

Being Good Stewards of Planet Earth

Gen. 1:26-28

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Two Expressions of "Upside Down" Thinking.

Adoration / worship of Creation

- the earth is our sacred Mother?
 - animals are equal in value?
 - god is in everything and is everything
 - we are "gods" – we are the cause and source of everything
- "Look at what I have done!"

... worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator. Rom. 1:25

Abusive / apathetic attitude toward Creation.

Use it – Abuse it

Waste it – Kill it

Biblical Right-side up thinking.

The earth was created by God.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Gen. 1:1

The universe had a beginning.

The universe has a cause.

The "cause" must be timeless, spaceless, all powerful, all wise, personal, and intelligent.

All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. John 1:3

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. Rom. 11:36

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things were created through Him and for Him. Col. 1:16

Ancient Hindus believed that a flat world rested on the back of a huge elephant, the elephant stood on the back of an enormous turtle and the turtle stood on an immense coiled snake.

"All the principles of science are of Divine origin. Man cannot make or invent or contrive principles – he can only discover them and he ought to then look through the discovery to the author." Thomas Paine.

Dr. James F. Coppedge calculated the probability that a single insulin molecule would form by chance as 1 in 10 (to the 109th power)

Dissent from Darwin.org over 900 PHD scientists have signed a statement agreeing that “we are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life.”

8,000 books = information in one human cell.

The fine tuning of the universe points to a fine tuner.

The earth belongs to God.

“Instead of hitting each other over the head about evolution, maybe we could work together to solve some of this planet’s pressing problems (climate change, poverty, war, environmental degradation, wealth inequality, lack of health care and educational resources, prejudice, discrimination and so forth.”
The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein. Psalm 24:1

Behold, to the Lord your God belong...the earth with all that is in it. Deut. 10:14

The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours; the world and all that is in it, You have founded them. Ps. 89:11

We are stewards – not owners.
We are guests – not permanent residents.

This is my Father’s world.
O let me ne’er forget,
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

The earth gives glory to God.

The heavens declare the glory of God and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Ps. 19:1

Man’s presence – “Carbon Footprint”
God’s Presence – “Creative Handiwork”

Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. (2)

It reveals knowledge about –
- God and his character
- God’s creative expression
- God’s power to bring forth life
- God’s care and goodness

The mystery and the beauty of the world is overwhelmingly amazing, and there’s no scientific explanation of how it came about.

“I think it makes sense to believe in God, but exactly what decision in your life you make differently because of it, I don’t know.” Bill Gates

7 reasons why I believe in God -
1. Rotation of the earth (1,000 mph)
2. Heat of the sun (10,000 degrees)
3. Tilt of the earth (23.44 degrees)
4. Distance of the moon (238,865 miles)

5. Crust of the earth
6. The atmosphere density - (protects life, warms the surface & reduces temp extremes
-perfect % of nitrogen, oxygen, neon, helium, and methane
7. The precision of the human body

The earth well taken care of honors God

The heavens are the Lord's heavens but the earth He has given to the children of men. Ps. 115:16

Subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth. Gen. 1:28

Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. Prov. 12:10

“The person that makes the mess has to clean it up!”

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it . Gen 2:15

God is honored...

- when we value what belongs to God
- when we care for what belong to God
- when we praise what belongs to God

Application Thoughts -

1. Explore – Don't exploit the earth
2. Enjoy – Don't exalt the earth
3. Embrace the Creator – Don't exchange the Eternal Creator for the Temporary Earth.
 - Praise His Name!
 - Give Him glory!
 - Lift up his reputation!
 - Thank Him for His blessings!
 - Follow Him!
 - Serve Him!
 - Worship Him!
 - Know Him!