

A biblical view on Population issues.

Is the world overpopulated ?

What does God say about how many children we should have? .

“God blessed them and said to them , Be fruitful and increase in number ; fill the earth and subdue it ...” Gen 1:28

And after the world wide flood God again repeats the order :

“..... Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth.”

Gen 9:1

Who wrote this & when ?

What most frequently meets our view (and occasions complaint) is our **teeming population**. Our members are **burdensome** to the world, which can **hardly support us**.... In very deed , pestilence , and famine , and wars , and earthquakes have to be regarded as a remedy for nations, as the means of **pruning** the luxuriance of the human race .”

No it was not written in the last 100 years it was :

Tertullian (160 to 220 AD), He lived in Carthage , North Africa (now called Tunis in Tunisia) , 500,000 people , second largest city in Western Roman Empire. If you were in the streets at rush hour in downtown Carthage, you could get run down by a chariot if you were not careful. Humans have tended to live in big cities, which are crowded, giving the impression that the whole plant is crowded, it's just not true.

The latest prophets of doom:

1798 – **Essay on the Principle of population** by Rev. Thomas Malthus

He claimed Britain would soon have mass starvation, he did not foresee the industrial and agricultural revolutions the UK would lead.

1968 – ***The Population Bomb*** by Paul Ehrlich

“ In the 1970s the world will undergo famines – hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death “

1972 – *Limits of Growth* by the Club of Rome

“ The world will run out of gold by 1981, mercury by 1985 , tin by 1987 , zinc by 1990 , etc

All of the above did not occur, they were all false prophets and should be ignored.

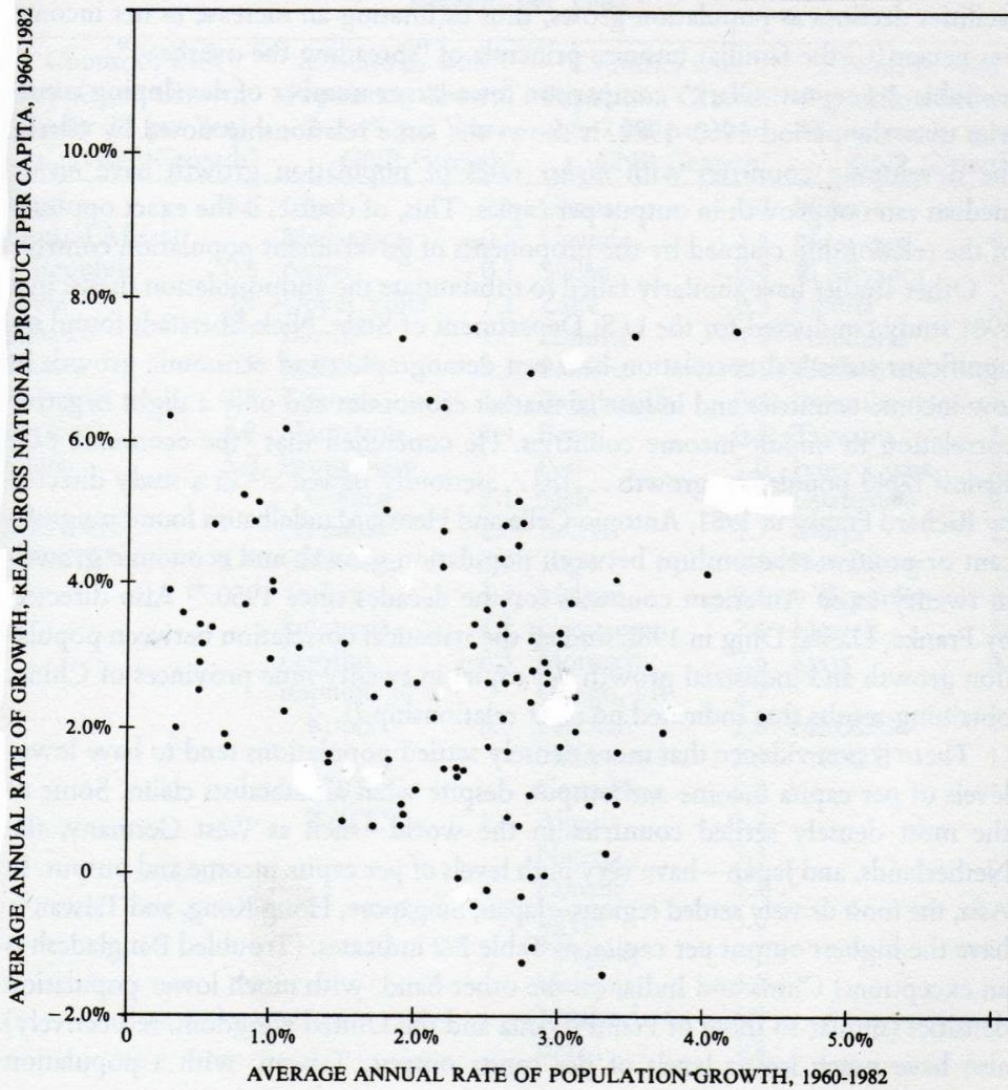
Shown below is a graph produced by the world bank, hardly a pro-life institution, showing many countries with their population growth over a 23-year period along with the growth of the economy per person. This type of graph is called a scattered gun pattern meaning there is no relationship between population growth and economic growth for different countries. Each dot represents a country. If your country has high population growth you can have high or low economic growth. And if your population growth is low, you can still have high or low economic growth. There is no relationship between fertility rates and prosperity.

On an individual basis people can be poor for many reasons, no job, no education , gambler , alcoholic , etc. You can be wealthy if you have skills or make products people want. If you invent windows, like Bill Gates, you will get rich. Same as James Watt who invented a good steam engine, he became wealthy. Hard work, with brains is a great method of beating poverty. Countries are the same there are many reasons for countries to be rich. The normal state of affairs is poverty.

On a personal note , I had a grandfather , in Australia, who was one of 13 children. He only had 6 years of schooling. Where I grew up the average farm was 40 acres, I grew up on a 4,300 acre farm. My grandfather worked hard, used the latest scientific methods to increase production, did not waste many, and was successful. His grandfather was a petty thief who stole two shirts when he was 17 years old and was transported from England in 1844, never to leave Tasmania. According to the UNFPA my grandfather should have lived in dire poverty, he did not. The boundary lines fell in very pleasant places for me.

SCARCITY OR LIFEBOAT ECONOMICS

CHART 2-1
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RATES OF GROWTH
IN POPULATION AND REAL GNP PER CAPITA, 1960-1982



Source: Based on data appearing in World Bank, World Development Report, 1984

The reason God wants lots of people is found in Rev7:9.

*“After this I looked and there before me was **a great multitude** that no one could count , from every nation , tribe , people and language , standing before the throne and in front of Lamb. They were wearing white robes ... ”*