



The Environment

Read Genesis 1:1, and 1:26-31

1. Which is correct based on Genesis 1:1?
 - a) The world is God; **OR**
 - b) The world is God's creation.
2. How will your answer to Q. 1 shape your thinking about the created world?
3. In Genesis 1:28, God calls humanity to “subdue” and “rule” (CSB) creation. When we hear those words, we may think of evil rulers and many environmental abuses. But what was the only example of “subdue” and “rule” given in Genesis 1?
4. How will the answer to Q. 3 shape our thinking about how humanity should “subdue” and “rule” the created world?

Read Hosea 4:1-3

5. In verse 1-2, God describes the sin of Israel. What effect does their sin have on the created world?
6. Do you think sin affects creation in a similar way, here and now?

7. If sin affects the environment, can you fix the environment without addressing sin?

Read Revelation 11:15-19

8. We've seen how sinfulness affects the world—in so many ways! How does God resolve this (11:18)?

Read Colossians 1:15-20

9. If Jesus is the heir (or “firstborn of all creation” - verse 15), who does creation belong to?
10. If Jesus is the one who “reconciles all things”, how might that apply to the created world?

Application

A1. Through his word, God says: “Behold—I am making everything new!”¹ Through Christ, God deals with human sin once and for all. In Revelation, God speaks of how he will destroy those who destroy the earth. Christians ought to show due care for the created world. But where will we look to for hope in these problems?

A2. If sin is “the ultimate environmental contaminant”, what does that mean for sinful humanity? And how can we love them, and help them?

¹ Isaiah 65:17, Revelation 21:5.