

Environmental Christians
10-21-13

We are told in Genesis 1:26 that God created man and then gave him dominion over all of the creation. Man was the supreme part of creation, made in the image of God. In Genesis 2:15-17 God took man and placed him into the Garden to be the caretaker of these things. Man's first position of stewardship. Later, in Genesis 9:1-3, God re-authorized man to this position of chief steward of creation. In Psalm 8:3-9 David writes to the wonder of the creation, and the marvel that man has dominion over it.

What is man's job as chief steward? It is not to preserve the creation, because we cannot do so. The Creation is destined to destruction (2 Peter 3:11). So why then must man care-take the earth? We can find that it is a matter of our character judgment. To understand what is expected of us, let us first examine our authority, and then God commands on these things.

What is Dominion? The writer of Hebrews (Hebrews 2:6-9) restated the 8th Psalm and places it into a prophetic light; Jesus has dominion over all things. Which idea describes Jesus' dominion: Taking what He can get VS Caretaking? Obviously, Jesus has revealed great care in our needs, and reveals the heart of divine stewardship.

God insisted man respect the Creation:

The Sabbath Rest - Leviticus 25:1-7

Defining Integrity – Job 31:38-39

Mindful of the beast – Deuteronomy 25:4

God's Dominion Judgment is revealed too:

Defines righteousness – Proverbs 12:10

Judgment on Israel – Leviticus 26:31-35

Are there sins against nature? Not as such, but there are sins involving nature, such as greed (1 Kings 21:1-4) and covetousness (Proverbs 12:12).

Today, most of us do not labor with the land. But we do labor, and God has rules about our work (Ephesians 6:3-5). We need to look back and see that the divine stewardship of the earth passed on to us, the Rules of the Land revealed integrity; either by revealing covetousness & greed, or by demonstrating righteousness & obedience.

God insisted man respect the Creation. It is the foundation of stewardship. Stewardship is a matter of judgment. Stewardship rules apply to more than just the care of the earth; they apply to all things God has entrusted to us.