

Reference: VARIOUS

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Creation, Fall and the Environment – Pt. 1

Purpose: To review the elements of the doctrines of the creation and fall that are relevant to developing a Biblical position on the environment.

1. Introduction

So far have covered the basic toolbox of doctrines
 Selected the ones we will use for this job
 Examined God's Decree – what does this tell us?
 Also examined Providence – what do we learn from this?
 Now we will examine specific parts of God's plan
 Glean details to help us with the task:
 Biblical view on environmental issues
 This week, Creation and the mandate given to man
 Next week, the fall and how this has changed things
 Then we will apply this to our subject.

2. Creation

Will look mainly at first 2 chapters of Genesis.

Genesis 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. **28** God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

29 Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; **30** and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, *I have given* every green plant for food"; and it was so. **31** God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep [guard] it.

Genesis 2:19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought *them* to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. **20** The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

2.1. *The nature of God's creation*

What do we learn from Genesis about creation?

How did God view it before the fall?

"Very good"

What does this mean?

No sin, all perfect

Anything in relation to God's character?

Reflected His character perfectly – it was His handiwork

Any environmental problems?

Holes in ozone layer?

Any global warming?

Anything that would harm man or other creatures? No.

Why not? Creation was perfect

So where have all environmental issues come from?

Sin.

Will see more in the doctrine of the fall

2.2. *Man in God's creation*

2.2.1. What was man like?

What do we know about man?

Made in God's image – perfect reflection of His character

Creative, moral, good

2.2.2. What position did man have?

He was steward of the earth for God

He was given dominion over all other creatures

He named the animals

Practical demonstration of his authority and responsibility

His primacy among created things on earth

Given every plant to eat

Pinnacle of God's creation

2.2.3. What was man commanded to do?

What specific responsibilities did Adam have in Eden?

To work it and to guard it (2:15)

2.2.4. The attitude of man in God's creation

What do we know about man's heart at this time?

How would he have reacted to these responsibilities from God?

How would he have borne the responsibilities?

What would he have sought to do?

To do all he was commanded gladly, willingly and well

All done for the glory of God

3. **Conclusions**

Does this all have any relevance to the environment?

Any thoughts at this stage?

Next week, we will see what the fall has done to all this

Has anything changed?

What was affected?

What are the outcomes for the environment?