

Series: Creation Care

Born into it to Care for it
Sunday April 17, 2016

1. *When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him... that you care for him?* (Ps. 8:4).

2. *"As for men, God tests them so that they may see that they are like the animals. Man's fate is like that of the animals; the same fate awaits them both: As one dies, so dies the other... all come from dust, and to dust all return"* (Ecc. 3:18-20).

3. *The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body* (1 Cor. 15:42-44).

4. *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female, he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground (Gen. 1:26-28).

5. *You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim in the paths of the sea* (Psalm 8: 6-8).

6. What did God have in mind when he instructed Adam and Eve to "rule" over and "subdue" the earth?

7. Rule like God.

- A. God enjoys his creation (Gen. 3:8).
- B. God works with his creation.
- C. God restores his creation.

8. Rule like the sun and moon and stars.

Study Notes

DISCUSSION

1. What does it mean to you to be reminded that you are made of the same raw material (dust/dirt) as animals (see Ecc. 3:20)? And then - how is man different than animal?

2. How do you see your part in the biosphere in which you live – which you share with plants and animals – as something to tolerate or something to celebrate?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. Read Ps. 145:10; 148:1-5; 150:6. What do these verses seem to suggest? How might creation praise God?

4. Read Gen. 2:15. What do you make of the verbs "work" and "take care" in this verse? These two words could also have been "add to" or "keep from deterioration." How might we add to creation? How might we keep it from deteriorating?

APPLICATION

5. I will take in EARTH DAY events at Great Blue Heron Reserve on Sat. April 23 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. because a. IT'S FREE! and b. IT'S EDUCATIONAL and c. IT'S FREE!

6. I will do something this week that is an intentional act of creation care.

I will _____.

Is this something that I could make a habit?