

# Whose World?

## An Oikonomos Seminar on Christian Stewardship Woodland Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX Handout for Week 1



### **What the Bible says about stewardship and advocacy**

- Creation narratives
  - Genesis 1: What it means to rule in the image of God
  - Genesis 2: We are to serve/tend it and guard/protect it
- God's instructions to Israel
  - Leviticus 25; 26: God owns Creation; Humans are tenants; care leads to prosperity; abuse leads to eviction
- Israel recognized God as the land owner
  - Tithes and offerings to honor God who was the sources of all gifts

### **God's requirement of Israel**

1. Sustainability: Sabbath laws, Jubilee, entrance into promised land
2. Humane treatment of domestic animals: muzzling an ox; unequal yokes; aiding animals in distress
3. Respect for Flora and Fauna: Dt. 20 forbid destruction of trees in war; Psalms 104  
God wants us to respect and love His ecosystems
4. Care for vulnerable people: Lev. 19: 34; Dt. 15:11; Heb. 13:1-2: Poor, immigrants, strangers

### **New Testament Values**

- Matthew; Mark, Luke: filled with sayings and parables about nature and God's loving care towards it: Parables of soil, plants, trees, birds—nature
- John: 1:1-4 God created the world and all that is in it
- Mark 4: Jesus calms the storm to save the vulnerable but he doesn't alter nature

## **Where we are now**

- In need of a spiritual transformation
- The world needs the church to act
- Church has been and should be the moral compass of humanity
- The church is active in the world for providing care to the needy, advocacy

## **The Christian message**

- God's plan for redemption includes creation
- Christians are a reflection of the image of God that loves creation
- Christians are called to demonstrate the will of God
- The will of God is to tend and protect the garden/creation

Want more information on the creation care theology? Try these books.

Richter, Susan: *Stewards of Eden: What the Scripture Says About the Environment and Why It Matters.*

Yanatan, Neril, Dee, Leo: *Eco Bible: Vol. 1 An Ecological Commentary on Genesis and Exodus*

Johnson, Elizabeth

*Creative Giver of Life: An Ecological Theology of the Holy Spirit and Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love*

Holbert, John C.. *Preaching Creation: The Environment and the Pulpit*

Bauckham, Richard. *Living With Other Creatures. Green Exegesis and Theology*

## **Assignment for Week 2**

Watch Netflix Documentary *A Life On Our Planet* by David Attenborough

Watch YouTube:

*We have no time to lose: Sir David Attenborough Present: Breaking Boundaries: The Science*

*How to Save our Planet by WWF International*