

LOVING OUR WORLD



DOING JUSTICE TO THE ENVIRONMENT

@DAVEGOBBETT

*They took all the trees and put them in a tree museum
And they charged the people a dollar and a half just to see 'em
Don't it always seem to go that you don't know what you've got till it's gone
They paved paradise and they put up a parking lot.
Joni Mitchell, 'Big Yellow Taxi'*

DISCUSS

→ What questions arise when you consider the environment from a Christian perspective?

A. INTRODUCTION: GREETING GRETA



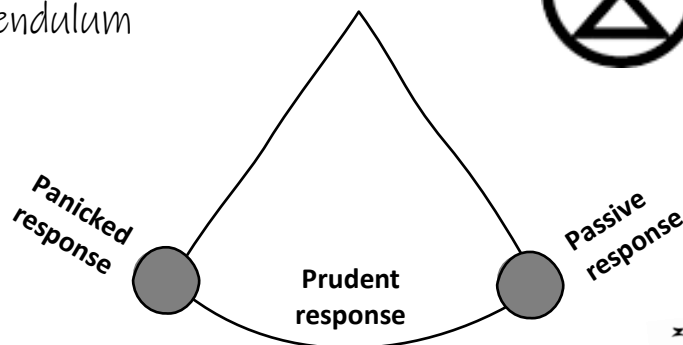
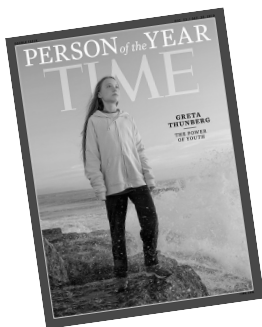
Net Zero, COP27, Electric vehicles: What is Climate Change all about?

Some facts and figures . . .

- Overall: our planet is warming
- Amongst animals: biodiversity is plummeting
- In forests: Rainforests are shrinking
- On fields: soil-quality is going down
- In the oceans: plastic pollution is going up



The Climate Pendulum

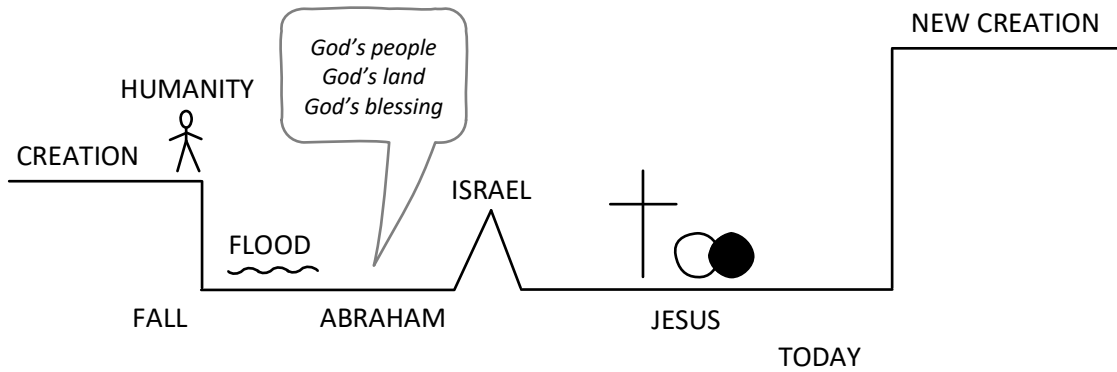


**extinction
rebellion**



Yeah, but isn't it all going to burn?

B. THIS IS GOD'S WORLD | CREATION



What a Wonderful World

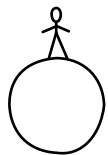
- God created everything good (Gen 1:1)
- Because God made it all, he owns it all (Ps 24:1)
- The heavens declare the glory of God (Ps 19:1)



C. ENTRUSTED TO US | HUMANITY



Kings and Queens of Narnia



"This is the true King of Narnia. And we beasts remember, even if Dwarfs forget, that Narnia was never right except when a Son of Adam was King." "Whistles and whirligigs, Trufflehunter!" said Trumpkin. "You don't mean you want to give the country to Humans?" "I said nothing about that," answered the Badger. "It's not Men's country but it's a country for a man to be King of."

C. S. Lewis, *Prince Caspian*



○ Humans are both *part of* and *set apart* within creation, made in God's image (Gen 1:26 & v27)

○ Humans were made to *rule over creation under God's rule* (Ps 8; Ps 115:16; Gen 1:28, 2:15)

○ E.g. OT law: sustainable agricultural laws (Deut 22:6-7), Sabbath & Jubilee, (Lev 25).

D. DAMAGED BY SIN | REBELLION



The Saddest Day



- Human sin has affected every aspect of creation (Gen 3:17-19)
- Creation is now subjected to frustration (Rom 8:19-22)
- The Lord laments over the ruin of creation (Jer 9:10, 12)

We are at unique stage in our history. Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to the planet and never before have we had the power to do something about that. Surely, we have a responsibility to care for our blue planet. The future of humanity, and indeed all life on Earth, now depends on us.

David Attenborough, Planet Earth II.

E. RENEWED BY CHRIST | RESTORATION



The Divine Repair Shop

- Creation's longing for liberation (Rom 8:19-21)
- Creation's promise of propection (Gen 8:21-22, 9:14-16)
- The coming of the Christ the king (John 1:14)
- The sustaining of Christ the king (Col 1:16-17)
- The return of Christ the king (1 Cor 15)



'Jesus's return to earth is the focus of the Christian's hope, and this return will not just be for a visit, to pick us up and take us home to heaven. He is coming to stay. The new Jerusalem will descend to earth, and we will be at home, with Jesus, on earth.' Ian K. Smith, *Not Home Yet*.

F. SO WHAT? FIRST STEPS IN CREATION CARE

- Accountability
- Witness
- Timescales



DISCUSS

We are at unique stage in our history. Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to the planet and never before have we had the power to do something about that. Surely, we have a responsibility to care for our blue planet. The future of humanity, and indeed all life on Earth, now depends on us David Attenborough, Planet Earth II.

→ How might you respond to Sir David?

→ What might you do differently a) individually and b) as churches?

Further reading:

Stephen Emmott, *10 Billion*

Dave Gobbett, *The Environment*

D Moo & J Moo, *Creation Care*

Hans Rosling, *Factfulness*

Gordon Wilson, *A Different Shade of Green*

The Riot and the Dance movie

