

Human Induced 6th Great Extinction Event

If there is an omnipotent, omnipresent god who *created the heavens and the earth*

1. did s/he also create the five great planet earth extinction events?
2. did s/he create each of the number of different causes of those five distinctive events?

The **Five Great Extinction Events** - EE

1st, End Ordovician or O-S EE: 450–440 million years ago mya was likely caused by glaciation, due to early mosses and plants that crept out of the oceans and colonized the land, consuming oxygen and producing elevated levels of carbon dioxide. Water levels dropped and earth Gondwana froze – 60-70% of all species.

2nd, Late Devonian EE: 375–360 mya by a series of pulse extinctions as the ecosystem adjusted to various combinations of plant and animal varieties and ocean and atmospheric chemistry - 70% of all species.

3rd, Permian–Triassic EE (End Permian): 252 mya by a combination of hyper-volcanic activity due to tectonic unrest, a possible impact event (i.e. meteor), massive release of frozen methane + anoxia + sulfide emissions - 90-96% of all species.

4th, by Triassic–Jurassic EE (End Triassic): 201.3 mya by massive multiple volcanic eruptions – 70-75% of all species.

5th, Cretaceous–Paleogene EE (End Cretaceous, K-T extinction: 66 mya meteor impact sending massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere blocking out the sun, cooling the earth and wiping out 75% of all species including dinosaurs

6th, Anthropocene Extinction Event

Among the many ways humans have affected geological changes are included:

- significantly altering one third to half of the earth's surface.
- damming or diverting most major rivers

- fixed and added more nitrogen to the ecosystem than all that naturally fixed by terrestrial ecosystems
- removed more than a third of all primary fisheries produced by the oceans
- used more than half of all the world's readily accessible fresh water runoff
- most drastically of all, humans have significantly altered the composition of the atmosphere through the transformation of carbon stored in fossil fuels – coal, oil, gases, wood and other vegetable matter into CO2 emissions. In just under 200 years human actions have increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by 40%.

Is god thus allowing the human caused anthropocene 6th extinction event to occur?

Or is god using man to initiate the 6th extinction event?

Summary Based on book readings:

The Weather Makers – Tim Flannery

Heat: How to Stop the Planet From Burning
– George Monbiot

A New Green History of the World
– Clive Ponting

Why Your World Is About to Get A Whole Lot Smaller – Jeff Rubin

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Succeed or Fail – Jared Diamond

Sea Sick - Alanna Mitchell

End of Growth – R. Heinberg

The Long Emergency- James Kunstler

The Energy of Slaves – Andrew Nikiforuk

Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent - Andrew Nikiforuk

The Sixth Extinction; An Unnatural History
– Elizabeth Kolbert

Retirement Heist – Ellen Schultz