

Resume - 2. God Is Green, So What? - Greg Evans

•God is green, and so there are implications from that. Here are 7: 1. God Is Supreme 2. Good Has Value 3. Be Fruitful For Sustainability 4. Humanity's Relationship: Interconnectedness 5. Humanity's Place: Dominion & Service 6. Shabbat: The Rest Of Life 7. Nature's Lesson Book: God's Pictorial

1. God is Supreme

➔IS ETERNAL - 1 Timothy 1:17; 2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV); Titus 1:2 (NKJV); God was before time, not time before God. Time is finite. If it were not, we would not know what time it is now.

➔CREATED TIME - Genesis 1:1,5.

➔CREATED MATTER & ENERGY - Hebrews 11:3; Genesis 1:1;16

➔CREATED LIFE - Genesis 1:24

➔KNOWS THE END FROM THE BEGINNING - Isa.46:9,10

•SO WHAT? God is supreme, and so we honour, revere, and are in awe of Him.

2. Good Has Value

•6 times after God created something, He evaluated it, "and God saw that it was good." (Genesis 1:4,10,12,18, 21, 25).

•"Good" = creation completely met the plan, the purpose, and the approval of its Maker.

•You see, God had a plan, and every created thing had a purpose.

Timeless Truth: If something has a purpose it must have value.

•SO WHAT? We respect "all that is" in nature.

3. Sustainability Through Fruitfulness

•This theme is largely established through the words and phrases like "seed", "herb yielding seed", "fruit tree yielding fruit", "after his kind", "after their kind", "be fruitful and multiply"(vs.11,12,21,22,24,25,28,29). The last clause of Genesis 2:3, which is translated "which God created and made", is literally translated "God prepared for making" (YLT). In other words, "to make more of itself".

•God continues His sustainable work - Psalm 104:13. He encourages us to do so, Isaiah 5:8, Ezekiel 34:18.

•SO WHAT? We enjoy and do not destroy the fruitfulness of nature.

4. Humanity's Relationship: InterConnectedness

•There is a connectedness between God, earth, plants, animals, and people. - Genesis 1:11,26,31; 2:7,18-20

•The essence of all pantheism, evolutionism, and modern cosmic religion is really in this proposition: that Nature is our mother The main point of Christianity was this: that Nature is not our mother: Nature is our sister. We can be proud of her beauty, since we have the same Father, but she has no authority over us; we have to admire, but not to imitate. This gives to the typically Christian pleasure in this earth, a strange touch of lightness that is almost frivolity. ... Nature is a sister, and even younger sister: a little, dancing sister, to be laughed at as well as loved."

•SO WHAT? We are created for relationships with God, people, and nature.

5. Humanity's Place: Dominion & Service

•Genesis 1:28 - "Subdue" = to keep under, bring into subjection; "Dominion" = to rule, reign.

•So, the relationship of man to the rest of the creation was to be 1 of rulership.

•Man is God's representative or deputy over the earth. He is to honour it a good rulers should.

•Genesis 2:15 - "Tend" = to serve, cultivate - infers work; "Keep" = to guard, to watch, to preserve, to observe, to hold fast - infers care and nurture. Numbers 6:24 - "keep" is the same word.

•"Tend" and "keep" also used in service to God, and in religious sense of observing Shabbat.

•SO WHAT? We serve and preserve the world of nature.

6. Shabbat: The Rest of Life Sabbath

•Environmentalists promote the idea of "1 day off a week" because they it will cultivate a greater respect for creation.

•The convention of a weekly rest day was instigated thousands of years ago is the answer they are seeking.

•Genesis 2:1-3 - "Rested" comes from the word "shabbat". "Sanctified" means "to set apart" or "holy".

•On Shabbat, we are called to: Recognize our createdness; Refrain from working nature, and simply resting in the miracles of creation; Be content in the deep peace of an earth that does not rely on people.

- All creation needs rest: Exodus 23:10-12; Leviticus 25:20,21; 26
- SO WHAT? We observe the rest of shabbat for life.

7.Nature's Lesson Book: God's Pictorial

•Augustine wrote, "Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead, He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?" Augustine (354-430), *De Civitate Dei*, Book 16

- Several thousand years ago, the early inhabitants of the earth learned much about God and His will from and living in nature.
- In fact, intimacy with nature might be the single most important *religious* difference between the Bible characters and us.
- The reason for this is that so many of us have been formed by an urbanized culture that treats nature as a beautiful abstraction, not a beneficial reality so we think that God is interested only in "spiritual" concerns.
- Society's common sense tendency is to separate the physical world from the spiritual realm.