

Earth: Care and Stewardship of God's Earth-Bible vs Man's View
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American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin-172nd Annual Gathering
24 September 2016

I have a Ph.D. in Soil Science (Soil Science is in the general category of Earth Sciences, this also includes Geology or Geosciences); I am a Christian and a scientist, but my Christian faith dictates how I view science. Science is something God has allowed me receive training in as a means to make a living, and I have enjoyed my career in soil science; but it just so happens my profession is connected to my faith. As you know the Bible addresses the creation of Earth and everything within it. The Bible makes many references to agronomic in general, and many examples were given by Jesus related to agronomic, but there are specific details of soil such as seed falling on good or bad ground. God created the earth and put man on it and the Earth has the capacity to provide sufficient food for man and God's animals, but man must take care not to abuse God's Earth.

I hope you will see from this presentation that as a soil scientist I think we need to treat the Earth (this includes all natural resources, but specifically soil and water as these are key to our food and fiber production) with respect as God has allowed us to use these resources. We should not see these resources as our possessions to do with it whatever we want. As noted before, we must be good stewards the soil as it is the place where we get most of our food and fiber. We must keep the soil healthy just as we must keep our own bodies healthy. Thus, sustainable agronomic practices should be followed as much as possible including organic agriculture.

In the following sections I have attempted to provide a contrast between God and Man's view of the stewardship for the Earth. In these sections, Man is a term that is used to be inclusive of all men, women, youth, and children.

God: Creation

Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3-5. ...day and night.

Man: View of Birth of Earth

Most nonreligious scientists adheres to the belief that the Earth was formed as a result of something called supernova. It is believed that a large star (supernova) got to the end of its life and exploded, which is called "the Big Bang Theory." It is believed that this explosion distributed fragments into the universe. This material then formed a solar system with the Sun at the center and other planets/stars (collection of the exploded fragments) revolving around it.

God: Created Earth and Heaven Resources and Man

Genesis 1:6. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament: and it was so.
8. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.
9. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry *land* appear: and it was so.
10. And God called the dry *land* Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that *it was good*.
11. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.
- 14-15. ...now come time and the seasons.
20. ...life created
26. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
27. ...man created and the fall of man which resulted in man having to make a living from the land.

Man: Modern Day Man View of Man and Animals

It is well known that many scientists believe that man evolved from animals, known as the Theory of Evolution. However, they have a very difficult time describing where the animals came from. Following is a very good example of this.

“How life formed on Earth is one of the biggest questions in science. And a huge part of that question is how exactly Earth collected all of the chemical ingredients it needed to eventually create living organisms, like you for example.

Until now, scientists thought that it took hundreds of millions of years after our solar system formed for Earth to pick up these ingredients. But a group of scientists at Rice University just came out with a study that suggests at least a couple of these ingredients might have come along much sooner.

“The question is: is there no possible scenario in which carbon could have come to our planet during the main phase of planet formation?” Rajdeep Dasgupta, Rice University geologist and co-author of the new study, told Business Insider.

Turns out, there is a possible scenario indeed. And it involves a massive, ancient explosion.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/ancient-collision-might-explain-longstanding-152913909.html>”

God: The Great Biblical Flood - the Reason God Destroyed/God’s Realignment of Earth Resources

Genesis 6:1-8.

1. And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,
2. That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they *were* fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.
3. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.
- 4.. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare *children* to them, the same *became* mighty men which *were* of old, men of renown.
5. And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.
6. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

7. And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

8. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

God: Destroys the Earth

Genesis 6:13-17.

13. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14. Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch.

15. And this *is the fashion* which thou shalt make it *of*: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits, the breadth of it fifty cubits, and the height of it thirty cubits.

16. A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; *with* lower, second, and third *stories* shalt thou make it.

17. And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life, from under heaven; *and* every thing that *is* in the earth shall die.

Man: Scientific Evidence of Earth Covered by Water

Scientists agree with God on at least one thing, that the Earth was covered with more water than what we see today. Scientists think that the Earth was at one time covered largely by water. Much of the proof for this comes from sedimentary rock which covers much of the Earth.

“A new model of the early Earth suggests that until around 2.5 billion years ago oceans covered almost the whole of the planet. Just 2% to 3% of the Earth’s surface would have been dry land, compared with 28% today. <http://metro.co.uk/2008/12/31/early-earth-was-covered-in-water-274995/>”

God: Realignment/New Earth After the Flood

Genesis 7:23. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained *alive*, and they that *were* with him in the ark.

Man: Search for the Ark

There has been extensive searches for the Ark. Today’s searches have been focused on Mount Masis (now known as Mount Ararat) the highest peak of the Armenian Highland, located in present-day Turkey. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mountains_of_Ararat).

God: Ancient Large Structures-Misuse of the Intended Purposes of Earth Resources

Genesis 11:1-9.

1. And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

2. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

3. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

4. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top *may reach* unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

5. And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6. And the LORD said, Behold, the people *is* one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

7. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

8. So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

9. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the LORD did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the LORD scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.

This text (Genesis 11:1-9) provide an illustration of man being scattered over the Earth with different languages and cultures. As a results each group likely had a different allocation of Earth resources and different means of making a living.

Man: Pattern of Use of Earth Resources to Construct Large Structures

We know of the large structures such as the Pyramids in Egypt. South America has large structures attributed to Native Americans, and in many other parts of the world there are equally impressive structures developed by ancient people. Some think these structures were not constructed by ancient humans, but by aliens from out of space.

God: The Belongs to God

Psalms 24:1. (A Psalm of David.) The earth *is* the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Man: Allowed to use the Earth

We should treat the Earth with respect since it is not ours, but the Lord's. God has shared the Earth with us for our own place to live and make a living.

God: Makes Resources Available

Proverbs 27:18. Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

Man: Allowed to Manage God's Resources

We need to till the land to make a living, but we need to honor the Master's creation. We should not waste resources. We should recycle as much as possible, aluminum cans, cardboard, minimize food waste in home and restaurant meals, compost unused food for soil amendment and fertilizer, etc.

God: Parable of Good Ground/Soil

Luke 8:4-8.

4. And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable:

5. A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

6. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

7. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

8. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Man: We Look for Good Soil to Grow Food

We know that it is very difficult for plants to grow without good soil. We should implement good farming practices in the use of this good soil. However, we do find trees and other plants growing in cracks in rock and man-made structures such as concrete where a crack develops. So plants will grow in poor soil, but productivity will be low.

God: Man Should Not Pollute Earth

Numbers 35:33. So ye shall not pollute the land wherein ye *are*: for blood it defileth the land: and the land cannot be cleansed of the blood that is shed therein, but by the blood of him that shed it.

Man: Need for Recycling and Development of Clean Energy

While this is in reference to shedding man's blood and creating cities of refuge, we can look to it for inspiration on how we should function today. We should not pollute God's Earth. Proper recycling of resources including house hold items (newspaper, clothing, medications, toiletries, etc.). While we need to use natural resources (gas and oil) for energy, this should be done wisely. Wise use of natural gas and oil will reduce the need for fracking which results in contamination of the Earth's deep strata (geological strata) and will reduce man caused or fracking related earth quakes.

God: Fate of Those Who Destroy God's Earth

Revelation 11:18. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

Man: Do Not Destroy God's Earth

We should be good stewards of the Earth. We should implement farming practices that prevent soil erosion and maximize water use efficiency. Everyone should be involved in maintaining the health of the Earth.

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