

# The earth Weeps

2021

# Part 1

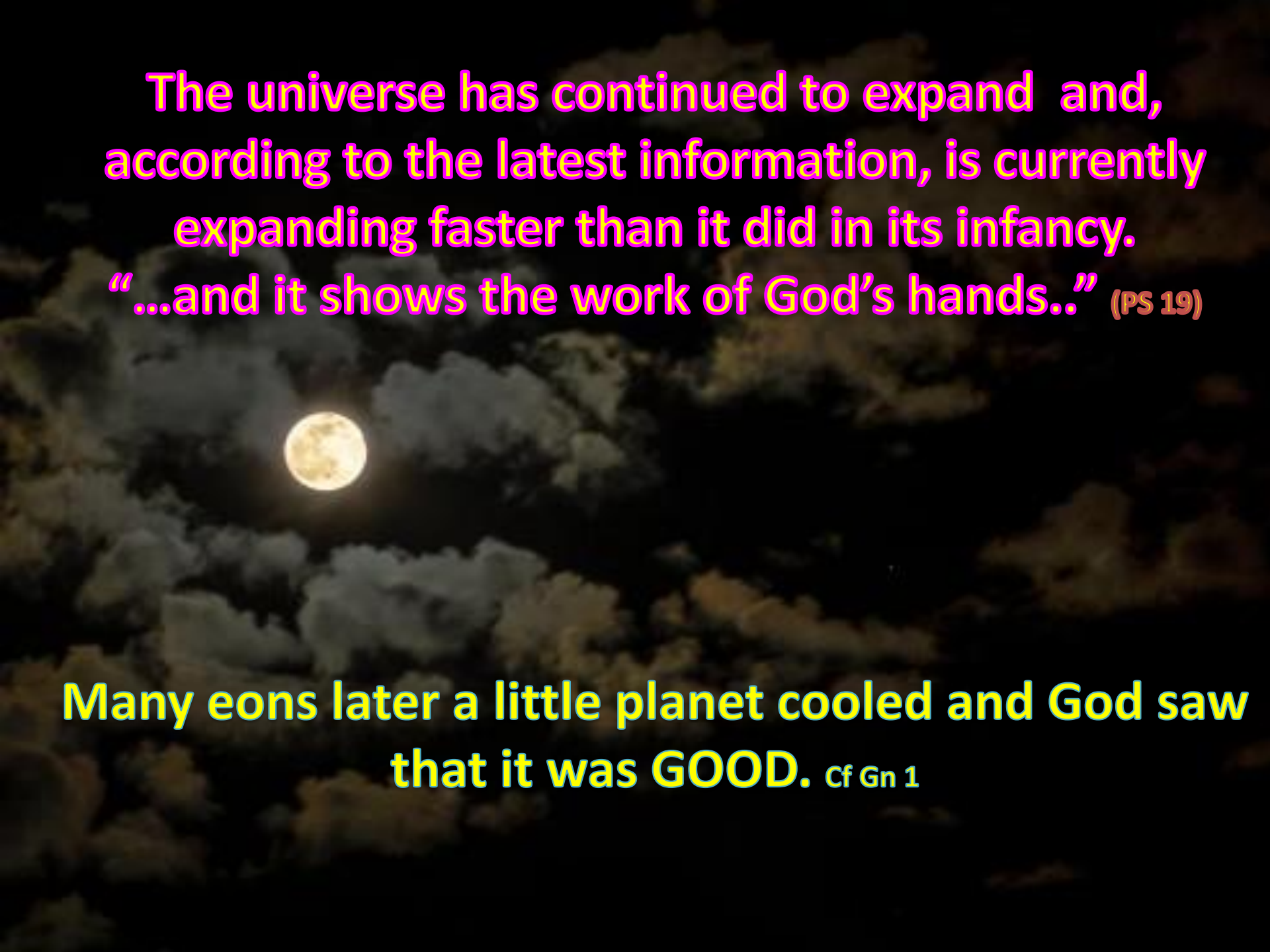
*In the beginning...*

Around 14,000,000,000 years ago

God said:

**“Let there be light!”** (Gen 1:3)

A massive thermo-nuclear explosion took place  
which resounded from one ‘end’ of the void to  
the other and the cosmos  
was created.



The universe has continued to expand and, according to the latest information, is currently expanding faster than it did in its infancy.

“...and it shows the work of God’s hands..” (PS 19)

Many eons later a little planet cooled and God saw that it was **GOOD**. Cf Gn 1



Life began on earth about 3.8 billion years ago and continues to evolve.

God divided the waters above the planet..

..from the waters below .... and it too was good. (cf. Gn. 1)

**The skies proclaimed the glory of God** (Ps 19)

God's love and creativity were and are everywhere.

**“God's love is the fundamental moving force in all created things”. (Ls 77)**





“Nature is  
nothing other...  
than God’s art...”

Everything is a gift from  
the Creator.

Each has its own beauty,  
displaying some aspect of  
God’s love and creativity.

“Every creature is the object  
of the Father’s tenderness”..

(Ls 77)

- be they impressively  
elegant or small and  
almost invisible.



Even a fly, generally considered  
a nuisance, has an important role  
to play. The larvae (maggots) help to break  
down waste food or dead animals – preventing  
the build up of rotting materials in the environment.



Beautiful wild  
flowers are an  
Essential part of  
our ecosystem.



All are a gift  
from the ONE  
who loves us  
unconditionally.



“The very flowers of the field and the birds which his human eyes have contemplated and admired are imbued with his presence.” (Ls 100)



As the Father has loved me so I have loved you.  
Remain in my love.  
(Jn 15.9)





“ Through the  
greatness and  
beauty of  
creatures we  
come to  
know ...their  
maker”

(*Wis* 13:5)



“The divine and human meet  
in the slightest detail of  
God’s creation”. (Ls 9)

“God has written a precious  
book whose letters are the  
multitude of created things  
in the universe). (Ls 84)

“Christians ...realize that their  
responsibility within creation,  
and their duty towards nature  
and the Creator, are an essential  
part of their faith.” (Ls 64)



*May we always be grateful  
for the gift of our beautiful planet.*

*May we never take the gifts  
of shape and colour for granted.*

*May creation's breath-taking beauty  
always remind us of the  
One who's 'finger' guided its evolution.*



## *Part 2*

### **The human footprint.**

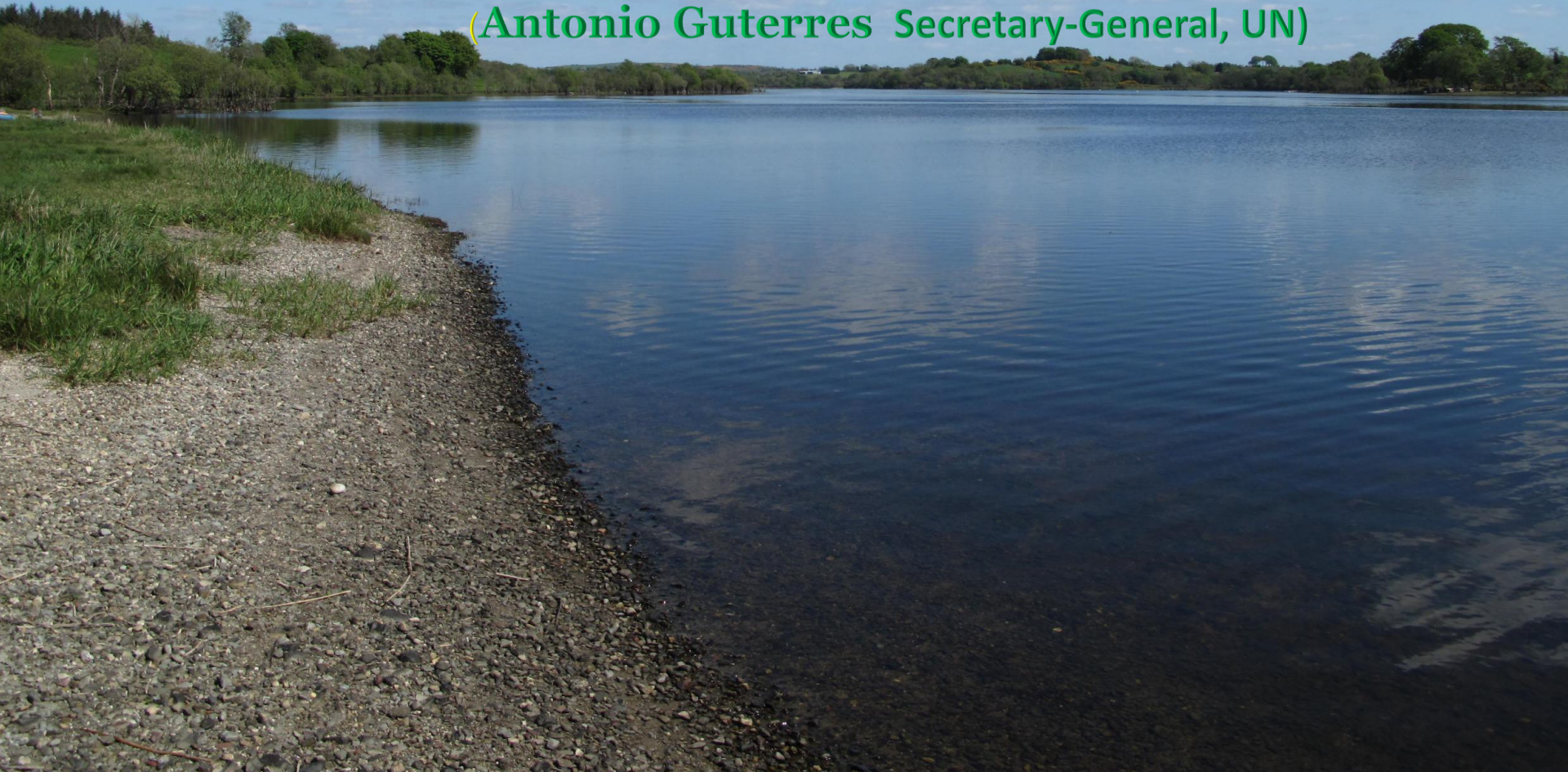
*A Reflection on the  
human influence on  
Planet Earth.*

*The Land I give to you and your offspring forever*  
*Genesis 13:15*

Now →

**“The state of the planet is broken”.**

**(Antonio Guterres Secretary-General, UN)**





# The Human Influence

Tropical Forests Destroyed

Indigenous People Displaced

A Vicious Cycle of Degradation

Excess Flooding

Soil Erosion

Hunger and Displacement



# **The Evidence 2021**

## **Extreme drought and heat**

**Wildfires destroying “the lungs of the earth” from California to Europe and from Africa to Australia  
Pumping billions of tons of CO2 into the atmosphere.**

**At the same time the world’s major forests, are  
being cleared to provide grazing land or to feed  
the timber market.**

**Much of the earth’s surface is becoming a  
sterile wilderness.**





*As the world's forests are disappearing their cooling effect is greatly reduced. But the world's population is increasing. → increased CO<sub>2</sub>*

*→ increased global warming.*



*May we all be responsible  
in our way of living.*

*May we walk lightly so that  
our footprints are invisible.*

*May we always remember that all we  
have received is pure gift from  
a loving Creator.*

# *Part 3*

## Injustice

*A reflection on the inequality  
across the planet / critical  
issues of injustice.*





**A Few People** , The Wealthy, are becoming wealthier.

**Some People** are comfortable but the middle classes are disappearing.

**Many People** have Nothing.

8 billionaires own as much as half of humanity and the gap is widening.

Food Waste is now **billions of tons** each year.

**811** million people go to bed **hungry each night**

*The earth herself, burdened and  
laid waste, is among the most  
abandoned and maltreated  
of our poor. (Ls 2.)*

# *Where to from here?*

**Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace and the joyful celebration of life.**

**(Pope Francis, 25 June 2015)**



What can I do?

*Trees are the only  
effective  
land based means  
of cooling  
the planet.*





## *Their major effects are*

- 1. Transpiration/evaporation from the leaves cools the planet directly.*
- 2. They trap **CO<sub>2</sub>** - a major cause of global warming - and store it in their wood .*
- 3. They replace **CO<sub>2</sub>** in the air with life giving **oxygen**.*





I Can... You Can.... We Can

*Plant a few native trees*

To reduce your carbon footprint

To trap CO<sub>2</sub> for generations to come

To increase oxygen levels in the air

To create a healthier environment

To provide welcome shade

To reduce noise pollution and

To provide a soothing space

Perhaps you could influence your friends and  
neighbours to also consider planting trees!

You can also...

Become a 'Zero Waste Freecycle' person.

**Check your Zero Waste Freecycle website**

**Refuse**

**Re-use**

**Reduce**

**Re-cycle**

**Re-vision**

**GROW YOUR OWN FOOD, FLOWERS, FRUIT**

**TOGETHER**

We will imagine a new way of living in a hurting world.

Our Opportunity...

...To tell of the Glory of God

*Let all that is within us cry Holy*

**BE THE MESSAGE!**