

Back to Eden

Why Should Christians Care About the Environment?

Genesis 1:31 HCSB God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. Evening came, and then morning: the sixth day.

Introduction

While most Christians appreciate the beauty of nature, many don't realize there is a strong biblical basis for creation care.

Our first home was a natural paradise.

- **Genesis 2:8-15 HCSB** The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there He placed the man He had formed. (9) The LORD God caused to grow out of the ground every tree pleasing in appearance and good for food, including the tree of life in the midst of the garden, as well as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (10) A river went out from Eden to water the garden. From there it divided and became the source of four rivers. (11) The name of the first is Pishon, which encircles the entire land of the Havilah, where there is gold. (12) Gold from that land is pure; bdellium and onyx are also there. (13) The name of the second river is Gihon, which encircles the entire land of Cush. (14) The name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows to the east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates. (15) The LORD God took the man and placed him in the garden of Eden to work it and watch over it.

Our first mandate was to tend to creation and care for it. The Lord commanded Adam to tend this paradise and keep it, in other words to take care of it.

- **Genesis 2:5 HCSB** No shrub of the field had yet *grown* on the land, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not made it rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground.
- **Genesis 1:26-28 HCSB** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the animals, all the earth, and the creatures that crawl on the earth." (27) So God created man in His own image; He created him in the image of God; He created them male and female. (28) God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it. Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and every creature that crawls on the earth."

God has a great love and concern for the environment.

- **Job 38:39-39:6 HCSB** Can you hunt prey for a lioness or satisfy the appetite of young lions (40) when they crouch in their dens and lie in wait within their lairs? (41) Who provides the raven's food when its young cry out to God and wander about for lack of food? (39:1) Do you know when mountain goats give birth? Have you watched the deer in labor? (2) Can you count the months they are pregnant so you can know the time they give birth? (3) They crouch down to give birth to their young; they deliver their newborn. (4) Their offspring are healthy and grow up in the open field. They leave and do not return. (5) Who set the wild donkey free? Who released the swift donkey from its harness? (6) I made the wilderness its home, and the salty wasteland its dwelling.
- **Psalms 84:3-4 HCSB** Even a sparrow finds a home, and a swallow, a nest for herself where she places her young--near Your altars, LORD of Hosts, my King and my God. (4) How happy are those who reside in Your house, who praise You continually. Selah

- [Matthew 6:26 HCSB](#) Look at the birds of the sky: they don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they?
- [Matthew 6:28-30 HCSB](#) And why do you worry about clothes? Learn how the wildflowers of the field grow: they don't labor or spin thread. (29) Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these! (30) If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't He do much more for you--you of little faith?
- [Matthew 10:29 HCSB](#) Aren't two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's consent.

Conclusion

When we remove the evidence of God's handiwork that took Him thousands of years to develop by destroying the miraculous beauty such as was once displayed in the majestic cathedrals of our old growth forests, can we expect anything to follow except despair?

- [Revelation 11:18 HCSB](#) The nations were angry, but Your wrath has come. The time has come for the dead to be judged, and to give the reward to Your servants the prophets, to the saints, and to those who fear Your name, both small and great, and the time has come to destroy those who destroy the earth.

Have we been good stewards and looked after the Master's business as we should?