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**THE CHICKEN LITTLE SYNDROME**

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*-- Commentaries from past newsletters – July 2008*

One day Chicken Little was walking in the woods when – KERPLUNK – an acorn fell on her head, "Oh my goodness!" said Chicken Little. "The sky is falling! I must go and tell the king." The story goes on to say Chicken Little met Henny Penny, Cocky Locky, Goosey Poosey and Turkey Lurkey who were going to see the king too. Then they met Foxy Woxy who went with them, but he planned to eat them up after he tricked them to go into his den. Fortunately, they were rescued by the King's hounds.

I learned this story as a child and remember it almost as written, but I have to admit I never thought I would see it come alive again in another context. The people who are preoccupied with global warming today, seem like Chicken Little. Yes, there has been an increase in the average temperature, but only 0.74 degrees Celsius (1.33 degrees Fahrenheit) in the past 100 years, yet the sky is not falling!

The Chicken Littles of our day say the primary cause of this problem is a massive increase in greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub> and methane) produced by mankind. Something has to be done or sea levels will rise so New York City will be under water as will be most of Florida and the coastal areas of the country. The Henny Pennys, Coxy Lockys, Goosey Pooseys and Turkey Lurkeys in the environmental movement are wringing their hands and demanding we

join the Kyoto agreement to put a stop to this pollution of our environment with CO2. Automobiles are the cause of most of it so they want us to get rid of cars, buses and trucks. There is only one problem -- 19,000 scientists who know something about global temperature say they are wrong. The real reason for global warming has to do with the cyclic increase and decrease of the sun's output of heat. This variation is due to the occurrence of Sunspots that occur in cycles. When the Sun's output of heat rises, the temperature on earth rises; when it decreases we have ice ages.

Now, I think it is true that the statement of Giles St. Aubyn in his book *The Art of Argument* applies here. He said, "Perhaps the most astonishing of man's delusions is that he is rational by nature. In fact reason, like virtue, is something of which he is occasionally capable, but to which he does not often incline. The majority of men are governed by passion and prejudice and their most confident judgments owe more to instinct than to argument. They have settled views on the origin, nature and meaning of the Universe. They know how the country ought to be governed and why it is going to pieces. They have strong opinions about heredity, the prevention of unemployment, and how to educate children. *Since few who maintain these views can have the authority, knowledge or experience to speak, it follows that many such opinions are based on inadequate evidence and are, therefore, to that extent unreasonable.*" Applying his evaluation to the arguments of the global warming people about the rise in CO2 levels easily lets us discount their statements. We are just as likely to have another ice age as global warming.

When we evaluate the people who think global catastrophe is coming because of increase in CO<sub>2</sub> due to increased fossil fuel burning, we can see they do not have the expertise to make such pronouncements with certainty. They are not meteorologists, nor are they astrophysicists. They can only take the information given to them and come to a personal conclusion. Sadly, they see only the trees and not the woods. If one inspects the scientific literature there, is precious little said about sunspots or the flux of heat from the Sun. There is much said about CO<sub>2</sub> levels, but meteorologists say there is only minimal change in the earth temperature. This does not discourage them. They extrapolate the little data they have to predict catastrophe because fossil fuel consumption will increase as more cars and trucks hit the roads. They see this as a logarithmic increase, so there is a catastrophe just around the corner. It's amazing what computer models can do.

The Chicken Littles see all kinds of terrible things happening. Polar Bears will become extinct, as will one third of all species of plants and animals. The costal areas of the nations will be inundated. Manhattan will have ten feet of water in the streets because the polar ice caps will melt, raising sea levels 20 feet. Droughts will occur so severe that there will be no food to feed the worlds exploding population. All this will happen **if** CO<sub>2</sub> and Methane are responsible for the warming.

Sadly, the evidence is that it is not. The Green Chicken Littles have caught the attention of the media so they have convinced a lot of Henny Penneys, Coxy Loxy's, Turkey Lurkeys and Goosey Pooseys that the sky is falling and we are doomed. Therefore, they go to the

president and other leaders of the world and demand we do something about the impending disaster. If one looks at the position of the leaders there is really nothing they can do. They can encourage the development of wind power, solar power and tidal power, but it is estimated less than 15 percent of the power generated by fossil fuels can be replaced using today's technology. Sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub> is not economically feasible at present.

The Green Chicken Littles then push for alternative fuels. It has been shown now, that biofuels produce more CO<sub>2</sub> in their production and use than fossil fuels. Hydrogen takes too much energy to produce so we cannot reduce CO<sub>2</sub> levels by shifting to hydrogen unless we increase our generation of nuclear power, but we cannot do that because of the "No Nukes" sect of the Greens.

I think you can see from the above that if the Greens are right we really are in a situation from which we cannot extricate ourselves. We are doomed. But are we? No! The sky is not falling for evidence exists that global warming is not going to cause the catastrophe the Greens predict. Therefore, we should inspect their belief system and ask ourselves if environmentalism is a religion. I believe it is.

Mankind has a tendency to go whoring after other gods. The Israelis chased after the Baals and Ashtoreth. Others were forced to accept Allah. More recently the nuclear catastrophe group had their time; now it is global warming.

Do they qualify as religions? Yes, because a religion is: "A cause, principle, or system of beliefs held to with ardor and faith." Certainly then, the ideology of the Greens qualifies as a religion. If we search the Internet, we find they have a well-systematized set of beliefs that are held with ardor and faith. In spite of the lack of supporting scientific evidence, they still believe. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). The Greens are sure of global warming. I cannot say it is something they hope for, but they are sure it is coming. They are certain of the effects. They have faith to be sure.

Global warming is not the only subject that elicits the Chicken Little syndrome. The drought people are suffering from it too. Their group is a sect of the Global Warming religion. The governor of North Carolina is intensively promoting water conservation and water use planning because we might have another drought like the one we had in 2007-2008. We got down to a 90-day supply of water before rains came and ended it. There is a deficit of rainfall for the past year of nine inches. Ordinarily in our part of the country, we have an average rainfall each year of 47 inches. This is more than enough to take care of our needs. Reservoir levels do drop every summer, but the spring and fall rains keep our supply up. We had droughts for the two preceding summers, but they were not as severe and no one panicked. Ordinarily we get the residuals of hurricanes, but we did not last year. Now the sky is falling, and we must do something to head off any potential water shortages. They are certain to occur since the computer models of the Global Warming people say they are.

Let me say that as a Christian I am a conservationist. I do not want to see rivers polluted or the landscape covered with litter. I do not want to see our forests destroyed by indiscriminate lumbering; nor do I want to see our national parks overrun with too many visitors. I do not want to see acid rain destroy our wonderful spruce and fir forests in North Carolina, or anywhere else for that matter. Even so, I think we can approach each problem with appropriate measures and control them.

I am not the only person who has recognized the Chicken Little syndrome. Jeff Jacoby of the Boston Globe has recognized the syndrome and written an article to debunk it. He points out the media do not check out all of the scientific data related to the subject. Although I cannot find it again, I did see a Chicken Little Award had been given to the Global Warming people last year. It is clear, therefore, that I am not the only person who has recognized a religion called Global Warming. Our God has commanded us to have no other gods before him. We have chased after this one, and I am sure he finds it an abomination.