

SCRIPTURE AND EARTH CARE

From a biblical perspective "the environment" is actually a part of God's creation - of which humanity is also a part. Therefore, creation-care does not just mean caring for "nature," nor does it just mean caring for humanity; it means caring for both. A biblical creation-care ethic is a holistic ethic.

CREATION AS REVELATION

Reverence all creation as God's work

Jn. 1:1-3: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

Creation reveals God.

Rom. 1: 20-23: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

God's Covenant after the flood - with Animals as well as humans: "I now establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you-the birds, the livestock and all the wild animals, all those that came out of the ark with you-every living creature on earth." (Genesis 9:9-10)

CREATION MOVES US TO SPIRITUALITY/RESPONSE TO GOD

Creation Declares the Glory of God

Psalms 19:1-4: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."

Creation moves us to awe and wonder. Isa. 40:12, 26: "Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? . . . Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name."

MORAL /SOCIAL JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE

The Earth belongs to God

Cor. 10:26: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." Ps. 24:1: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

We are all part of the Web of Life: Ps. 104 "You make springs gush forth in the valleys...giving drink to every wild animal; ...the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work...you cause the grass to grow for the cattle and plants for the people to use...food from the earth and wine to gladden the human heart. [Read the whole Psalm!!]

And because the plight of the earth and climate change falls most heavily on the poor who have fewer means to cope – consider : (Phil. 2:4-8) "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Creation is harmed by humanity's sin.

Hosea 4:1-3: "Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: 'There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgment of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; ...and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Because of this the land mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying.'"

CREATION SHARES IN GOD'S DREAMS FOR US.

God's Future Kingdom: a New Creation

Rom. 8: 19-23: "The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. "