

TOPIC: Should Christians be greener than everyone else? (Stewardship)

Christians believe the creation story in Genesis shows that Mankind has a duty to protect and care for the earth that God created. Many Christians argue that because they have a relationship with God they should become Stewards. There is also some conflict about how interpretations of Genesis tells Christians to treat the earth. Is the text a literal explanation of how earth was created, or a story to introduce us to God?



Key Ideas for Christians

God made the earth	Genesis details how God made the earth in Seven days, making mankind last then resting on the seventh day. God made the earth perfect and Good. This tells us about the nature of God- He is powerful, involved in Humans lives and the source of all life.
Stewardship	Humans have a responsibility to Creation as Stewards as it was a Gift from God to us. It also reminds Christians that we are dependent on God for our lives.
Genesis as the Beginning	The first book of the Bible is the introduction to the story of God and Mankind throughout history. By starting at the beginning the rest of the Bible can then explain why Mankind is no longer with God in the Garden of Eden.
Bible vs Science, Literal vs non-literal	Genesis can be read in two ways: Either it is literally true and God created the world in seven days OR it is a story to help us understand God and Science is correct. Christians still debate this today.
Modern Christian action for the Environment	Modern Christians have tried to answer God's call to look after the world. Figures such as Lynn White and St Francis of Assisi encourage people to care for the environment. Modern programs like the Eco Church awards also help.

Quotes:

Genesis 1:1	<i>"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"</i> The opening sentence of the Bible tells Christians that God created everything and sets the scene for the whole story of creation.
Genesis 1	<i>'And God saw that it was Good'</i> Repeated throughout Genesis this quote shows that God created the perfect world and His work was beautiful.
Genesis 1:26	<i>'Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..."</i> God is the maker of mankind and we have the potential to be like him, good and perfect.
Genesis 2:15	<i>'The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.'</i> God has given the world to mankind to look after and to feed himself- it is a gift to be cared for.
Genesis 1:28	<i>'fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'</i> Christians have a duty to fill the earth. They have dominion over the environment and can use it as they wish.

KEY VOCABULARY:

Creation	How the world, universe and all the creatures (including humans) were made
Dominion	Mankind can use creation in any way they wish as it was created for them to use by God.
Elohim	Another name for God from the Jewish tradition
Environment	The natural world, as a whole or in a particular area, especially the affected by human activity
Genesis	The first book of the Bible, where the creation story is written.
God	The creator and ruler of the universe

KEY VOCABULARY:

Literal	The Bible and Genesis are a true and accurate explanation of how the world was created.
Non-literal	The Bible and Genesis are holy stories to help mankind understand God but are not literally true.
Stewardship	Christians have a duty to protect and care for the natural world as it was created by God
Sin	An act considered to go against Gods rules
Transcendence	Existence or experience beyond the normal or physical level- God is transcendent in Christianity
YHWH or Yahweh	Another name for God from the Jewish tradition