



## What is our Vocation for Creation Care—The Biblical Perspective

*This material takes a more direct “What does the Bible Say?” approach and may be more applicable for some groups.*

Watch “The Biblical Foundations of Creation Care.” a 6-minute video from Lausanne Global Classroom,;  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZ-x\\_RqLYpM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZ-x_RqLYpM)

Or “An Introduction to Creation Care.” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqZ\\_4vZILww](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqZ_4vZILww)

*Then, after discussion, proceed in discussing the material written here.*

There can be many starting points for theologies and practices of Creation Care. It is very common to root this in the **Hebrew scriptures**. Examples are:

- the teachings in Genesis 1-3 that all creation is from God and that humans are placed to till and keep God’s garden ( Gen 2.15);
- the commands in the Torah to give living systems time and space to replenish by limiting our overuse (Lev 19.9-10, 25. 1.18, etc.);
- the warnings from prophets that the land is soon to be made desolate because of human rebellion and sin (Ezek 7, Zeph 1 among many others);
- the praises in Psalms declared by all creation (148, etc.);
- the testimony in psalms that the earth and all its fulness is the Lord’s and not ours (24.1, 50.12, note especially Lev 25.23); and
- the delight that God wisdom takes both in creation and in instructing humans (Pro 8.22-36.)

*Question for discussion: what resource for study of Creation care has most changed your life?*

Relatively few sources focus specifically on what Jesus Christ teaches us about Creation care. What can we learn environmentally from our scriptures about Christ?

New Testament books with high Christologies, notably John, Colossians, Ephesians, declare that Christ created all things, holds together and unites all things, shines through and enlightens all things. Read John 1.1-3 or Colossians 1.15-20. *What do these teach about Creation care?*

The Gospel of John emphatically shows a God who so loves the world, a Christ who was sent to save and not condemn the world, and a Jesus who identifies himself frequently with aspects of the natural world. (I am. . .the vine, the light of the world, the bread of life, the bright morning star (Rev 22.16), the Lamb (John the Baptist so naming him). Read what many consider the key verse in the Christian scripture, John 3.16-17. *What does this teach about Creation care?*

The stories of Jesus reveal a man living in close proximity and extraordinary harmony with nature.

*What do his birth amidst animals, his prayers outdoors in the wilderness, his camping in olive groves, and his resurrection in a garden tell us about Creation care?*

His teachings especially in Matthew and Luke teach the dangers of wealth and the joys of simplicity.

Read Matt 6.19-21,25-34, or Luke 6.20-26. *What do these teach us of Creation care?*

His passion, with death and resurrection, are presented as the climactic triumph over sin and death.

Read Colossians 1.18-20 again. *How does “firstborn from the dead” connect with “reconciling to himself all things whether in earth or heaven?” What does this teach us about Creation care?*

The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev 1.1) is read by some Christians as an anti-environment message, viewing it as an inevitable sequence of environmental collapse. *What if we read Revelation instead as a call to repentance?* Read Rev 16.9-11, and 9.20-21, perhaps 4.12 and 18.

*Write your own sentence, paragraph, or prayer, on “How Does Jesus Model Creation Care?”*

*Closing Words from St Bonaventure, read together*

“Therefore any person who is not illumined by such great splendor in created things is blind. Anyone who is not awakened by such great outcries is deaf. Anyone who is not led by such effects to give praise to God is mute. . . . Therefore open your eyes, alert your spiritual ears, unlock your lips, and apply your heart so that in all creatures you may see ,hear, praise, love and adore, magnify, and honor your God. . . lest the whole world rise up against you.”