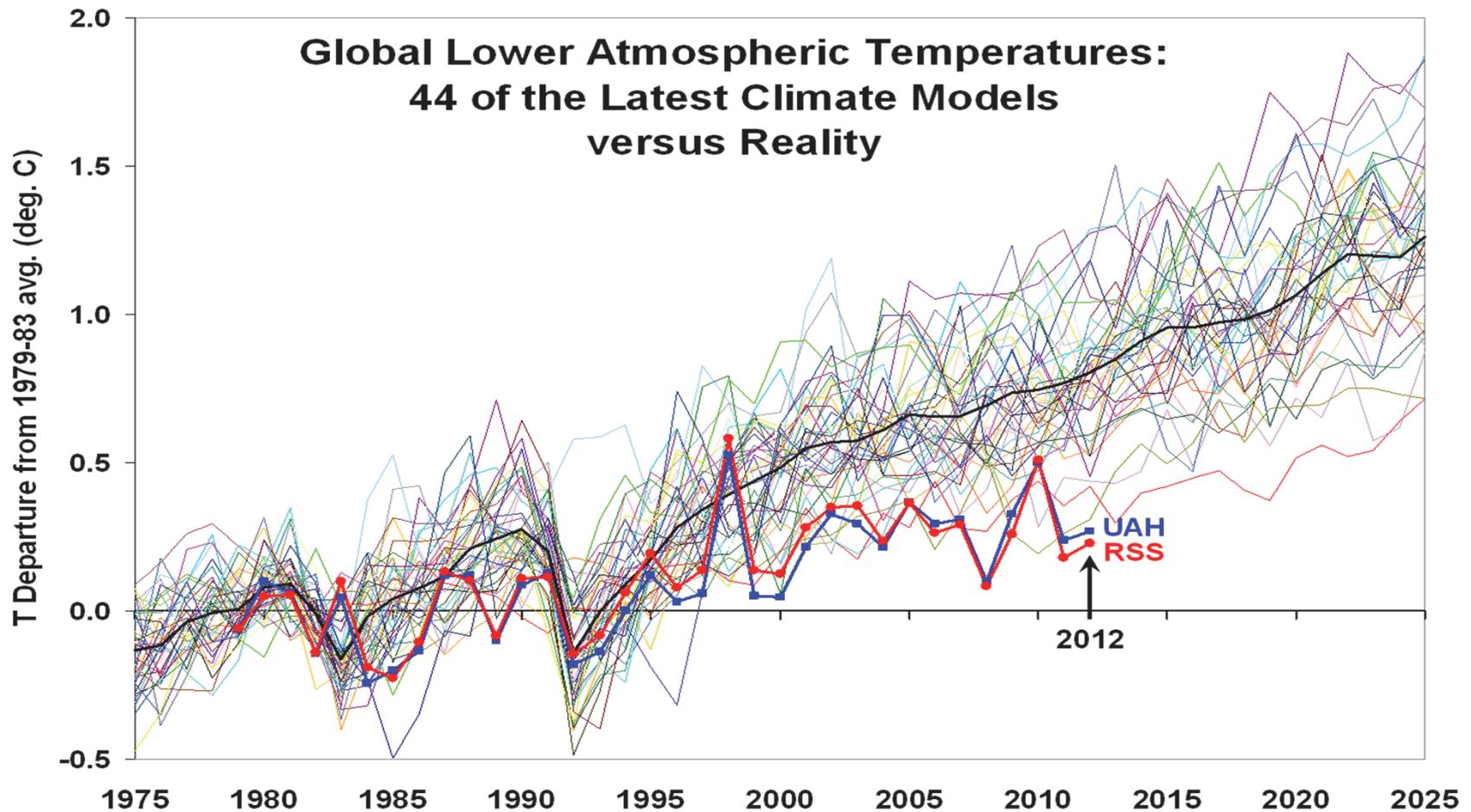
# The “Climate-gate” scandal at the East Anglia Climate Research Unit



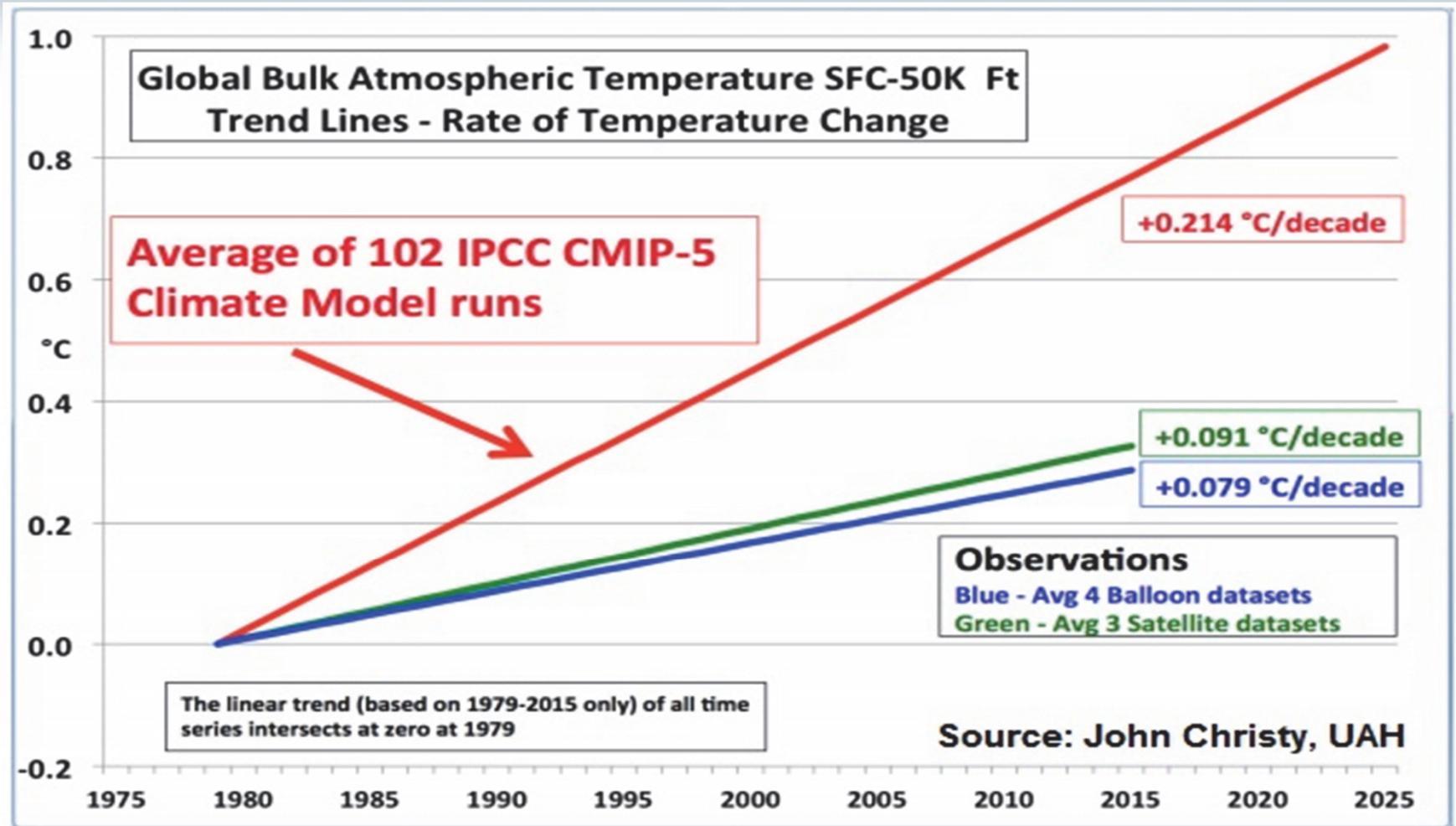
Dr. Michael Mann  
Director of the Earth System  
Science Center at Penn  
State University

From a hacked email from Dr. Mann to a colleague: **“we should encourage our colleagues in the climate research community to no longer submit to, or cite papers in this journal. We would also need to consider what we tell or request of our more reasonable colleagues who currently sit on the editorial board.”**

# Climate Models vs Data



# Climate Models vs Data



# Post-Normal corruption of climate science summary

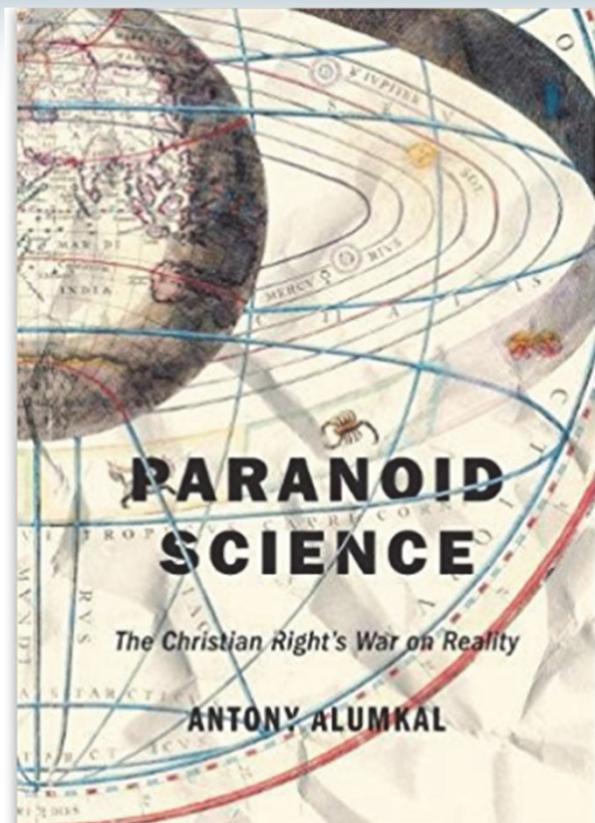
**Purpose:** “The goal of achieving factual knowledge—must be modified to fit the post-normal principle where scientific goals are controlled by political or social actors”

**Required Intellectual tools:** Dissenting views of climate change regardless of their satisfying the rules of logic and classification will be suppressed by surreptitious editorial policies and by force if necessary

**Time & Money:** Political control of funding and job security keep climate scientists “in line”

**Ethical integrity:** “Scientists must trade truth for influence.”

# Post-Fall longings breed desperate hopes



**“White evangelicals deny climate change because of their beliefs about providence and eschatology”**

**Deny climate change??**

**War on Reality??**

**Since the fall everyone—apart from God’s grace—has a war on reality!**

# Post-Fall longings breed desperate hopes

***The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. . . .And then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. Genesis 2:8-9,15***

***At that time you were without Christ. . . having no hope and without God in the world. Eph 2:12***

***And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth” Gen 11:4***

# The urge to return to Eden via a new religion that elevates nature over man

**“Twenty years from now, we will admire the policy tapestry that you have woven together. . .and think back to the inspiration of Ixchel.”**

Christiana Figueres, Former Secretary of the UN Framework Convention, 2010 invocation at Cancun, Mexico conference on the Kyoto Protocol



**“The fate of mankind, as well as of religion, depends upon the emergence of a new faith in the future. Armed with such a faith, we might find it possible *to resanctify the earth.*”**

Al Gore, *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit* (1992)

# Ancient climate-centered Baalism

**“Baal dies every summer under. . .heat and drought. Baal, however, with the help of sexual and bloody rituals practiced by his worshipers, comes back to life to defeat Mot for the cooler autumn weather and the fall rains. . . .Baal nature worship was completely with regard to sexual mysticism on one hand, but overly strict, harsh, and severe on the other hand with regard to ascetic practices. . . .Much energy and riches were spent in the promotion and practices of the cult. Israel wasted its wealth. . .on the worship of Baal.”**

Mark Musser, *Nazi Oaks* (Private printing, 2015), 67

# The 19<sup>th</sup> century Romantic movement against Genesis 1:26-28

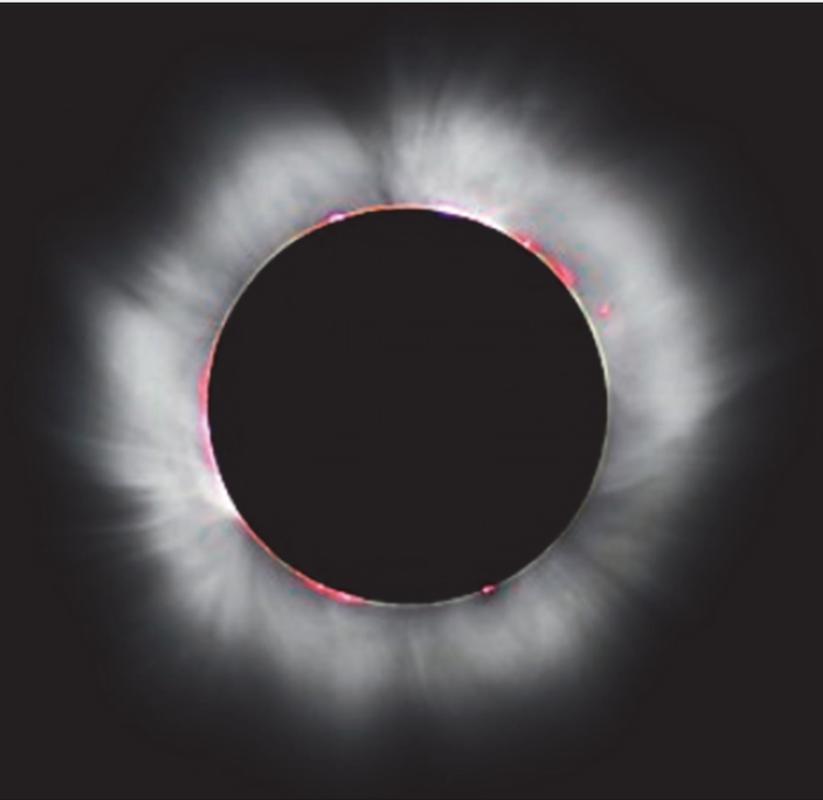
**“Before one cut a tree, mined a mountain, or dammed a brook, it was important to placate the spirit in charge of that particular situation, and keep it placated. By destroying pagan animism, Christianity made it possible to exploit nature in a mood of indifference to the feelings of natural objects. . . .”**

Lynn White, Jr. cited in *Nazi Oaks*

**“Romantics of the early green movement and modern environmentalists believe that such behavior. . .led directly to western man’s unbridled dominion over nature and its subsequent ecological degradation.”**

Mark Musser, *Nazi Oaks* (Private printing, 2015), 79

# Desperate Hopes for a New Edenic Environment



**“When our wills intervene [with our God-consciousness] so that our hearts are put in the shadow, we do not cut off all of its influence, we only render that influence dreadful to ourselves.”**

J Budziszewski, *What We Can't Not Know*, 161

# The Earth Charter's Ark of Hope



***My hope is that this Charter will be a kind of Ten Commandments, a 'Sermon on the Mount', that provides a guide for human behavior toward the environment in the next century."***  
- Mikhail Gorbachev

# Enviro-Pagan Worship in NYC



# The False Global Eschatology



Ernest Sternberg,  
sociologist, University of  
Buffalo, NY

“We are in the midst of the worldwide rise of a non-religious chiliastic movement, which preaches global human renewal and predicts apocalypse as its alternative. Like its twentieth century predecessors, the new ideology provides an intellectual formula through which to identify the present world’s depredations, imagines

a pure new world that eliminates them, and mobilizes the disaffected and alienated for the sake of radical change.”

“Purifying the World,” *Orbis* 54:1, 61

# The False Global Eschatology

“This outlook even contains a concept of historical change: the agents of change will be networked bunds called “social movements.” Millions around the world already find this dogma so persuasive that it shapes their politics. For some, this dogma functions as did the fanatical ideologies of the past, as a guide to life’s meaning and an inspiration for fanatical commitment and self-sacrifice. . . . One of the more prominent recent commentators to say that a new totalitarian movement is afoot is Bernard-Henri Le´vy, a French author. . . . A self-described man of the Left. . . . [But he] is distressed at the changes in the Left. . . . [It] is being replaced by a degenerate version. . . .”

# The False Global Eschatology

“He sees in this Zombie Left or New Barbarism (two of his several epithets) the essence of totalitarian thought: the dogmatic belief that we are living in a time of cataclysmic conflict between, on the one hand, the shining and just society that humanity could bring about; and on the other, the filthy and exploitative order under which humanity now labors. . . . And since this makes for quite a large enemy, Le´vy points out, the new ideologues’ hatred must be focused against something more concrete. The larger concrete enemy is the United States; the smaller but even more demonic one is Israel.”

Sternberg, *Orbis*, 62-63.

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