



# CREATION

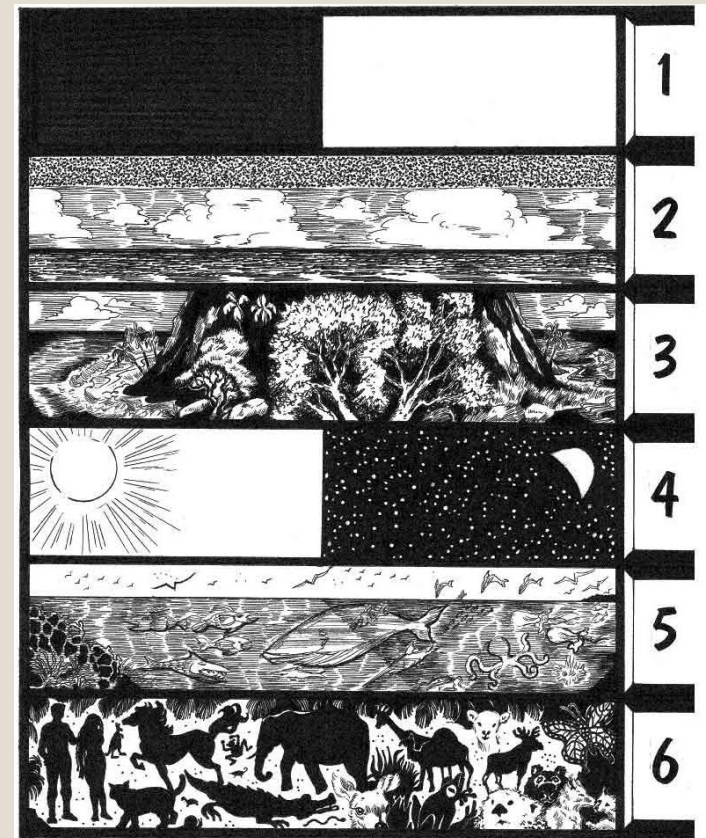
(God preserves and  
we steward)

Confirmation Class, Oct. 11, 2023

# IN THE BEGINNING, GOD CREATED...

## God's wisdom in creation:

- Harmonious, diverse ecosystems
- Fine-tuned earth, sun, moon, universe
- Complex living cells, bodies, minds
- 3 days to make habitats
- 3 days to make inhabitants
- Beauty and complexity point to Creator
- Father Creator not Mother Nature
- No shortage of things in the universe to learn, use, benefit from, & steward



# Original goodness of creation

*“And God saw that it was very good.”*

God neither made nor intended evil, suffering, sin, want, sickness, death, hostility, and so forth.

**This is foundational to the biblical narrative of redemption.**

**Jesus came to save us from hell but also to save us TO eternal life with a restored creation.**



# DOMINION – Genesis 1:26-28

Then 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 birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

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

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”





# Creation groaning

## Genesis 3

17 And to Adam he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,

'You shall not eat of it,'

cursed is the ground because of you;

in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;

and you shall eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your face

you shall eat bread,

till you return to the ground,

for out of it you were taken;

for you are dust,

and to dust you shall return."

## Romans 8:22-23

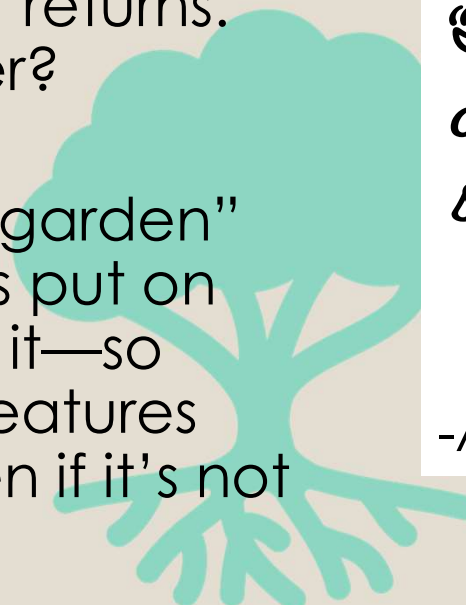
**"For we know that the whole  
creation has been groaning together  
in the pains of childbirth until now.**

**And not only the creation, but we  
ourselves, who have the firstfruits of  
the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait  
eagerly for adoption as sons, the  
redemption of our bodies."**

# Why tend a fallen creation?

Creation will be restored perfectly when Christ returns. Until then, why bother?

Humans are still the “garden” tenders that God has put on Earth to take care of it—so people and other creatures can benefit now even if it’s not perfect yet.



*“Society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they will never sit in.”*

-Anonymous Greek proverb

# “Is this good stewardship of creation?”

- Will this help keep creation clean and beautiful as well as safe/helpful for God's human creation?
- Is it truly beneficial to people and not just an attempt to bring creation back to “pristine” pre-human conditions
  - Secular “environmentalism” doesn't accept God's dominion mandate
  - It worships a myth of a perfect garden without man to tend it.
- Weighing cost vs. benefit
  - Technologies that make life easier but may do harm
  - Pesticides and monocrop agriculture – more food but bad for ecology?
  - PFAS chemicals – manufacturing benefit but permanent drinking water damage?

# “Is this good stewardship of creation?”

- Example of hydrocarbons (fossil fuels like coal, gas, oil)
  - Increased access to energy in the last 50-70 years has led to longer lives, more food and income, better health care.
  - Is carbon dioxide in atmosphere really the main driver in “climate change,” and what human suffering will result in rapidly dropping hydrocarbon use?
  - Who benefits from moving to “green” energy options like wind and solar? Are those who push getting more power, money, or prestige?
  - Do green options have negatives (rare earth mines; takes more steel, oil, and concrete to make less reliable machines that don't last as long and can't be recycled as well as coal/gas power plants; etc.)?
  - In a broken world, how can we keep supporting the lives of God's human creatures?



# God created...

What can we do to keep God's garden (the earth) healthy for all God's creatures (especially people)?



# The New Creation in View

## Revelation 22:1-5:

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the **tree of life**, bearing twelve crops of **fruit**, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. **No longer will there be any curse**. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants **will serve** him. They will **see his face**, and his name will be on their foreheads. There will be **no more night**. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will **give them light**. And **they will reign for ever and ever**.