

Big Questions - Any Answers?

Giving a Christian perspective on topical science issues

website bigquestions-anyanswers.org

email bigquestions2017@gmail.com

Facebook [bigQuestions2017](https://www.facebook.com/bigQuestions2017)

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NorthEast

CALL TO ACTION

on global poverty and climate change

(Make Poverty History North East)



“Climate Change – Is it real? And does it matter?”

Dr David Golding CBE
Associate, Institute for Sustainability
Newcastle University



Zewdie Tamirat
attempts
a smile
for the
cameraman.



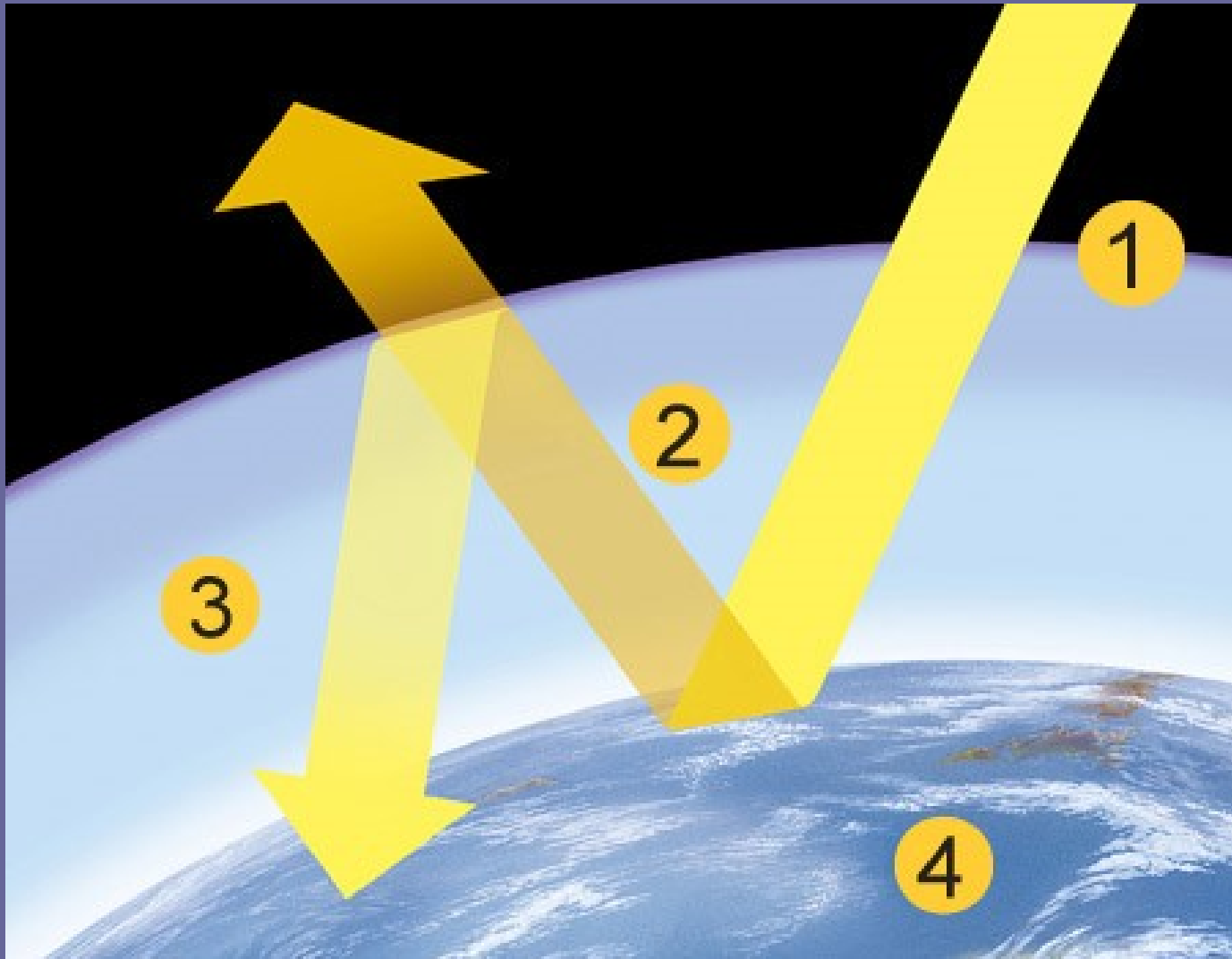
**“Climate Change –
Is it real? And does it matter?”**

**a) The strength of the
scientific consensus**

**“Climate Change –
Is it real? And does it matter?”**

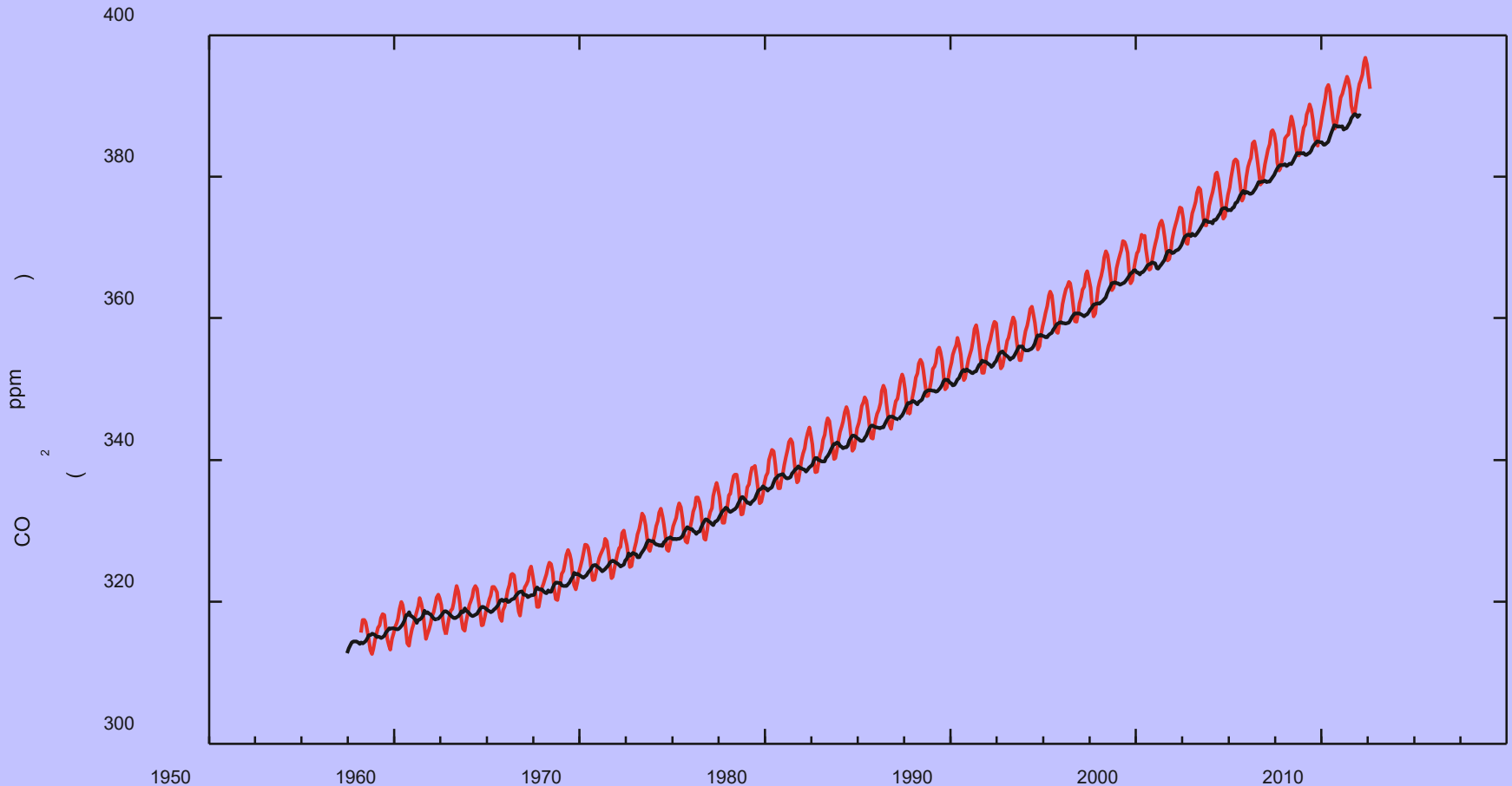
**b) The basis for the
consensus”**

Greenhouse gas effect



Rise in atmospheric CO₂ concentration (ppm)

- from <320 in 1958 to >390 in 2014

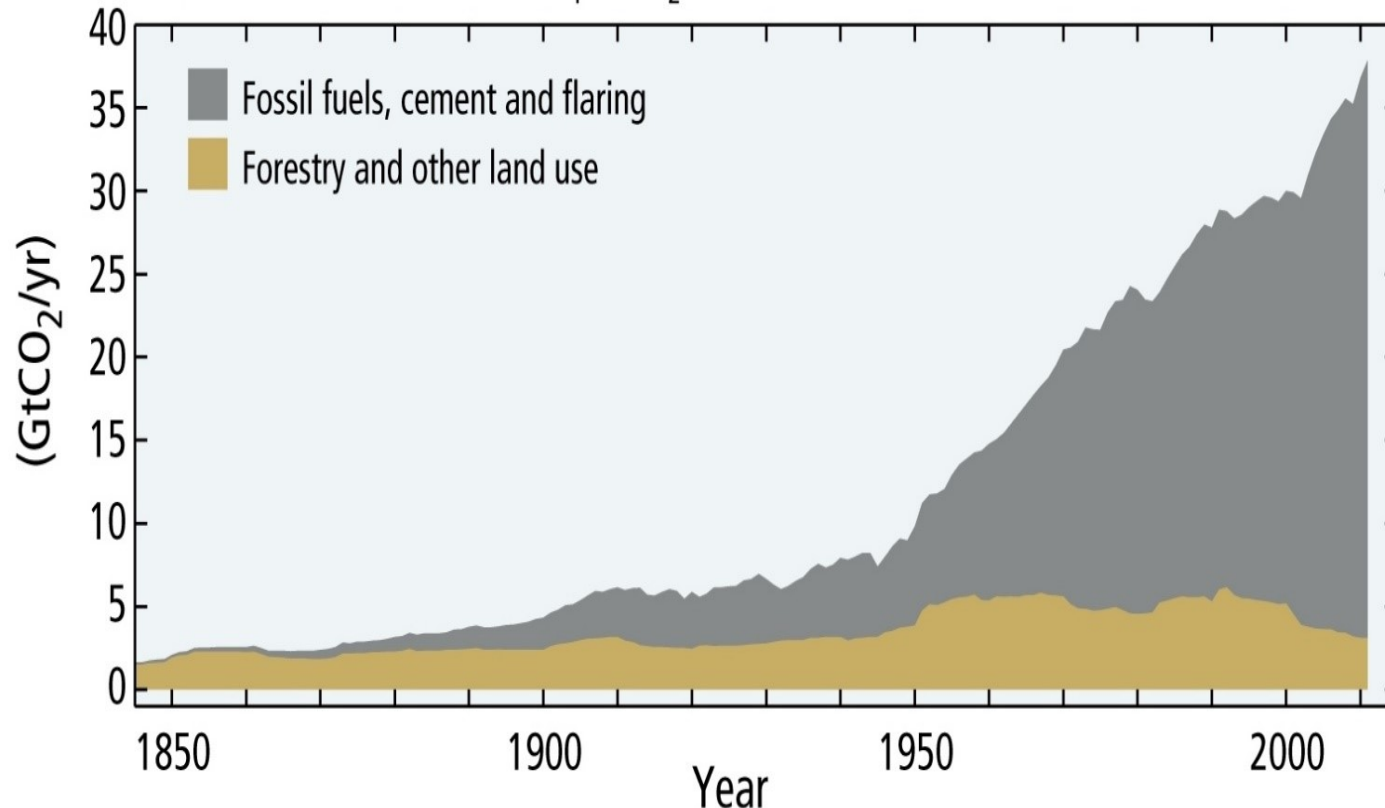


Rise in CO₂ emissions since 1950

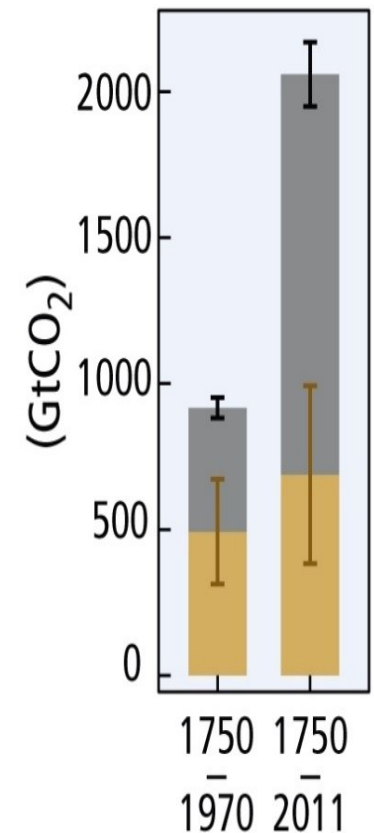
(d)

Global anthropogenic CO₂ emissions

Quantitative information of CH₄ and N₂O emission time series from 1850 to 1970 is limited

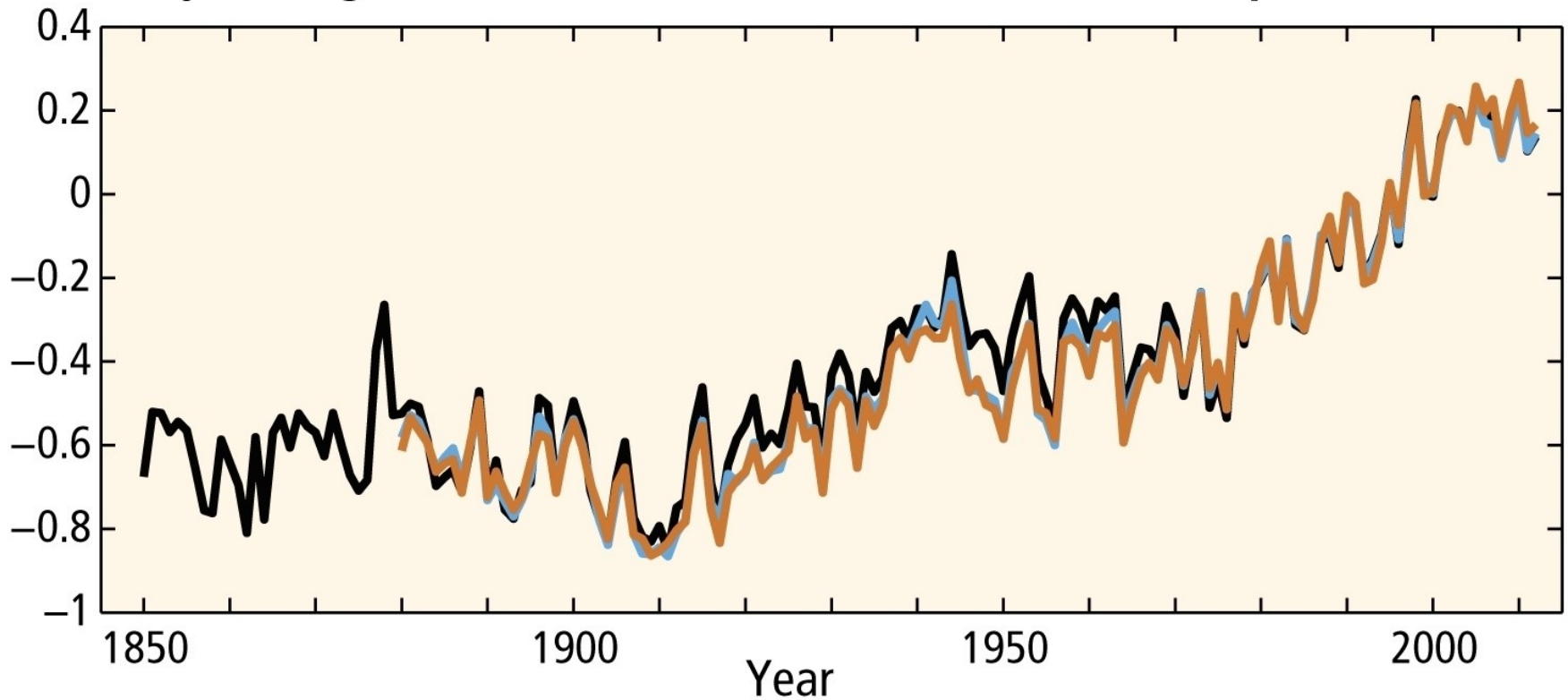


Cumulative CO₂ emissions

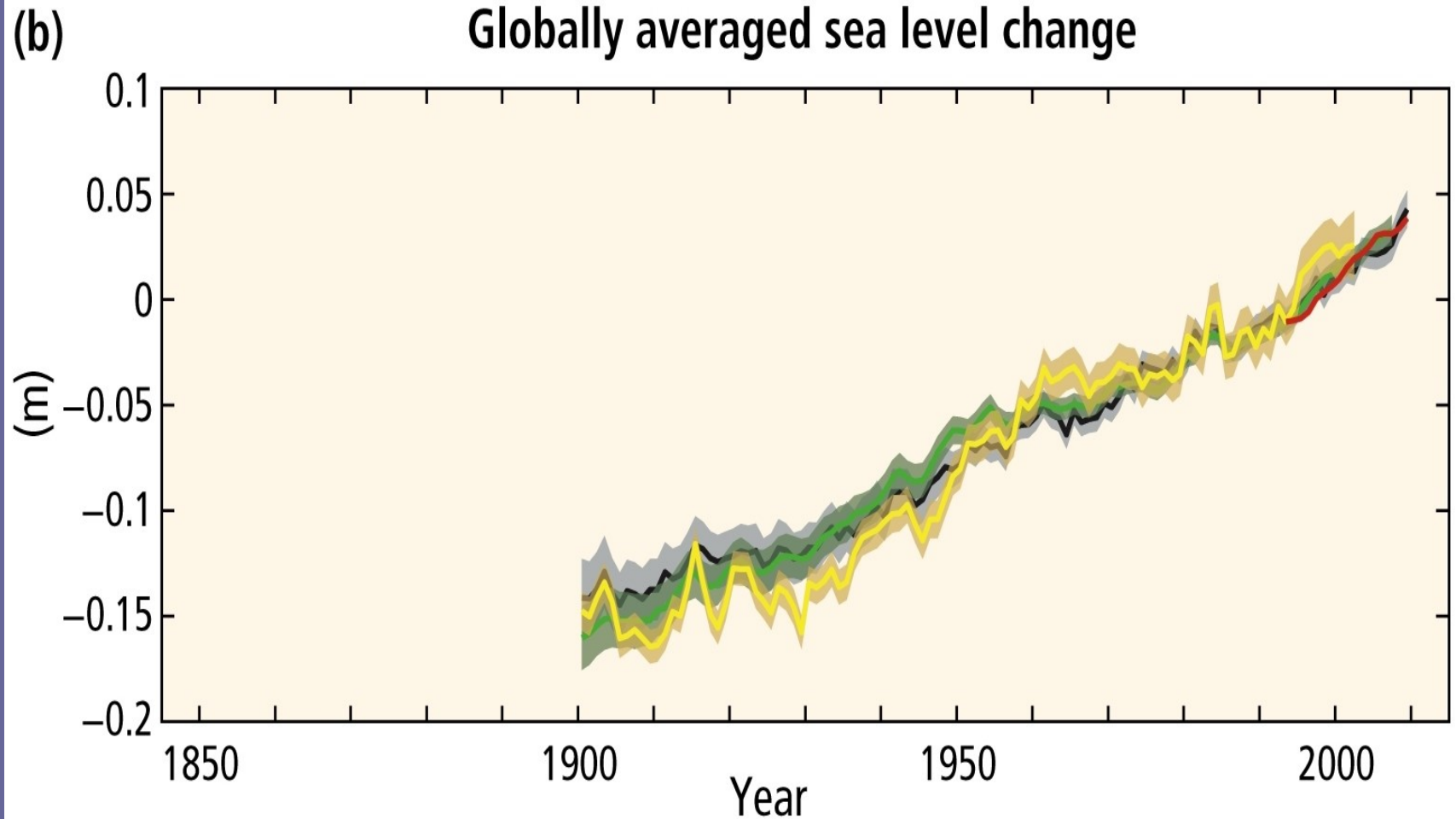


Rise in global temperatures

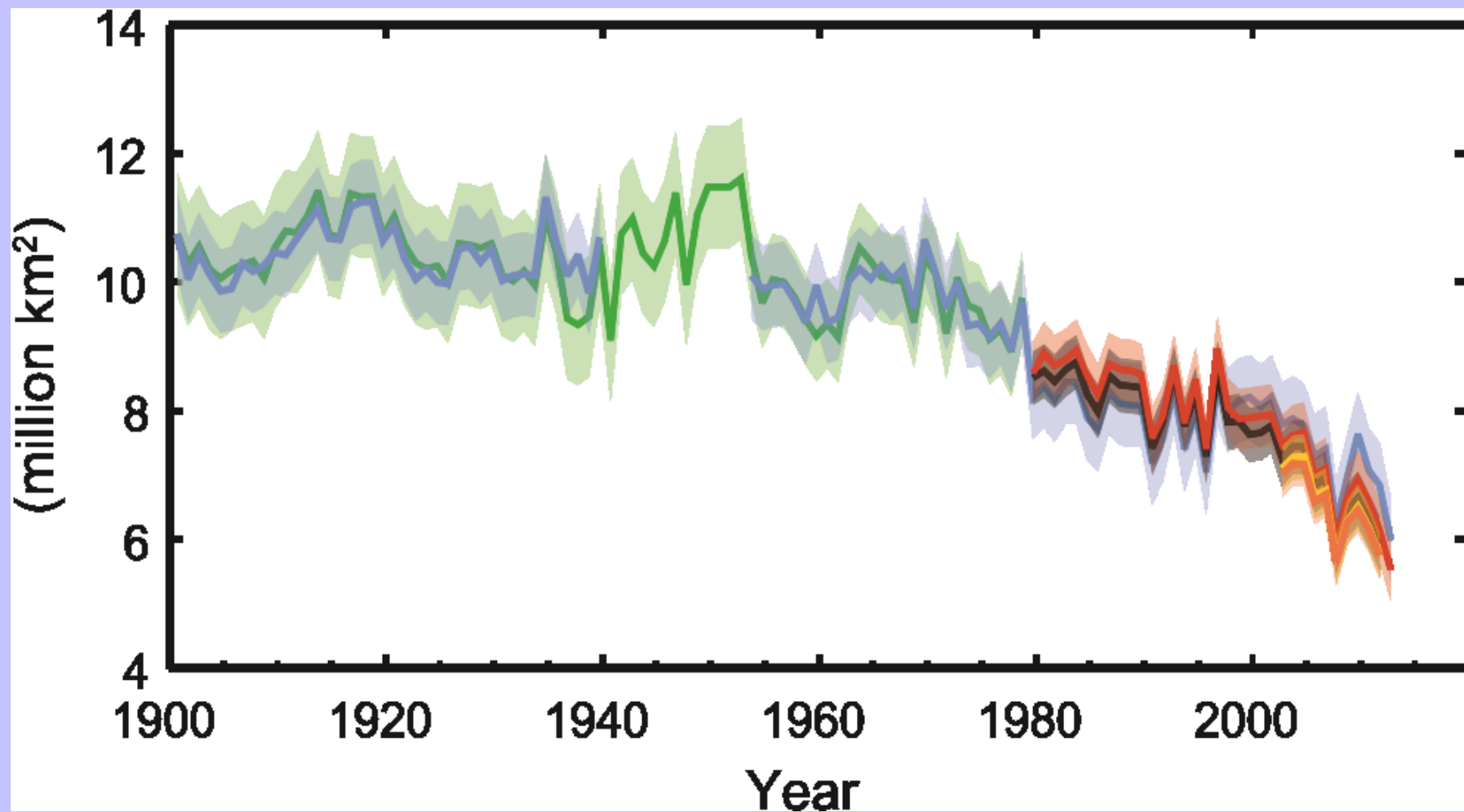
Globally averaged combined land and ocean surface temperature anomaly



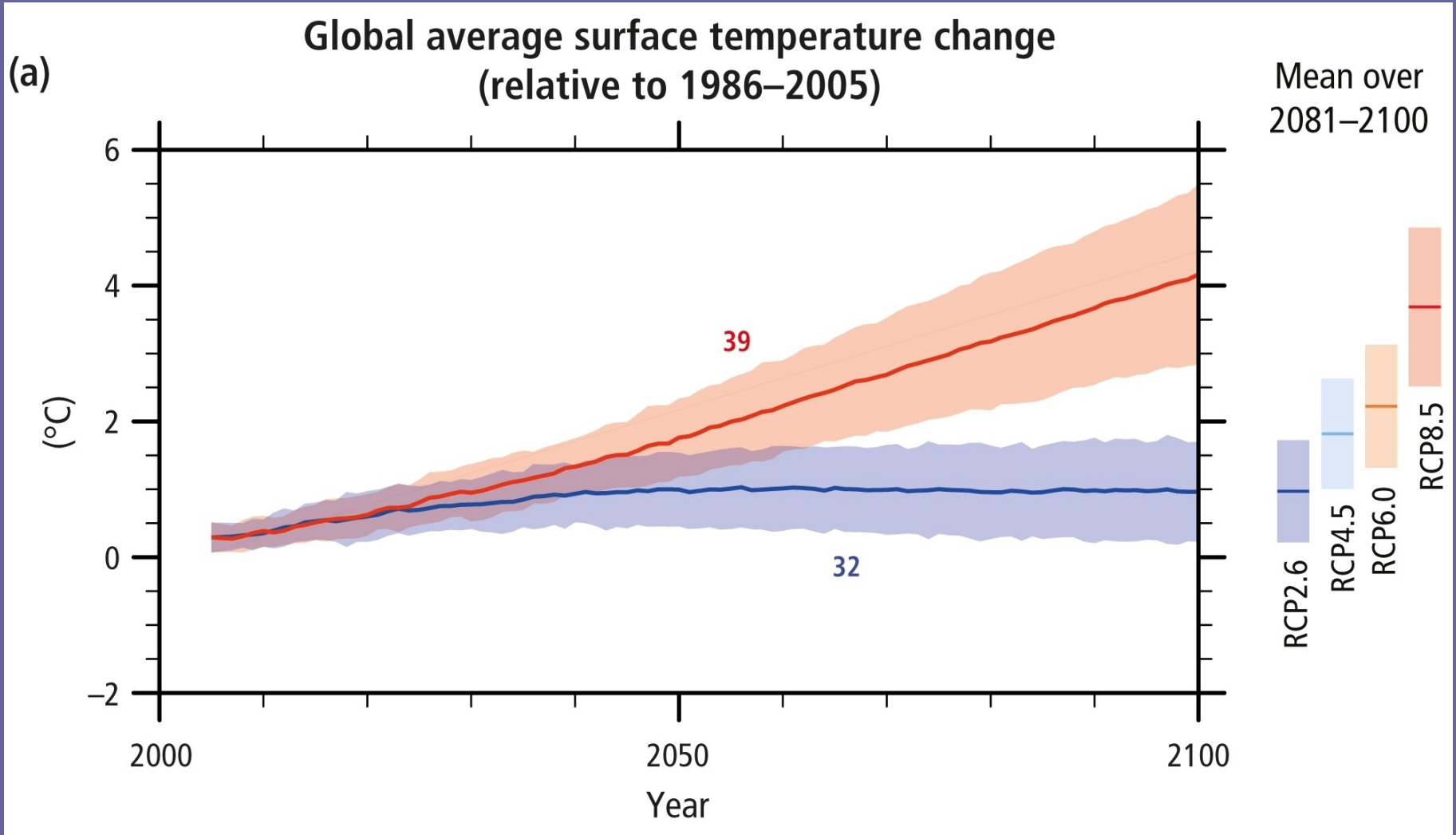
Rise in sea levels



Loss of arctic sea ice

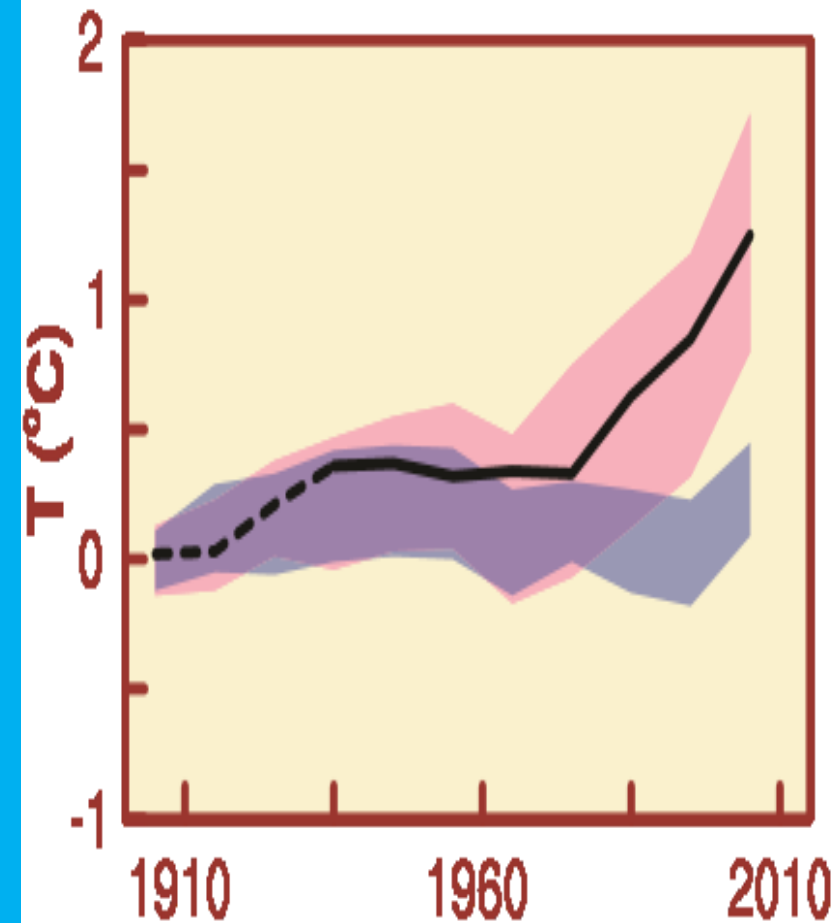


Predicted global warming

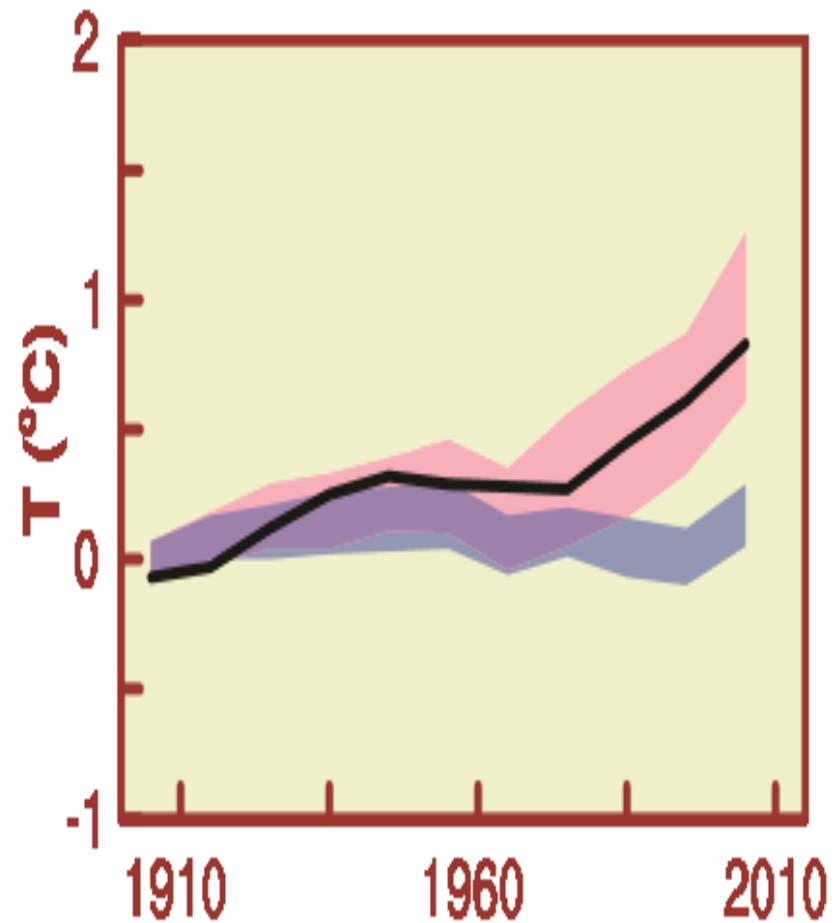


CO₂ – a crucial ingredient!

Land surface



Land and ocean surface



**“Climate Change –
Is it real? And does it matter?”**

c) Climate scepticism

Conclusion:

Only the greenhouse gas effect accounts for global warming



Sir David Attenborough's reaction when these results first came out?

"I used to be sceptical – I am sceptical no longer. I no longer have any doubt at all."

Note: the greenhouse gas effect of CO_2 has been clearly demonstrated in laboratory experiments going back to the 19th century – it's a 'property of matter'.

‘Climate scepticism’

“What’s this Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, anyway?!”

- The 5th Report of the IPCC consisted of three parts. The first part, published in 2013, included approximately 2,500 pages of text and drew on millions of observations;
- Over 9,200 *bona fide* scientific publications were cited; it was produced by 259 authors and review editors, who received the help of 600 contributing authors and received comments from many hundreds of expert reviewers;
- The Report was signed off by *all the world’s governments!*

That’s what – nothing much!

‘Climate scepticism’

“Many recent assaults on climate science... by climate change deniers are typically driven by special interests or dogma, not by an honest effort to provide an alternative theory that credibly satisfies the evidence”

(Statement by 255 members of the National Academy of Sciences USA, all with relevant scientific expertise, including 11 Nobel Prize winners, 2010).



CLIMATE SUMMIT

WHAT IF IT'S
A BIG HOAX AND
WE CREATE A BETTER
WORLD FOR NOTHING?

- ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
- PRESERVE RAINFORESTS
- SUSTAINABILITY
- GREEN JOBS
- LIVABLE CITIES
- RENEWABLES
- CLEAN WATER, AIR
- HEALTHY CHILDREN
- ETC. ETC.



12/19 USA TODAY

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PITT

**“Climate Change –
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d) Climate change – does it matter?

Global warming – Global warning

- *“Never have we faced a graver threat”* (Lord Robert May, President of the Royal Society, 2005).
- We will be facing *“massive rises in sea level, whole areas devastated by hurricanes and others turned into uninhabitable desert, forcing billions of [the poorest and most vulnerable] people to leave their homelands”* (Lord Nicholas Stern, 2009).
- Without urgent action, there’s a *“high to very high risk of severe, widespread, and irreversible impacts globally.”* (IPCC 2014)

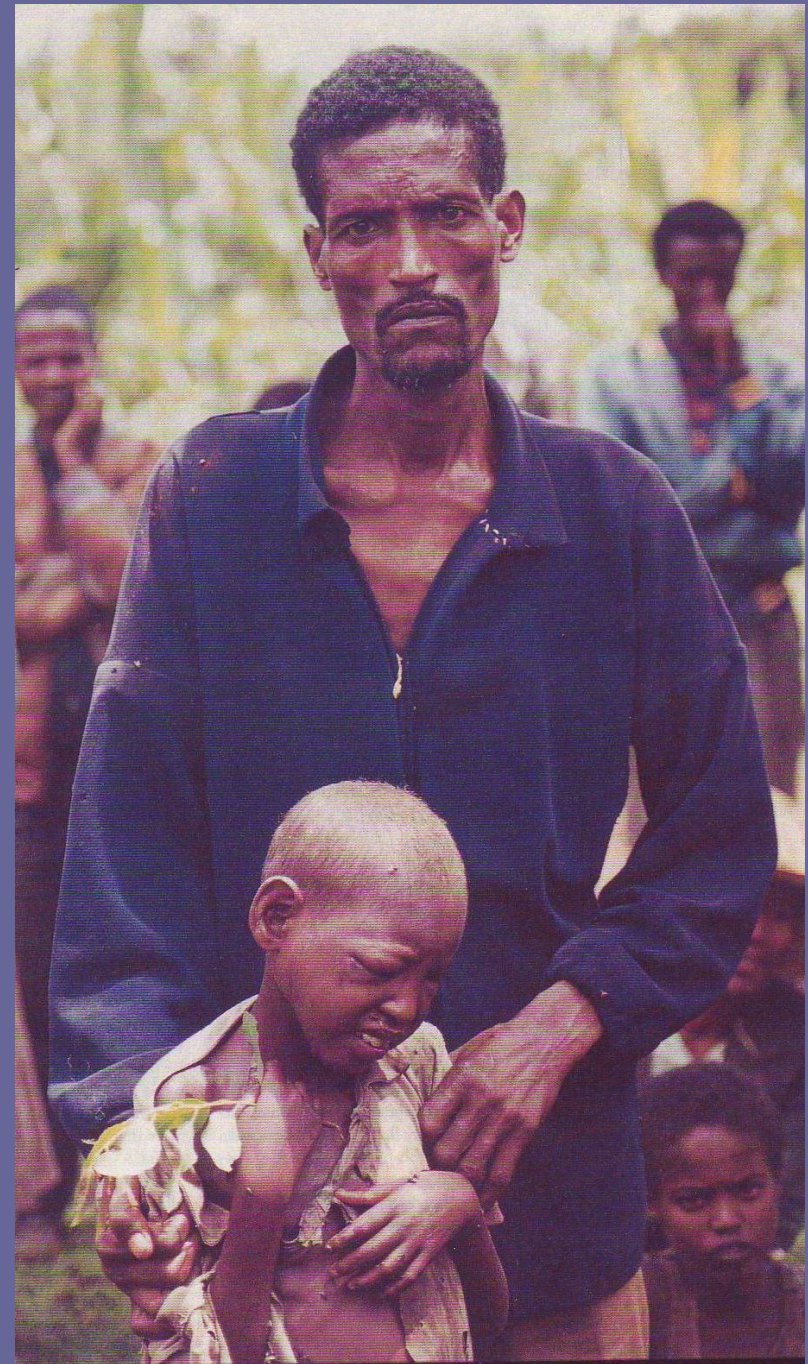
Global warming – Global warning

“I urge government, development and environmental organisations to work together to find sustainable solutions to avert a catastrophe that will exacerbate human suffering to a magnitude that perhaps the world has not yet seen.”

(Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

“Zewdie Tamirat’s eyes were swollen shut through malnutrition and her delicate skin was no longer able to mask the skeleton beneath...”

Pitiably, she attempted a smile for the cameraman.”





Nur Mohammed and family:
Rising sea levels have twice washed away
his fragile home in Bangladesh

*“How could I look
my grandchildren
in the eye and
say I knew about
this and did
nothing?”*

(Sir David
Attenborough)



**“Climate Change –
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**d) Climate change – does it
matter to the Christian Church?**

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