

## Resume - Is God Green?

•Definition “Green” = concerned with, or supporting the protection of the environment as a principle.

•**Opinion 1:** 1967, Lynn White Jr., *The Historical Roots Of Our Ecological Crisis*. “We are superior to nature, contemptuous of it, willing to use it for our slightest whim. ... “when you've seen one redwood tree, you've seen them all. To a Christian a tree can be no more than a physical fact.”

•**Opinion 2:** 2004, Glen Scherer, *The Godly Must Be Crazy*. “Why care about the earth when ecological collapse is an inevitable sign of the Apocalypse foretold in the Bible?”

•**Opinion 3:** James Watt, President Reagan's, Secretary of the Interior, "God gave us these things to use. After the last tree is felled, Christ will come back."

•QN: How can we confirm if God is green or not?

•3 ways: 1. Testimony of Nature 2. Correct View of God 3. Actions of God

### 1. Testimony of Nature

•Irenaeus (120-202) - “The initial step for a soul to come to knowledge of God is contemplation of nature.”

### 2. Correct View of God

(i) Deism is belief in the existence of a supreme being who created the world but who has no present interest in the world.

•Master craftsman; absentee landlord; god is wholly transcendent = ability and desire to be independent - above and beyond the world.

•QN: Could the god of deism be green? No, because he has no interest in the environment.

(ii) Pantheism is the belief that everything is part of an all-encompassing God.

•God and the world are equivalent; all is divine; god is wholly immanent = ability and desire to be indwelling - permanently pervading and sustaining the world.

•QN: Could the god of pantheism be green? No, because things in nature were created and now die, but God was not created and no part of God ever dies - He is eternal.

•**PROPOSITION:** A green God must be both transcendent and immanent.

•QN: Is there a belief system that views God as both transcendent and immanent?

(iii) Christianity

•Christianity is the belief that centres on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, who is the Christ, the Son of God, Savior and Lord.

•Is God transcendent? Genesis 1:1; Hebrews. 11:3; Isaiah 42:5; 2 Chronicles 6:18

•Is God immanent? Exodus 25:8; Jeremiah 23:23; Hebrews 1:3; Acts 17:25,28

•God is Transcendent & Immanent.

•Joseph Sittler, American Lutheran theologian (1904-1987) “God is not identified with the world, for He made it [i.e. not pantheism]; but God is not separated from His world, either. For He made it. [i.e. not immanence]”

### 3. Actions of God

•Genesis 1:11,12; 1:31; 2:9; Revelation 22:2,14; Genesis 2:15; Leviticus 25:2-4; Deuteronomy 20:19; Psalm 104; Matthew 6:26-30; Acts 3:20,21; Isaiah 65:17; Revelation 21:5,6.

•**GOD IS GREEN** - Summary text: Nehemiah 9:6

•God is green, so: 1. What does it mean for you and me? 2. How do we explain global warming, ocean levels rising, polar ice caps melting, endangered species, water pollution?

•We'll begin to answer those 2 questions in “**If God Is Green, So What? - 7 Implications Of A Green God ... 21 Practical Tips To Get Started ...**”