

Global System Decline and What it Means to This Generation

-Session One-

A Presentation by Scott Christiansen

Friday Evening, 12 July 2013

Advent Hope Group, Loma Linda, California

What We Will be Talking About

- Sin has a profound effect on the earth – the actual physical world.
- The systems the God created to sustain life on this earth are in rapid and accelerating decline.
- Man's global complex society is built on these rapidly declining systems.
- There is an arc of cause and effect connecting original sin to the present condition of the earth and to the fulfillment of prophecy in our time.

Anchor Text: Matthew 24:6-8

And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

How Do You Define Sin?

- How do you define something that only exists in the negative?
- 1 John 3:4 - All sin is transgression of the Law. Sin, therefore, separates us from God.
- Sin is entirely negative – it only corrodes, decays, subtracts, depletes – it never adds.

What is the Cumulative Effect of Sin?

- If sin only degrades, decays, depletes and destroys, then what is the cumulative effect of sin over the millenia?
- The ultimate consequence of sin is death, Romans 6:23
- The consequences of sin are not limited to man – “For we know that the whole of creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.” Romans 8:22

Back to the Beginning

- To understand the world as it is today, we must go back to the beginning - back to Genesis 1...

In the beginning God created the
heaven and the earth (Genesis 1:1)



And God said, let there be light
(Genesis 1:3)



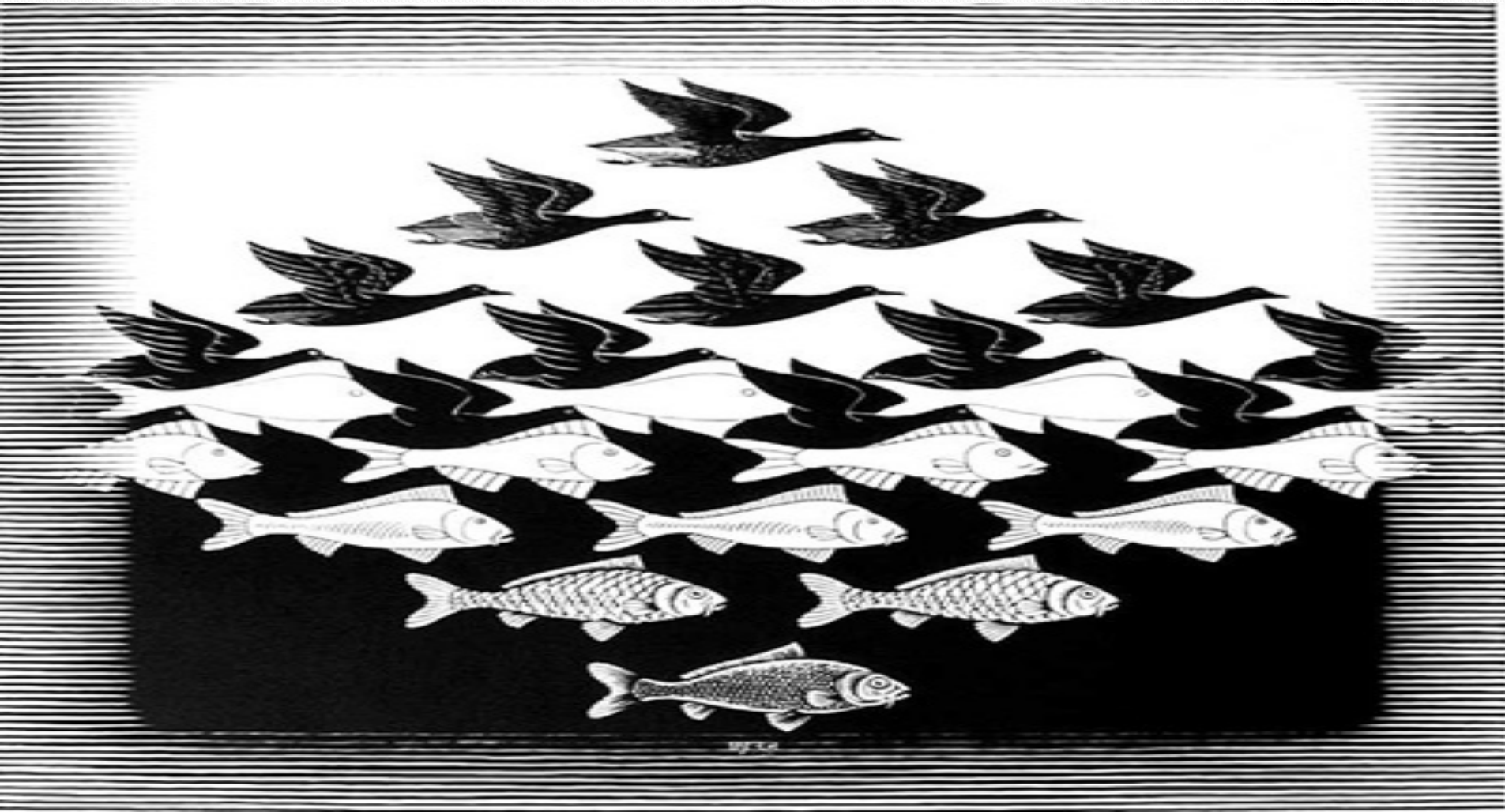
God divided the waters, creating the atmosphere & hydrosphere Genesis 1:6-9



And God created grass, trees and all plants and it was good (Genesis 1:11-12)



And God created sea life and birds,
and it was good (Genesis 1:20-22)



And God created land creatures,
and it was good (Genesis 1:26)



And God created man in His own
image (Genesis 1:27)



God saw everything He had made
and it was very good (Gen 1:31)



Everything Fit Together Perfectly



A Few of the Systems Created During Creation Week:

- Physics and God's "Natural Laws"
- The Atmospheric System
- Oceans and Thermal Distribution
- The Climate System
- Fresh Water Production & Storage
- Food Production
- Human Civilization and Health

From Perfection to Dysfunction

- Today each of the systems that God created is in accelerating decline and is headed toward failure on a global scale.
- The consequences of global system decline are staggering – billions are imperiled.
- We went from perfection to complete dysfunction. What happened?

Man Sinned, and Satan Gained Significant Control Over the Earth



Both Man and Earth Became Satan's Captives

“Not only man but the earth had by sin come under the power of the wicked one.... When man became Satan's captive, the dominion which he held, passed to his conqueror. Thus Satan became ‘the god of this world.’ 2 Corinthians 4:4” (Patriarchs and Prophets page 67)

Satan is in Rebellion Against God's Law

“Satan’s rebellion was to be a lesson through all coming ages – a perpetual testimony to the nature of sin and its terrible results... It would testify that with the existence of God’s government is bound up the well-being of all creatures He has made.” (Patriarchs and Prophets pages 42/43)

From the Moment Man Sinned, the Earth Began to Die

- Satan is in rebellion
- Rebellion is sin
- Sin is separation from God
- Separation from God is death
- Everything on earth that God created is subject to death because of sin, even God's massive and amazingly balanced global systems.

The Earth is In Accelerating Decline



From Before Creation, There Was a Plan to Redeem Both Man and Earth

Not only had man but the earth had by sin come under the power of the wicked one, and was to be restored by the plan of redemption (Patriarchs and Prophets page 67).

Sin Affects the Physical World

“The atmosphere, once so mild and uniform in temperature, was now subject to marked changes, and the Lord mercifully provided them with a garment of skins as a protection from the extremes of heat and cold.” (Patriarchs and Prophets pg 62)

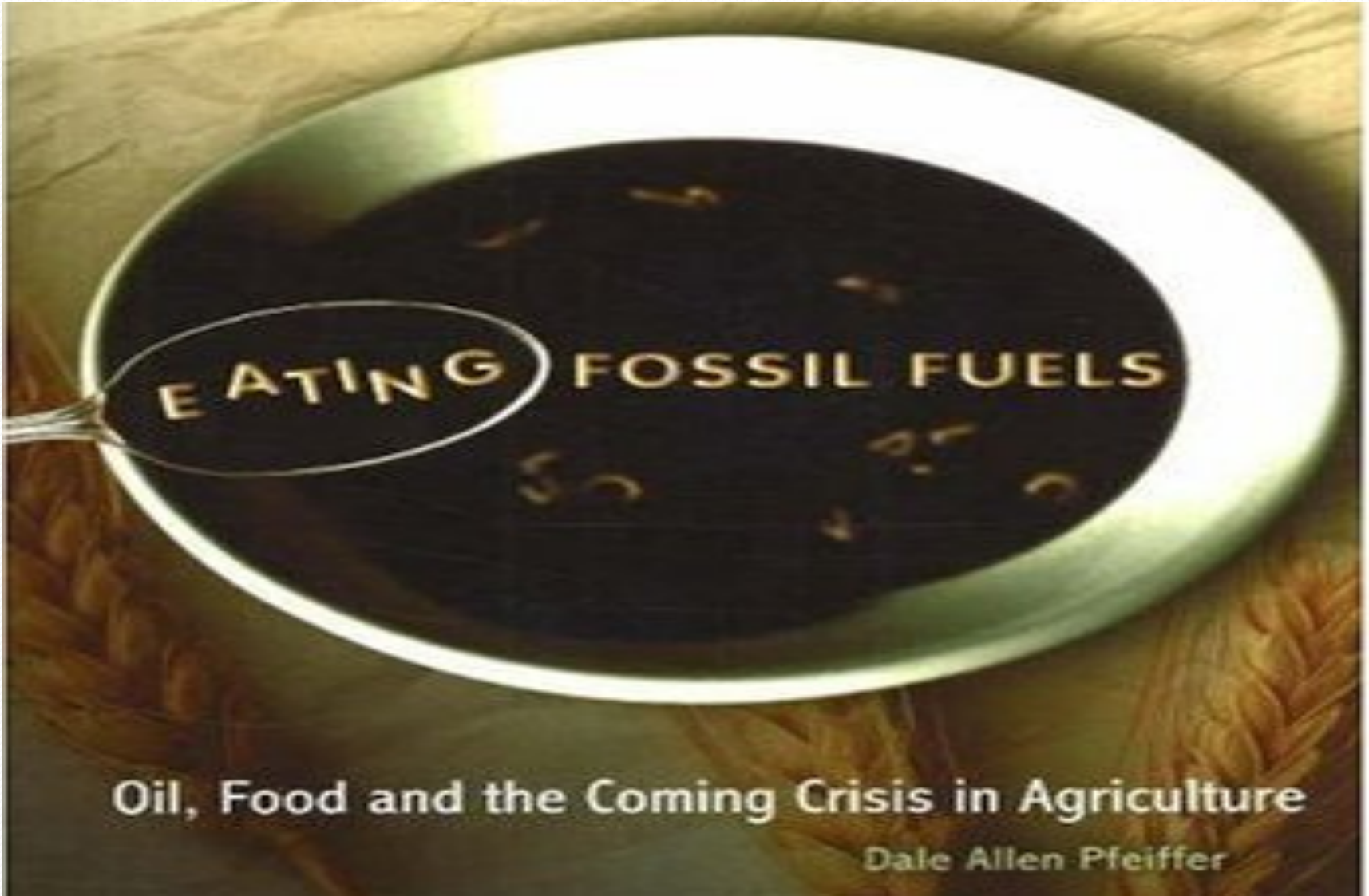
Millenia After Creation, What Has Sin Done to God's Earth?



Man Has Almost Destroyed God's Food Production System



Oil is Food



Oil, Food and the Coming Crisis in Agriculture

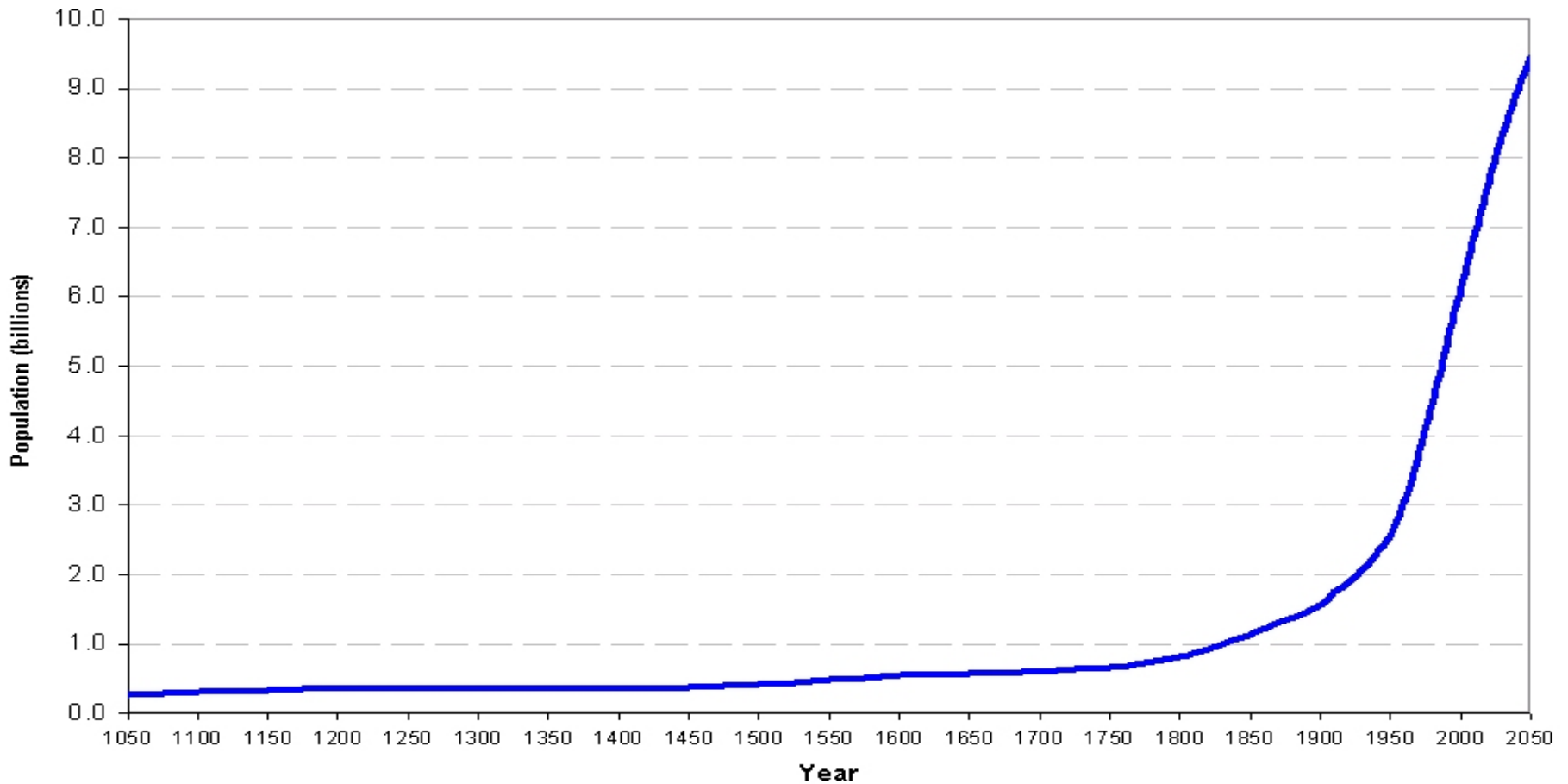
Dale Allen Pfeiffer

Food is Oil



7 Billion People to Feed

World Population and Growth Rate



We Have Poisoned Our Soil



We Have Created “Superbugs” and “Superweeds”



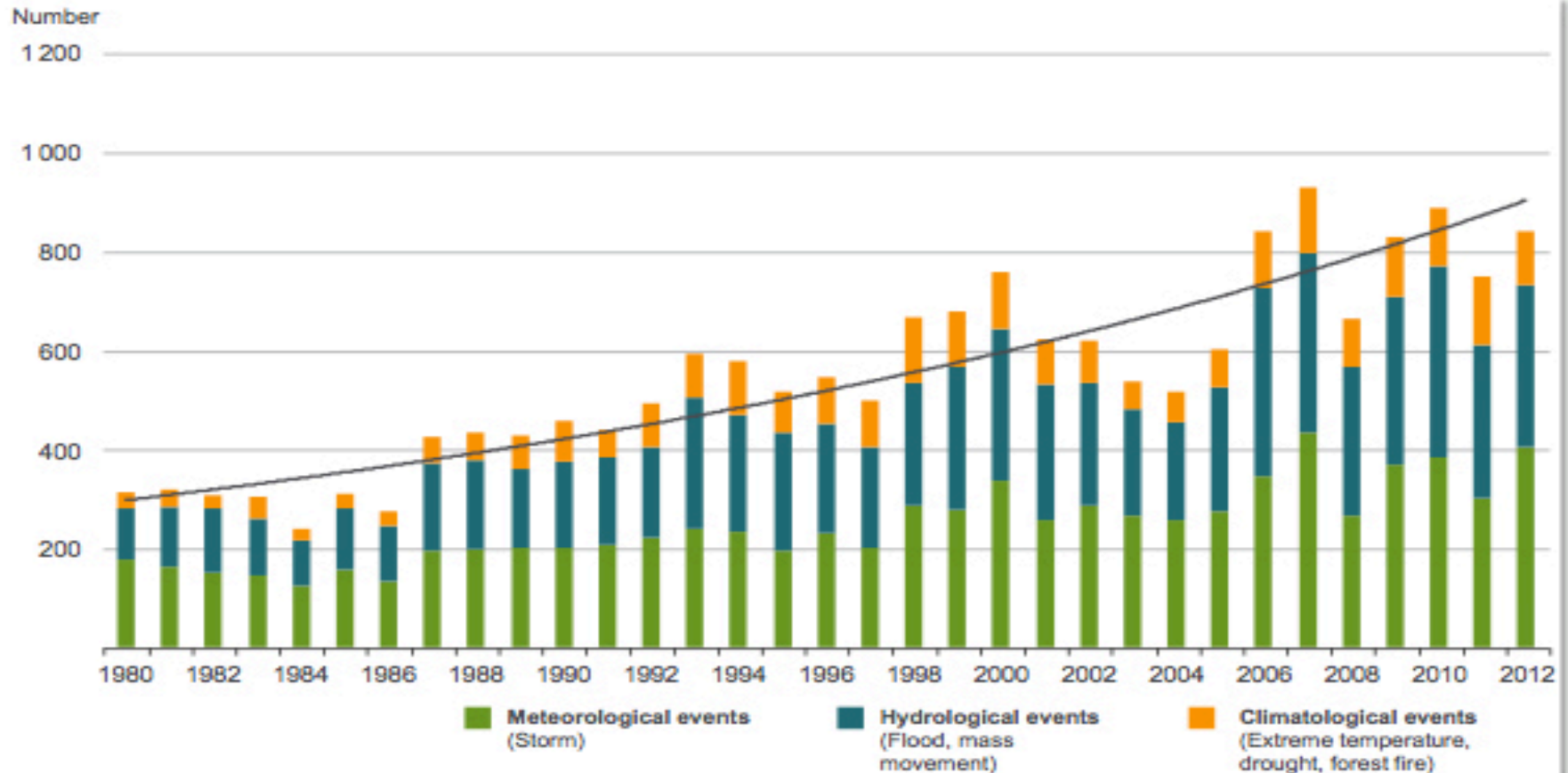
Climate Shifts are Impacting Yields

NatCatSERVICE

Weather catastrophes worldwide 1980 – 2012

Number of events with trend

Munich RE 



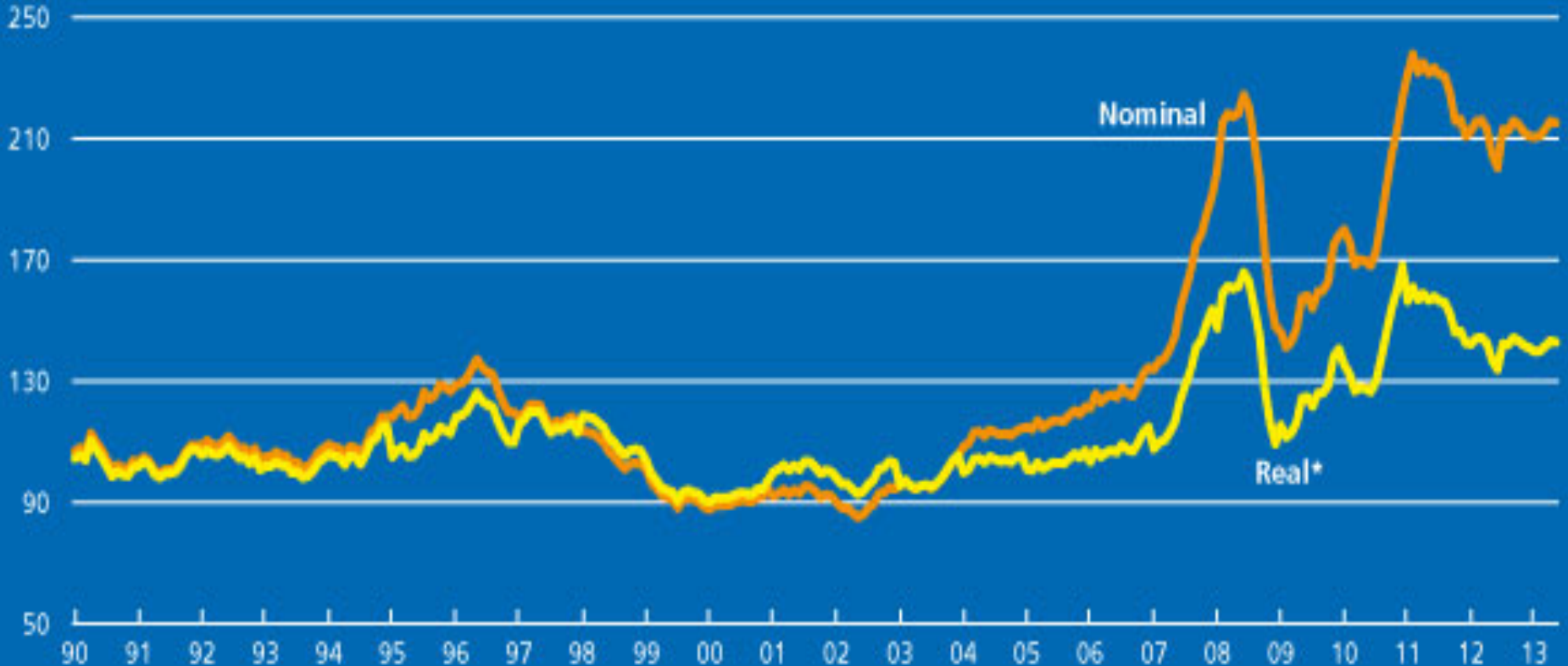
We Have Serial Global Food Crises



Food Prices: Increasingly Unstable

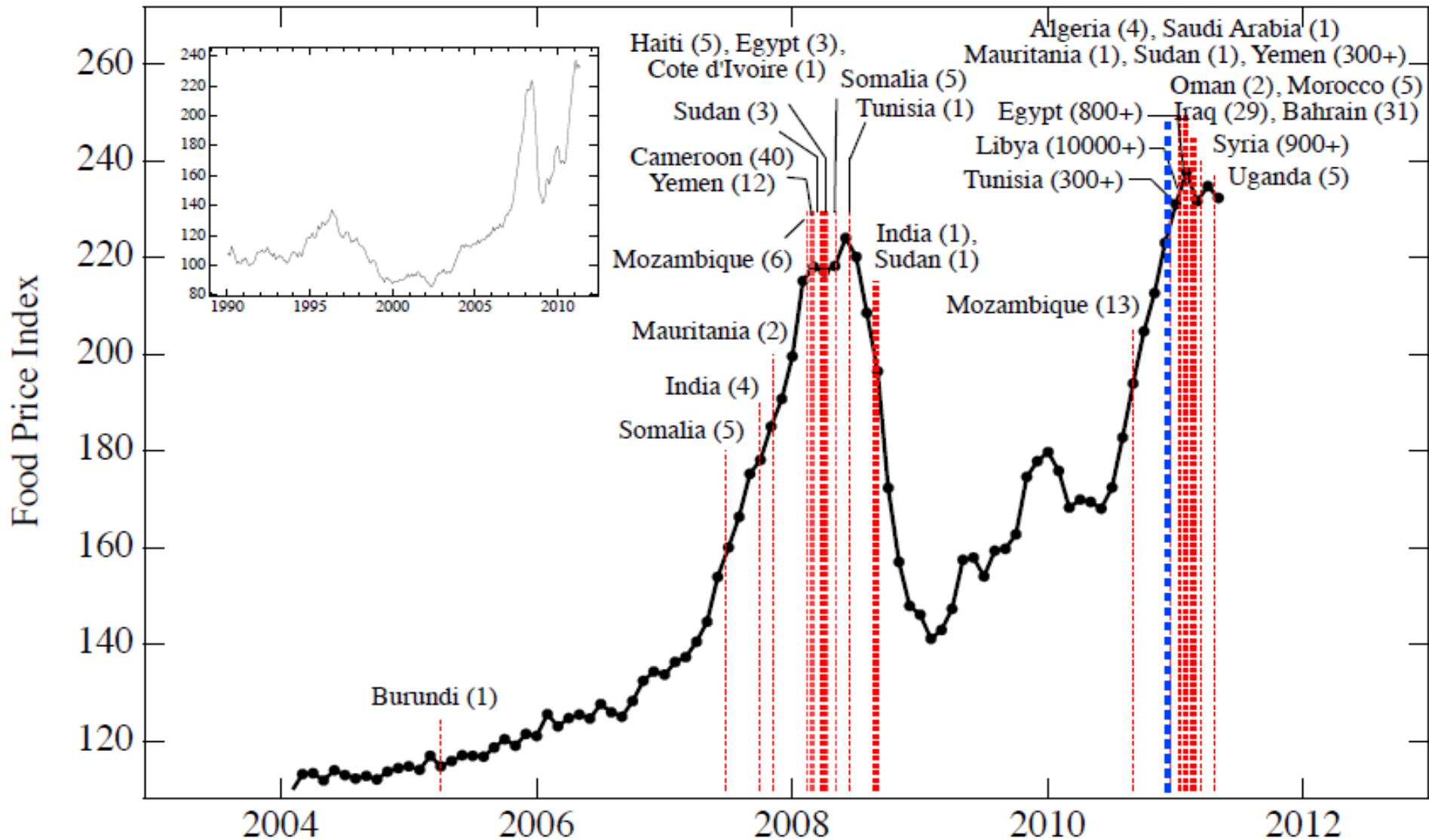
FAO Food Price Index

2002-2004=100

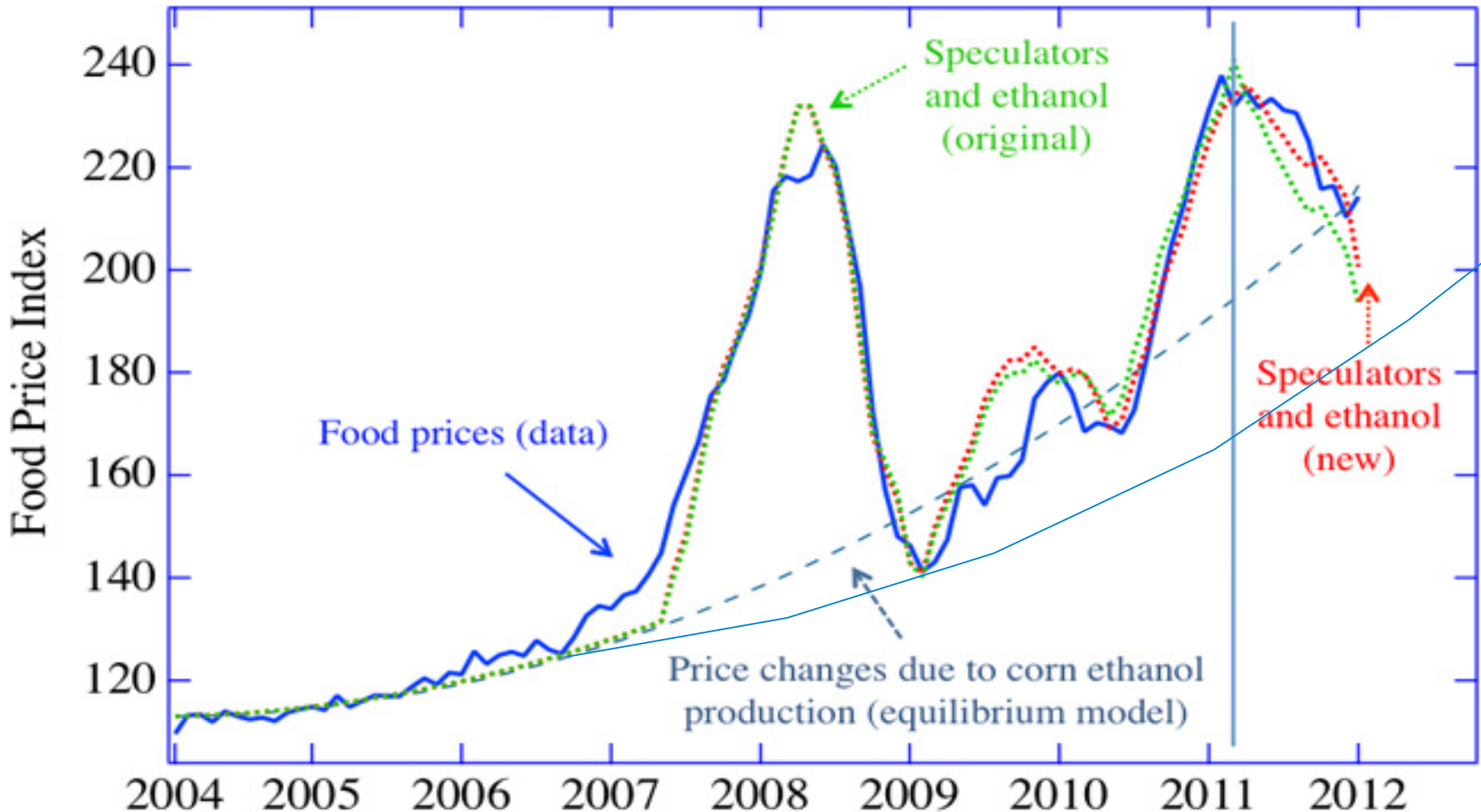


* The real price index is the nominal price index deflated by the World Bank Manufactures Unit Value Index (MUV)

Food Price Spikes Drive Conflict

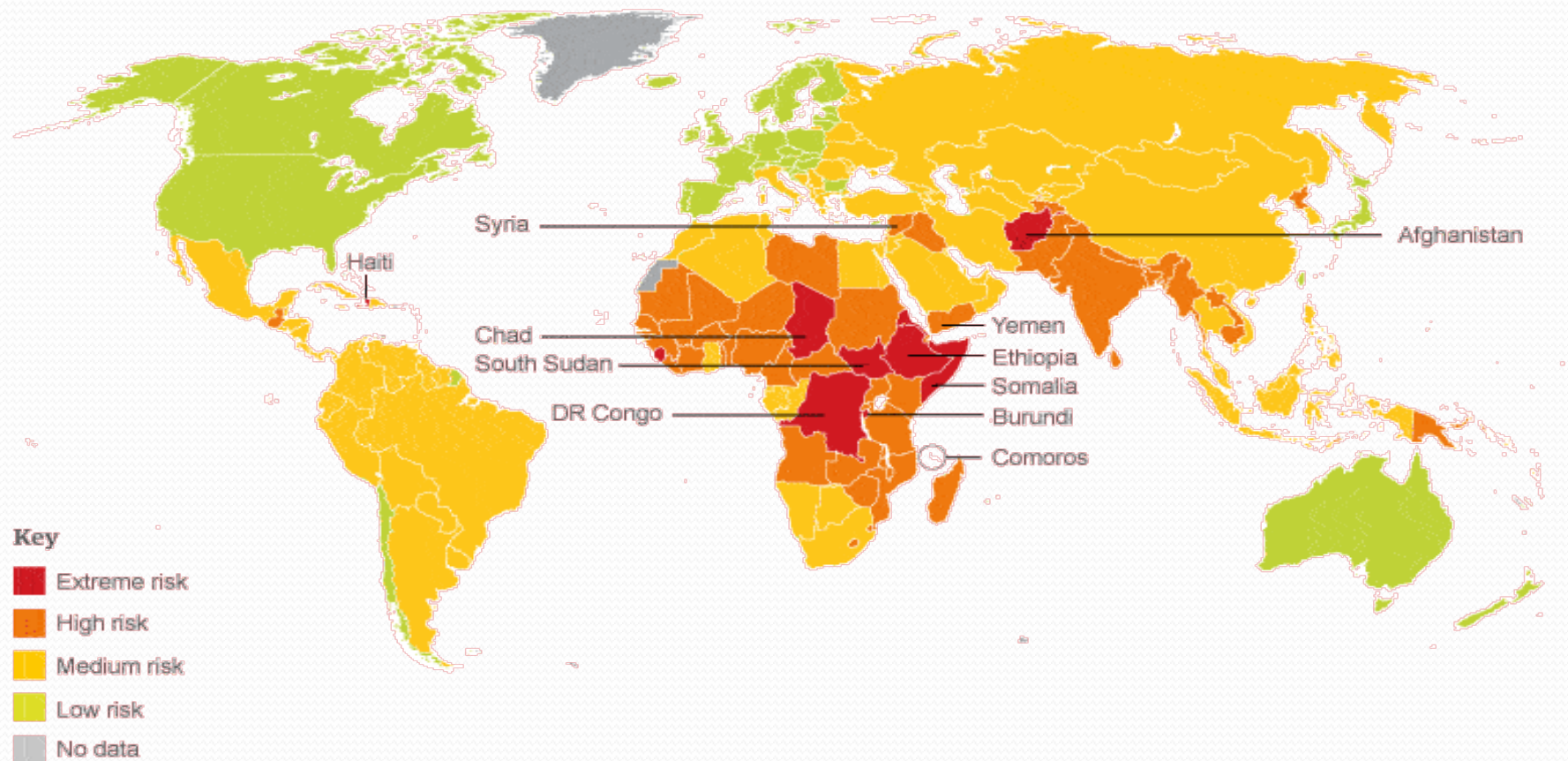


Food Prices are Up-trending Dangerously



Where Conflict Will Happen Next

Food Security Risk Index 2013



Squeezed

- Around the world, billions of people have had to dramatically re-arrange their lives in the last six years in order to adapt to higher food prices.

They have:

- Reduced food intake
- Reduced food quality
- Reduced household expenditures
- Reduced educational expenditures
- Reduced health care expenditures

Food System Decline Impacts:

- Global food demand is increasing dramatically
- Global food supply is beginning to decrease
- Global production capacity is decreasing
- Without cheap oil, we cannot produce cheap food
- Global food and energy prices are inseparable
- The poor will starve and die
- Nations will be in conflict over resources

Our Bread and Our Water Sure (Isaiah 33:16)

- The Lord has shown me in vision, repeatedly, that it is contrary to the Bible to make any provision for our temporal wants in the time of trouble. I saw that if the saints have food laid up by them, or in the fields, in the time of trouble when sword, famine, and pestilence are in the land, it will be taken from them by violent hands, and strangers would reap their fields. Then will be the time for us to trust wholly in God, and He will sustain us. I saw that our bread and water would be sure at that time, and we should not lack, or suffer hunger.

(Maranatha p. 181)

Our Fresh Water System: Failing



We have Sold – for Pennies on the Dollar – Our Freshwater Systems



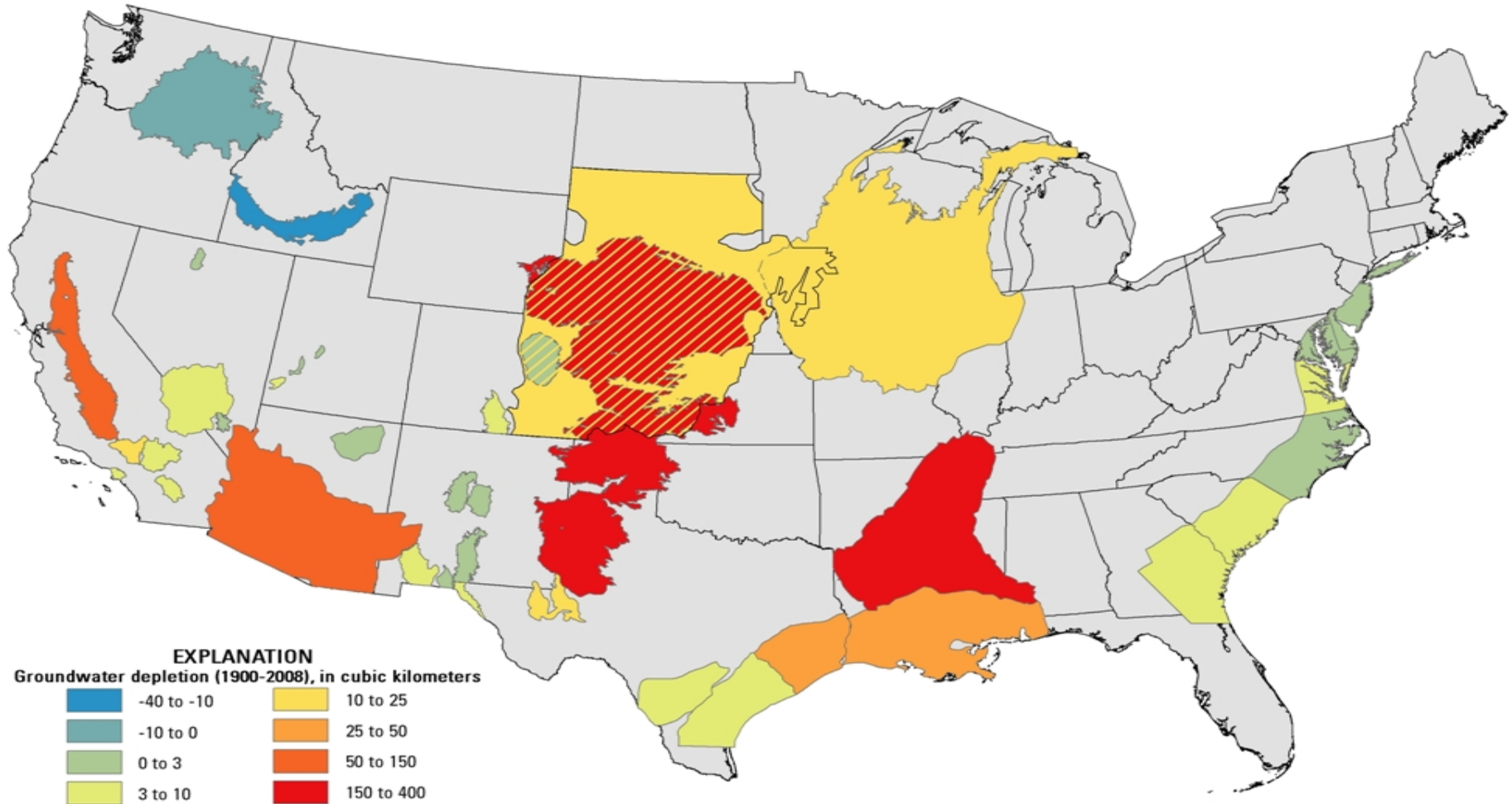
All over the World, Aquifers are Being Pumped Dry



American Aquifers Are Failing



Major Agriculture Centers: Going Dry



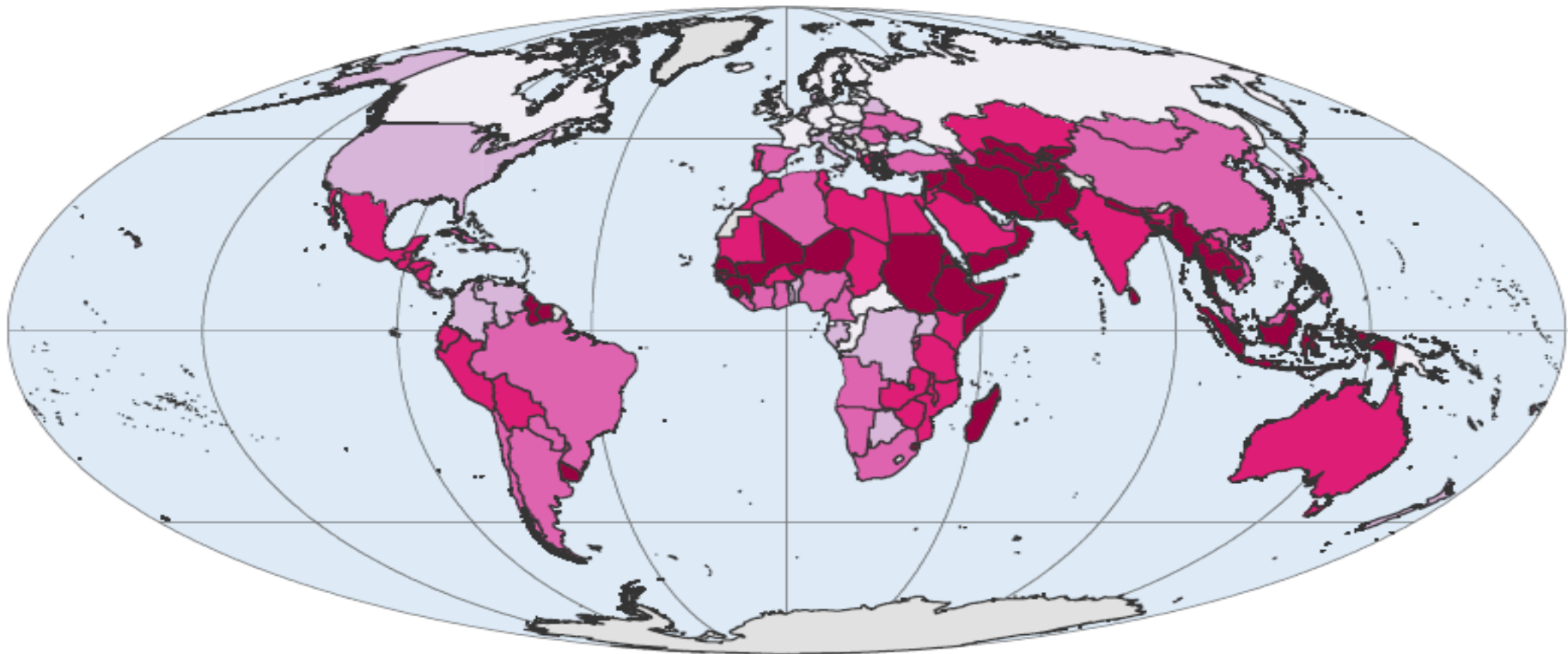
In China, Almost all Surface Water is Toxically Polluted



Massive Amounts of Water Are Used for Agriculture

Proportion of total water withdrawal withdrawn for agriculture

Agricultural water withdrawal as percentage of total water withdrawal for agricultural, domestic and industrial purposes (around 2001)



Legend

No Data < 25 25 - 50 50 - 75 75 - 90 > 90 %

FAO - AQUASTAT, 2007

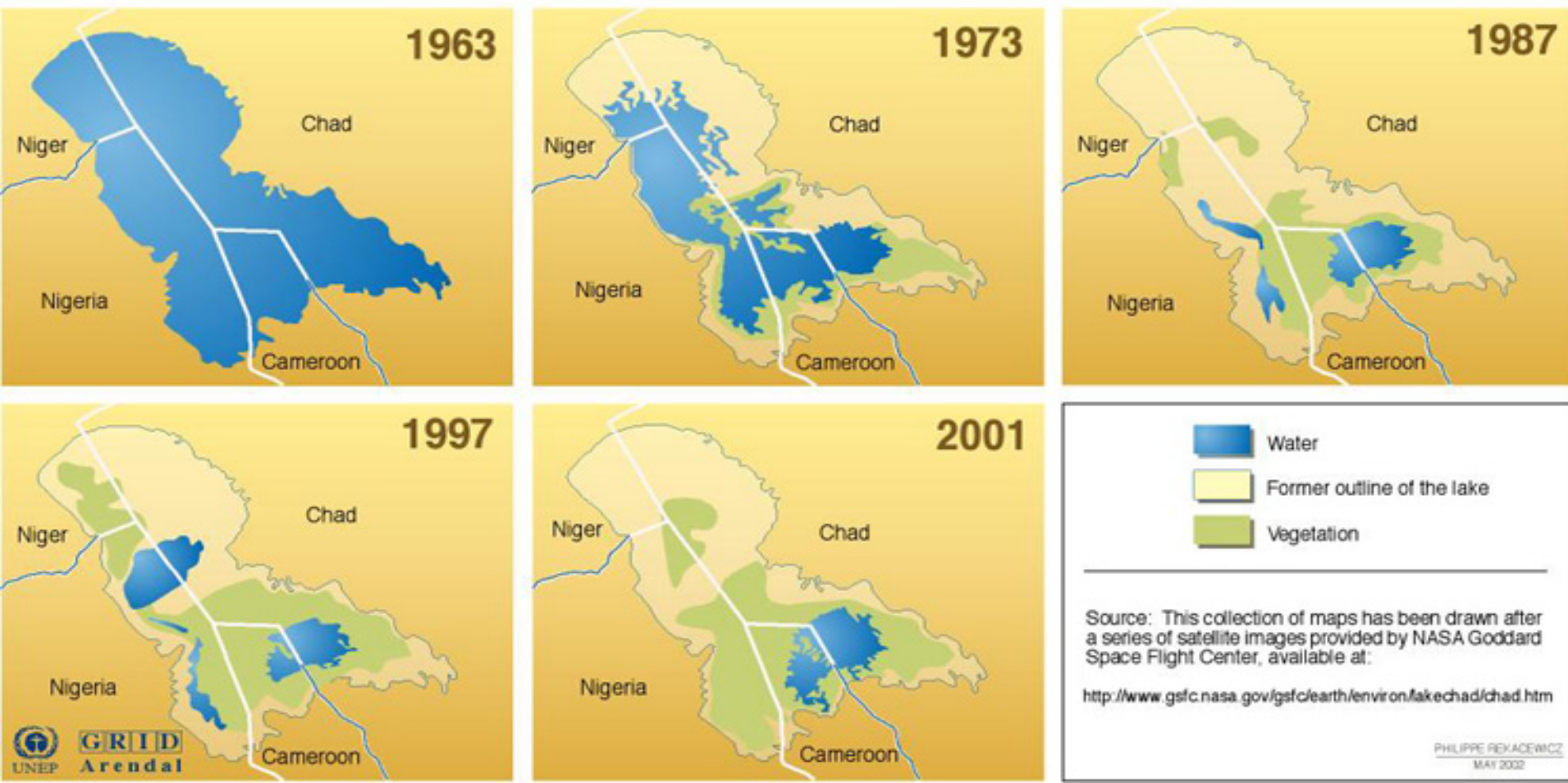
Source: AQUASTAT
Projection: Mollweide

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of FAO concerning the legal or constitutional status of any country, territory or sea area, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers.

Lake Chad: 97% Gone in 50 Years

The Disappearance of Lake Chad in Africa



Aral Sea: Shrinking



July – September, 1989



August 12, 2003



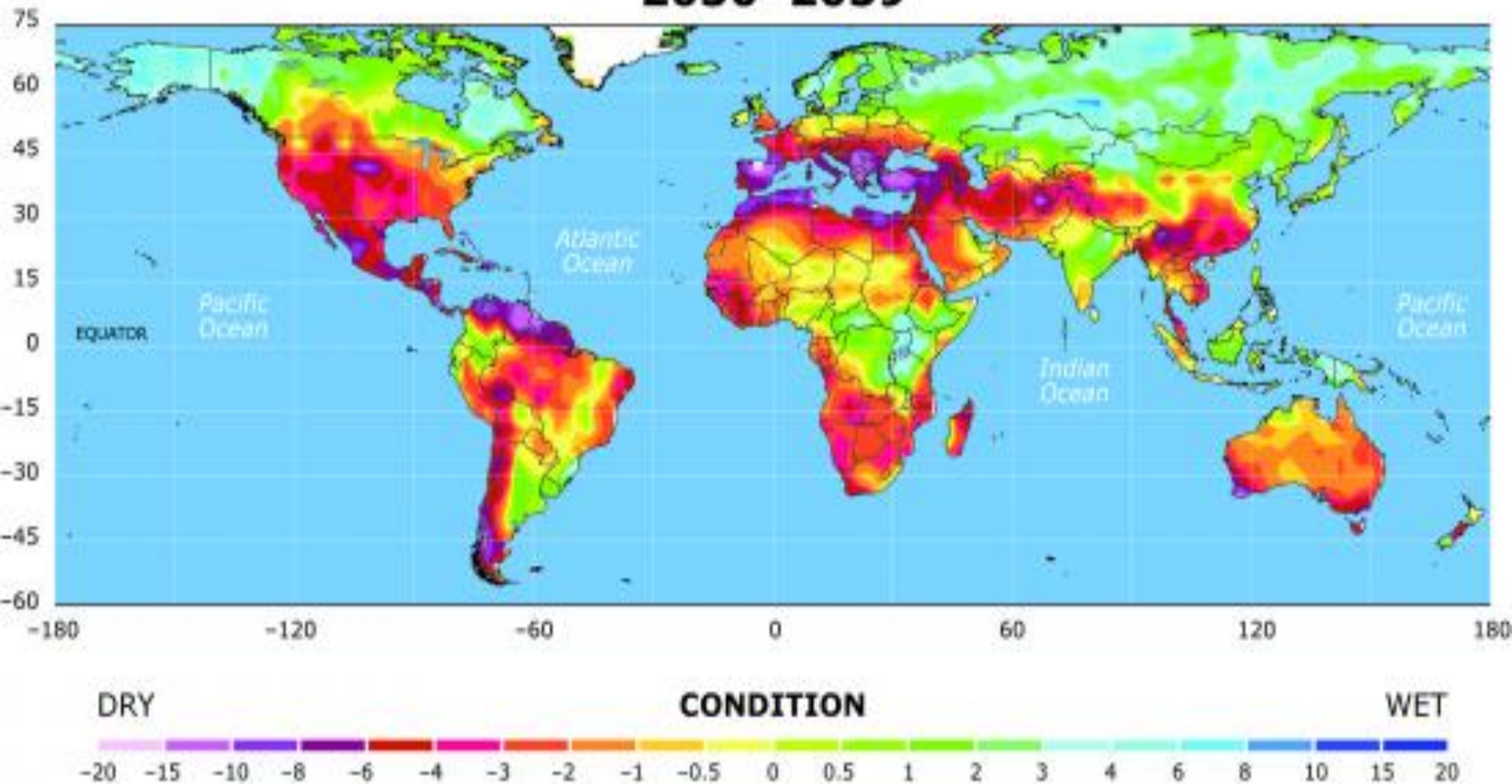
August 16, 2009

Water Stress Causes Economic and Societal Catastrophes

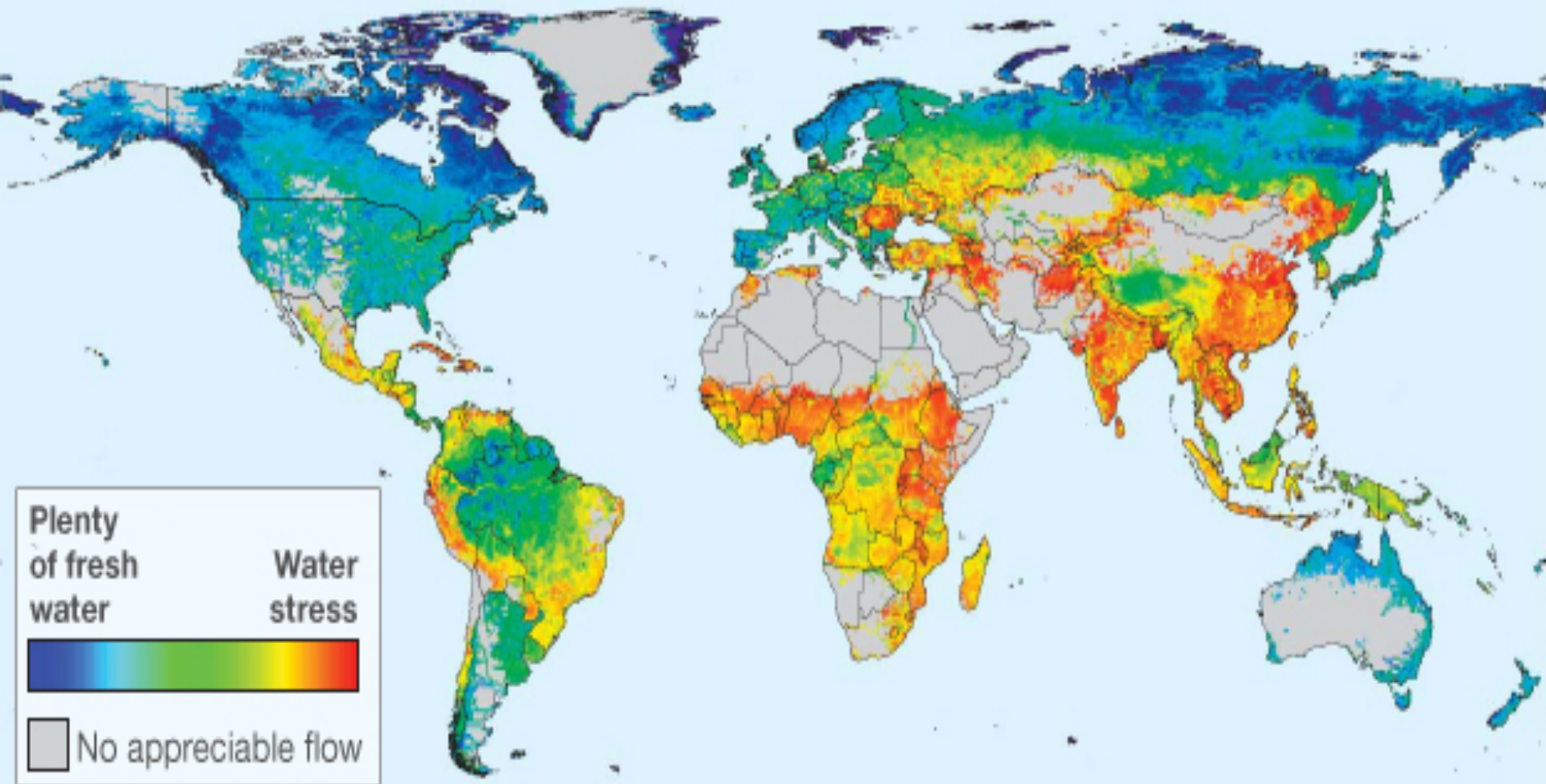


Current Global Drought Trends Align Well With Predicted Impacts

2030-2039



Water Stress Spurs Conflict



Water System Failure Impacts:

- Potentially massive human migration will occur
- Food production will decrease
- International resource wars will increase in likelihood
- Disease is already increasing
- Flooding and soil erosion is already increasing
- Water will continue to be commoditized and sold
- The poor will suffer and die

Our Climate: Changing



Societies Are Built On Assumptions



With Changing Weather Patterns, We Can No Longer Assume



Warming Seas=Larger Storms



“Uninsurable”: Florida and UK

- The Geneva Association recently released a report titled “Warming of the Oceans and Implications for the (re)Insurance Industry”.
- The Geneva Association is an insurance industry group – they are serious people.
- The report says, among other things, that warming oceans are causing larger and more intense storms and this, combined with rising sea levels, is making Florida and parts of the UK “uninsurable”.

Climate Change Hastens the Decline of Every Other System

- Food Production Failure
- Fresh Water Failure
- Oceanic System Declines
- Human Disease
- Tension, Conflicts, Wars
- CNA Report (2012) predicts climate change will destabilize large parts of the world – the weak go first.

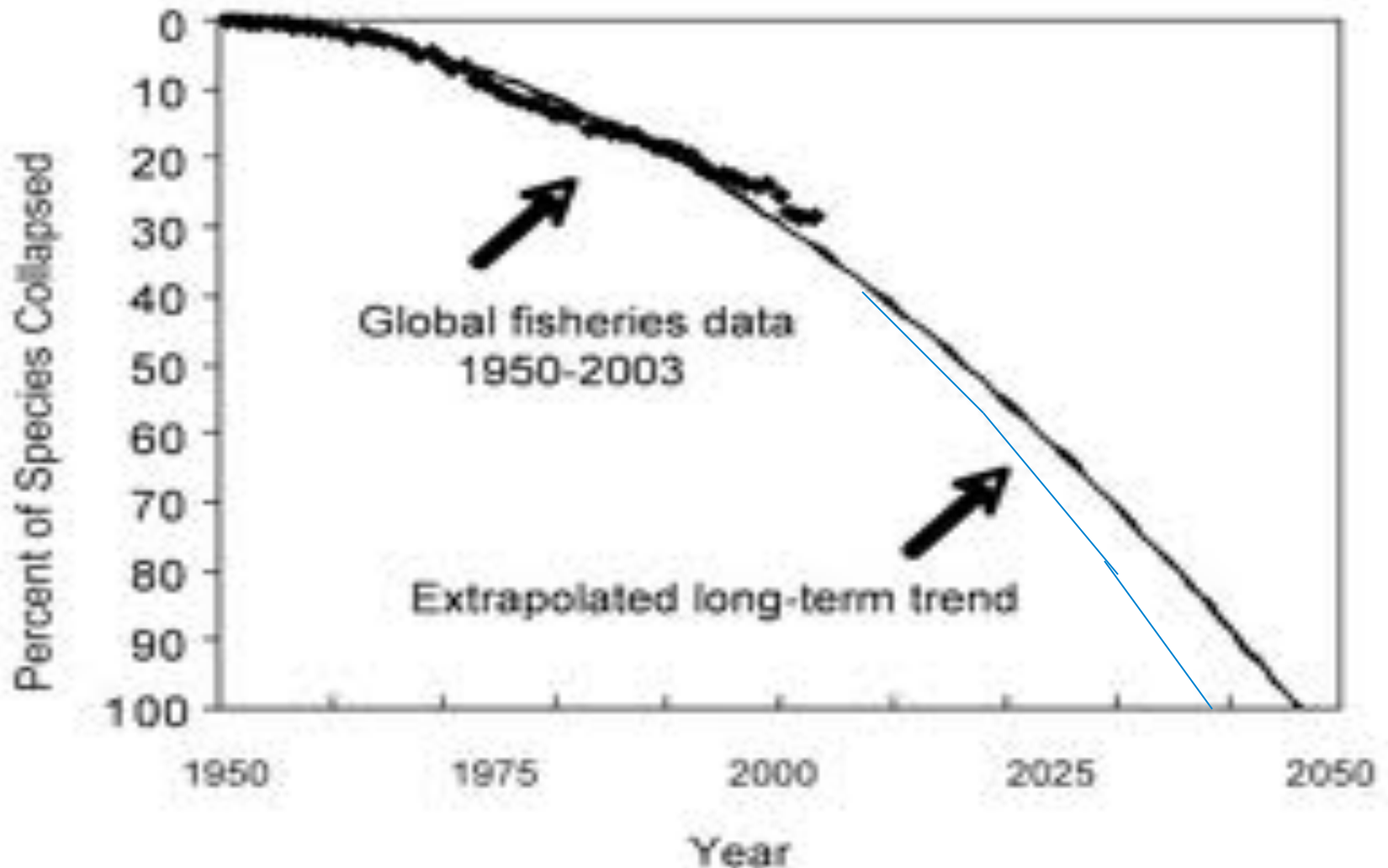
God's Perfect Oceans: Failing



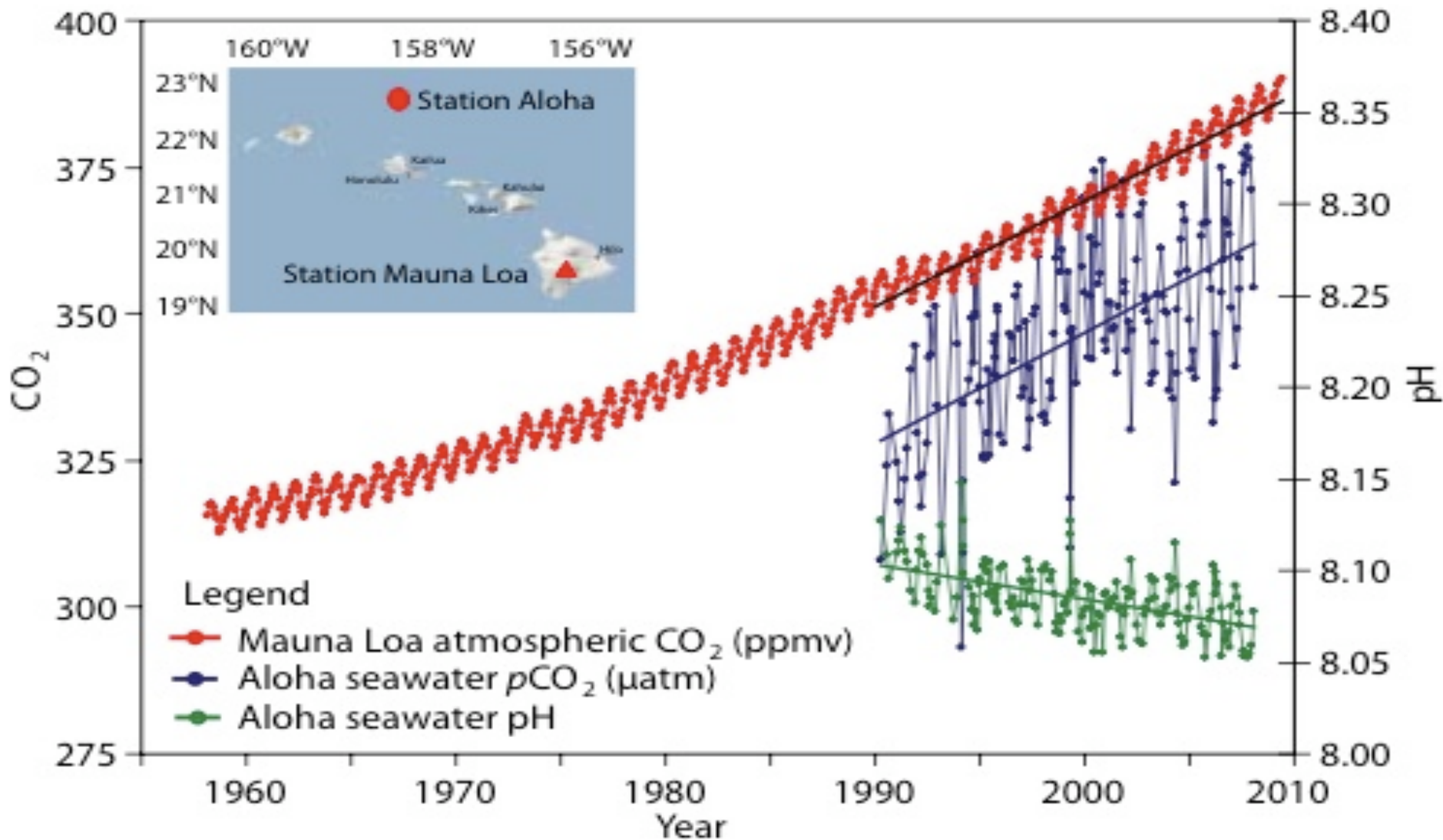
On a Global Scale, We Have Overfished and Polluted The Seas



Most Key Commercial Species Will Collapse in the Next 25 Years



Oceans are Becoming More Acidic



Impacts of Oceanic Decline

- More than 1 billion people will be forced to increasingly switch to land-based food supplies
- People in coastal and low-lying areas will be subjected to greater and greater storms and profound flooding, increasing forced migration
- Coastal economies in developing countries will weaken dramatically
- Seas will become more and more hazardous to navigate, increasing shipping costs

Atmosphere: Twin of the Ocean

- We know some significant changes in the atmosphere are taking place – the jet stream is becoming much more erratic.
- We suspect other changes are happening: since the atmosphere and the hydrosphere were created essentially as two halves of a whole, and since there are profound changes taking place in the ocean, we can infer that there are profound changes taking place in our atmosphere.

Man Cannot Fix Earth's Systems



The World is a Reflection of Sin – of Separation From God

“It is because of man’s sin that ‘the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together.’”

(Patriarchs and Prophets page 443 quoting Romans 8:20-22)

A 6000 Year Arc of Cause and Effect

- The systems God created to sustain life on this earth are in accelerating decay.
- Man's global complex society is fully dependent upon the smooth functioning of these systems – one is built on the other (Session Three).
- Ours is the first generation to be able to not only chart and graph the fulfillment of prophecy in real time, but to anticipate its fulfillment by watching the simultaneous decline of the earth and man's society.

It's About Watching

- Again and again, Christ told us to watch for the signs of His coming.
- In Session Two we look at what He told us, and why it is so important.



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