



The Environment & Creation Care

Saturday 25th April 2026

Teaching by Dave Bookless

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Locating ourselves in current realities:

- Biodiversity Loss – *how much have wildlife populations declined since 1970?*
- Climate Chaos – *what are some of the tipping points in coming decades?*
- Planetary Boundaries (Stockholm Resilience Centre) – *out of 9 boundaries, how many have been crossed?*

Should we care? *How do I see the value of creation / nature compared to the value of humanity? What are humans tasked with?*

God's Big Story (made up of God's key interventions): Creation / Covenant / Christ / Church / Completion

1. Creation

Genesis 1 'all very good'

Psalms 104:24 'What a wildly wonderful world, God!

You made it all, with Wisdom at your side,
made earth overflow with your wonderful creations. (The Message)

Psalms 104:31 'The glory of God—let it last forever! Let God enjoy his creation!' (The Message)

Which part of creation do you enjoy most? What tells you most about God?

1 Kings 4:29-34 *Where did Solomon's wisdom come from (apart from God!)?*

God's two books: nature and scripture (Romans 1:20): *what does each book teach us? Why do we need both?*

- God made the earth very good (Genesis 1:31)
- Matter reveals God but is not God (Romans 1:20)
- The earth is God's not ours (Psalm 24:1-2)
- Humanity is part of creation (Genesis 2:7)
- Humanity is called apart within creation (Genesis 1:28, 2:15)

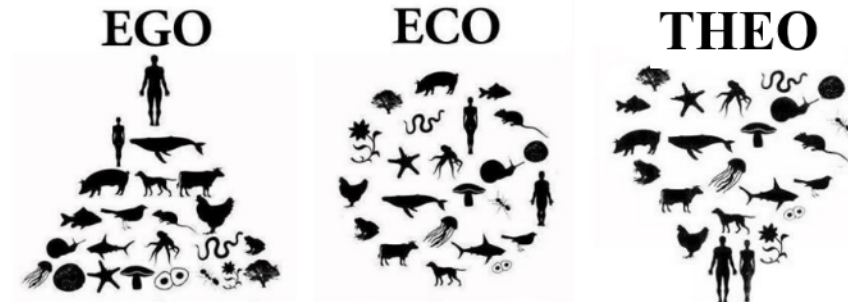
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How does humanity relate to the rest of creation?



Which of these do you identify with most?

2. Covenant

Covenant is needed because of sin and death entering creation (Genesis 3)

Which relationships are affected by sin?

- Genesis 3:17-19
- Jeremiah 12:4
- Leviticus 18:25-28
- Hosea 4:1-3
- Romans 8:22-26

The first covenant – through Noah:

Who gets saved? (Genesis 7:3)

Who is God's covenant with? (Genesis 9:8-17)

- Deuteronomy 22:6-7
- 2 Chronicles 7:13-14

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3. Christ

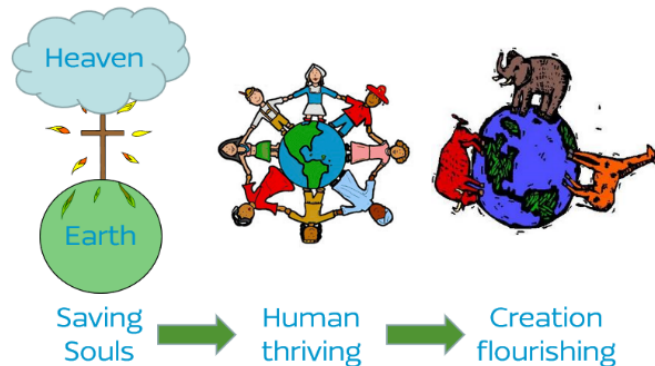
Colossians 1.15-20

- The Source of Creation: v.16 “By him all things were created.”
- The Sustainer of Creation: v.17 “In him all things hold together.”
- The Saviour of Creation: v.20 “to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven.”

John 3:16-17 *what does ‘world’ mean in this context?*

- ✓ incarnation The word became “flesh” John 1:14
- ✓ birth “Peace on earth” Luke 2:14
- ✓ life “He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters” Luke 8:22-25
- ✓ death “all things reconciled to God” through the cross. Colossians 1:19-20
- ✓ resurrection The first fruits of a new creation
- ✓ future glory “all things” in heaven and on earth under Christ Ephesians 1:9-10

Jesus’ teaching about the Kingdom of God (on earth as it is in heaven) – links to *Shalom*.



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Lausanne Cape Town Commitment, 2010: “The mission of God addresses individual persons, society and culture, and creation. All three are broken and suffering because of sin; all three are included in the redeeming love and mission of God; all three must be part of the comprehensive mission of God’s people.”

4. Church

Church as God’s agent of change

- “The creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed” (Romans 8:19)
- “The whole creation is waiting in eager longing not just for its own redemption, its liberation from corruption and decay, but for God’s children to be revealed: in other words, for the unveiling of those redeemed humans through whose stewardship creation will at last be brought back into that wise order for which it was made.” *N. T. Wright, Surprised by Hope, 2007, 213*
- Ephesians 1:22-23
- Colossians 1:18-19, 23

Images of the Church:

- Ark of blessing - for all creation
- Body of Christ – to serve a broken world
- Kingdom of Priests (1 Peter 2:9) in God’s earthy Temple (Isaiah 66:1-2)
- Living stones (1 Peter 2:4-10)
- Fruitful vine (John 15:1-7)
- Bride of Christ (Song of Songs; Matthew 25:1-13; Ephesians 5:22-23)

5. Completion

Old Testament prophets and visions of *Shalom* and restoration beyond judgment:

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- Hosea 2:18-23
- Isaiah 11:6-9
- Isaiah 65:17-25

New Testament – dealing with ‘awkward’ passages:

- Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away? Read the Psalms!!
- 2 Peter 3 Fire, judgement and destruction? parallels to Noah’s flood & refiner’s fire Malachi 3:2-3
“stoichea” (v.10) = elemental forces
“heurethēsetai” (v.10) = laid bare / revealed
- new heaven and new earth? ‘neos’ and ‘kainos’

Peter: “Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything ...” Acts 3:21

Paul: “The creation will be liberated from its bondage to decay.” Romans 8:21

Jesus: “I am making everything new.” Revelation 21.5

For more:

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