

Stewardship of God's creation and creation care

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. NASU Any teaching about creation must speak of the truth that the Father , Son, and Holy Spirit were involved in creation. 'Elohiym (el-o-heem') the united one created the heavens and the earth. JMC

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;..... 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. NASU The “Us” of verse 26 is a reference to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit making man in “Our” image. JMC Adam Clarke writes in his commentary on Genesis 1:26-30, “The text tells us man was the work of 'ELOHIYM, the Divine Plurality, marked here more distinctly by the plural pronouns US and OUR; and to show that he was the masterpiece of God's creation, all the persons in the Godhead are represented as united in counsel and effort to produce this astonishing creature.”

John 1:1-4 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.” NASU God who lives outside of time and space created time and space and all things that exist.

His creative power was manifested through His Son, Jesus Christ. Everything came into existence through Jesus who has eternally been with God and He, the Word, is God. So any group that seeks to be a good steward of creation must lift up and honor Jesus Christ. JMC

John 1:14-18 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, ' He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me." 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. NASU **John 1:18** No one has ever seen God; but the **only and unique Son**, who is **identical** with God and is at the Father's side — He has made Him known. Complete Jewish Bible

John 17:5 "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." NASU It is obvious from Scripture that Jesus existed before His incarnation and was sent by the Father to earth where He became the atoning sacrifice for man's sin. JMC

Hebrews 10:4-10 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, but a body You have prepared for Me; 6 in

whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure. 7 “Then I said, ‘behold, I have come (in the scroll of the book it is written of Me) to do Your will, O God.’”

8 After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have not desired, nor have You taken pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the Law), 9 then He said, “behold, I have come to do Your will.” He takes away the first in order to establish the second. 10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. NASU

Jesus existed with the Father before He came into the world. Paul says in **Philippians 2** that Jesus existed in the form of God and was equal with God. Then in **Hebrews 10** we learn that as Jesus comes into the world He willingly empties Himself and “enters the body prepared for Him” thus taking on the form of man in order to fulfill the eternal plans of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to deliver or redeem mankind from the consequences of sin by becoming the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. The body the “Word” entered became the perfect sacrifice to bring about forgiveness of our sins and restore a right relationship with our Father in Heaven. JMC

Philippians 2:5-9 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped (that is held onto) , 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled

Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. NASU

Hebrews 1:1-3 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. NASU Jesus also upholds or sustains all that He created by His power packed word. JMC

Psalms 24:1 The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it. NASU

God created everything therefore everything belongs to Him. If I were to design and then create or produce a car it would rightfully belong to me. This is also true of God. JMC

Everything belongs to the Lord and everything should bring to Him as creator honor and glory. JMC

As God's stewards of the earth we honor and glorify Him by protecting and rehabilitating all eco systems. JMC

Psalms 19:1-4 The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. 2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. NKJV

Be good stewards of all creation because creation reflects the glory of God! JMC

Genesis 1:26-29 And let them have dominion ... This delegated supremacy over all the creatures in this world was bestowed upon the human race in consequence of their being made in the image of God; and since they are consequently capable of exercising authority and control over the irrational animals, they have had all things committed to their guidance, and put under their feet (cf. Ps 8:6-8), as the exclusive prerogative of the race. (from Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1997, 2003, 2005, 2006 by Biblesoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)

OT:7287 HEBREW> radah (raw-daw'); a primitive root; to tread down, i.e. subjugate;

KJV - (come to, make to) have dominion, prevail against, reign, (bear, make to) rule,- r, over), take.

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006 Biblesoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.)

OT:7287 radah —1) to rule, to have dominion, to dominate, to tread down

- a) (Qal) to have dominion, to rule, to subjugate
- b) (Hiphil) to cause to dominate

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[And let them rule.] The relation of man to the creature is now stated. It is that of sovereignty. Those capacities of right thinking, right willing, and right acting, or of knowledge, holiness, and righteousness, in which man resembles God, qualify him for dominion, and constitute him lord of all creatures that are destitute of intellectual and moral endowments. Hence, wherever man enters he makes his sway to be felt. He contemplates the objects around him, marks their qualities and relations, conceives and resolves upon the end to be attained, and endeavors to make all things within his reach work together for its accomplishment. This is to rule on a limited scale. The field of his dominion is "the fish of the sea, the fowl of the skies, the cattle, the whole land, and everything that creepeth on the land." The order here is from the lowest to the highest. The fish, the fowl, are beneath the domestic cattle. These again are of less importance than the land, which man tills and renders fruitful in all that can gratify his appetite or his taste. The last and greatest victory of all is over the wild animals, which are included under the class of creepers that are prone in their posture, and move in a creeping attitude over the land. The primeval and prominent objects of human sway are here brought forward after the manner of Scripture. But there is not an object within the ken of man

which he does not aim at making subservient to his purposes. He has made the sea his highway to the ends of the earth, the stars his pilots on the pathless ocean, the sun his bleacher and painter, the bowels of the earth the treasury from which he draws his precious and useful metals and much of his fuel, the steam his motive power, and the lightning his messenger. These are proofs of the ever growing sway of man."

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I would say that there is a divine mandate inferred in Genesis 1 for humans to be the stewards for God of His creation. I might add that one of the foundation blocks of being His stewards must be a belief that God exists and is Creator. JMC

Psalms 115:16 The heavens are the heavens of the Lord, But the earth He has given to the sons of men. NASU.

Psalms 89:11 The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all it contains, You have founded them. 12 The north and the south, You have created them; Tabor and Hermon shout for joy at Your name. NASU

It is our duty as Christians to help our offspring see the power and beauty and love of God by directing them to see the design and order of creation. JMC

Romans 8:19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the

creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. NASU

The true time of restoration will come when the sons of God are revealed. Creation will groan until then. So, we must always remember that there is a certain futility this side of Christ's coming to any and all efforts to restore to order the many things in creation that have been corrupted by man and his sinful behavior. JMC

Beyond even the second coming the new heaven and the new earth will only come into existence after Jesus has reigned on earth for 1,000 years; after satan rises against Jesus from the abyss at the end of Christ's 1,000 year reign; and he, satan, is found to be impotent and thrown into the lake of fire; and after the final judgment of mankind takes place. JMC

We must always recognize that "the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10) before all things are restored to God's perfect order. JMC

Romans 1:18-23 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19

because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, **His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made**, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. NASU

Additional Scriptures (For word studies that may be helpful to this topic):

Ps 89:8 O Lord God of hosts, who is like You, O mighty Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You. 9 You **rule** the swelling of the sea; When its waves rise, You still them. 10 You Yourself crushed Rahab like one who is slain; You scattered Your enemies with Your mighty arm. NASU

Psalms 36:6 Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like a great deep. O Lord, You **preserve** man and beast. 7 How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. 8 They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house; And You give them to drink of

the river of Your delights. 9 For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light. NASU

Psalm 37:16 Better is the little of the righteous than the abundance of many wicked. 17 For the arms of the wicked will be broken, But the Lord sustains the righteous. NASU

NOTE: JMC following any paragraph refers to the fact that these are Pastor Joseph M. Core's thoughts.

Genesis 2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

Psalm 8:4-6 English Standard Version (ESV)

4 what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

5 Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.

6 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet,

The Lord's Care Over All His Works Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

O Lord my God, You are very great;

You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

Covering Yourself with light as with a cloak,

Stretching out heaven like a tent curtain.

He lays the beams of His upper chamber in the waters;

He makes the clouds His chariot;

He walks upon the wings of the wind;

He makes the winds His messengers,

Flaming fire His ministers.

He established the earth upon its foundations,

So that it will not totter forever and ever.

You covered it with the deep as with a garment;

The waters were standing above the mountains.

At our rebuke they fled,

At the sound of Your thunder they hurried away.

The mountains rose; the valleys sank down

To the place which You established for them.
You set a boundary that they may not pass over,
So that they will not return to cover the earth.

He sends forth springs in the valleys;
They flow between the mountains;
They give drink to every beast of the field;
The wild donkeys quench their thirst.
Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;
They lift up their voices among the branches.
He waters the mountains from His upper chambers;
The earth is satisfied with the fruit of His works.

He causes the grass to grow for the cattle,
And vegetation for the labor of man,
So that he may bring forth food from the earth,
And wine which makes man's heart glad,
So that he may make his face glisten with oil,
And food which sustains man's heart.
The trees of the Lord drink their fill,
The cedars of Lebanon which He planted,
Where the birds build their nests,
And the stork, whose home is the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats;
The cliffs are a refuge for the shephanim.
He made the moon for the seasons;
The sun knows the pace of its setting.
You appoint darkness and it becomes night,
In which all the beasts of the forest prowl about.
The young lions roar after their prey
And seek their food from God.
When the sun rises they withdraw
And lie down in their dens.

Man goes forth to his work
And to his labor until evening.

O Lord, how many are Your works!
In wisdom You have made them all;
The earth is full of Your possessions.
There is the sea, great and broad,
In which are swarms without number,
Animals both small and great.
There the ships move along,
And Leviathan, which You have formed to sport in it.

They all wait for You
To give them their food in due season.
You give to them, they gather it up;
You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good.
You hide Your face, they are dismayed;
You take away their spirit, they expire
And return to their dust.
You send forth Your Spirit, they are created;
And You renew the face of the ground.

Let the glory of the Lord endure forever;
Let the Lord be glad in His works;
He looks at the earth, and it trembles;
He touches the mountains, and they smoke.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
Let my meditation be pleasing to Him;
As for me, I shall be glad in the Lord.
Let sinners be consumed from the earth
And let the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Praise the Lord!

Genesis 1:26-30 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth." Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given every green plant for food*"; and it was so.

Matthew 25:14-30 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

Parable of the Talents

"For *it is* just like a man *about* to go on a journey, who called his own slaves and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own ability; and he went on his journey. Immediately the one who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and gained five more talents. In the same manner the one who *had received* the two *talents* gained two more. But he who received the one *talent* went away, and dug a *hole* in the ground and hid his master's money.

"Now after a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five talents came up and brought five more talents, saying, 'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

"Also the one who *had received* the two talents came up and said, 'Master, you entrusted two talents to me. See, I have gained two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

"And the one also who had received the one talent came up and said, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you scattered no *seed*. And I was afraid, and went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have what is yours.'

"But his master answered and said to him, 'You wicked, lazy slave, you knew that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I scattered no *seed*. Then you ought to have put my money in the bank, and on my arrival I would have received my *money* back with interest. Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.'

"For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.