

Does God Even Care About Our Environment?

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In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...And God saw that it was good.
Genesis 1:1, 25 (NLT)

God spoke: "Let us make human beings in our image, make them reflecting our nature So they can be responsible for the fish in the sea, the birds in the air, the cattle, And, yes, Earth itself, and every animal that moves on the face of Earth." God created human beings; he created them godlike, Reflecting God's nature. He created them male and female. God blessed them: "Prosper! Reproduce! Fill Earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of Earth." Genesis 1:26-28 (MSG)

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it. Genesis 2:15 (NLT)

Tend: awbad – to serve

Watch Over: shawmar – to keep or protect

God wiped out every living thing on the earth—people, livestock, small animals that scurry along the ground, and the birds of the sky. All were destroyed. The only people who survived were Noah and those with him in the boat. Genesis 7:23 (NLT)

Then God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, "Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth. Genesis 9:1 (NLT)

Then God told Noah and his sons, "I hereby confirm my covenant with you and your descendants, and with...every living creature on earth...Never again will floodwaters kill all living creatures; never again will a flood destroy the earth." Genesis 9:8-11 (NLT)

After the flood, Noah began to cultivate the ground, and he planted a vineyard. Genesis 9:20 (NLT)

That night the people of Israel left Rameses and started for Succoth...along with great flocks and herds of livestock. Exodus 12:37-38 (NLT)

...the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your

male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. Exodus 20:10 (NLT)

For six years you may plant your fields and prune your vineyards and harvest your crops, but during the seventh year the land must have a Sabbath year of complete rest. It is the Lord's Sabbath. Do not plant your fields or prune your vineyards during that year. Leviticus 25:3-4 (NLT)

... 'You will possess their land because I will give it to you as your possession—a land flowing with milk and honey.' I am the Lord your God, who has set you apart from all other people. Leviticus 20:24 (NLT)

Milk & honey = sustenance and enjoyment; nourishment & delight

“Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell me, if you know so much. Who determined its dimensions and stretched out the surveying line? What supports its foundations, and who laid its cornerstone Job 38:4-6 (NLT)

“Who kept the sea inside its boundaries as it burst from the womb, and as I clothed it with clouds and wrapped it in thick darkness? For I locked it behind barred gates, limiting its shores. I said, ‘This far and no farther will you come. Here your proud waves must stop!’ Job 38:8-11 (NLT)

“Have you ever commanded the morning to appear and caused the dawn to rise in the east? Have you made daylight spread to the ends of the earth, to bring an end to the night's wickedness? Job 38:12-13 (NLT)

“Have you visited the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of hail? (I have reserved them as weapons for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war.) Where is the path to the source of light? Where is the home of the east wind? Job 38:22-24 (NLT)

“Who created a channel for the torrents of rain? Who laid out the path for the lightning? Who makes the rain fall on barren land, in a desert where no one lives? Who sends rain to satisfy the parched ground and make the tender grass spring up? Job 38:25-27 (NLT)

“Does the rain have a father? Who gives birth to the dew? Who is the mother of the ice? Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens? For the water turns to ice as hard as rock, and the surface of the water freezes. Job 38:28-30 (NLT)

“Do you know when the wild goats give birth? Have you watched as deer are born in the wild? Do you know how many months they carry their young? Are you aware of the time of their delivery? Job 39:1-2 (NLT)

“The ostrich flaps her wings grandly, but they are no match for the feathers of the stork...For God has deprived her of wisdom. He has given her no understanding. But whenever she jumps up to run, she passes the swiftest horse with its rider. Job 39:13-18 (NLT)

“Have you given the horse its strength or clothed its neck with a flowing mane? Job 39:19 (NLT)

“Is it your wisdom that makes the hawk soar and spread its wings toward the south? Is it at your command that the eagle rises to the heights to make its nest? Job 39:26-27 (NLT)

“Take a look at Behemoth, which I made, just as I made you. It eats grass like an ox. See its powerful loins and the muscles of its belly. Its tail is as strong as a cedar. The sinews of its thighs are knit tightly together. Its bones are tubes of bronze. Its limbs are bars of iron. It is a prime example of God’s handiwork, and only its Creator can threaten it. Job 40:15-19 (NLT)

“I want to emphasize Leviathan’s limbs and its enormous strength and graceful form. Who can strip off its hide, and who can penetrate its double layer of armor? Who could pry open its jaws? For its teeth are terrible! Its scales are like rows of shields tightly sealed together. They are so close together that no air can get between them. Each scale sticks tight to the next. They interlock and cannot be penetrated. Job 41:12-17 (NLT)

God’s Primary Posture Toward Creation is Pleasure & Celebration.

You make springs pour water into the ravines, so streams gush down from the mountains. They provide water for all the animals, and the wild donkeys quench their thirst. The birds nest beside the streams and sing among the branches of the trees. You send rain on the mountains from your heavenly home, and you fill the earth with the fruit of your labor. You cause grass to grow for the livestock and plants for people to use. You allow them to produce food from the earth— wine to make them glad, olive oil to soothe their skin, and bread to give them strength. Psalm 104:10-15 (NLT)

God has set people and creation in a delicate balance to provide for our needs and our pleasure.

(Mary) turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn’t recognize him. “Dear woman, why are you crying?” Jesus asked her. “Who are you looking for?” She thought he was the gardener. “Sir,” she said, “if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him.” “Mary!” Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, “Rabboni!” (which is Hebrew for “Teacher”). John 20:14-16 (NLT)

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God...through him God created everything...on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see...Everything was created through him and for him. He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together...and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross. Colossians 1:15-20 (NLT)

He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. God has now revealed to us his mysterious plan regarding Christ, a plan to fulfill his own good pleasure. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. Ephesians 1:7-10 (NLT)

His “good pleasure” is putting everything back together through Jesus.

...Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. 1 Timothy 6:17 (NLT)

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared... Revelation 21:1 (NLT)

Then the angel showed me a river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. It flowed down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations. Revelation 22:1-2 (NLT)

We are creatures; we need to become children.

“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you...Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. Matthew 6:28-33 (NLT)

Challenge: To Experience God's Creation!