

**RESTORING CREATION THROUGH THE ARTS**  
**By Rev'd. Rosalyn Smail**

**Genesis 1:31** And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**Controversies over creation:**

There are a number of problematic views of the beginning of our universe as we know it. Scripture tells us that:

***Genesis 1:1-3 (NKJV)** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

***John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

Scientists claim that "The Big Bang" was the beginning of creation. Can you imagine any sound rivalling the sound of God's shout through the chaos and darkness, "**Let there be light**"<sup>1</sup>? God did not turn on a light switch. He changed the nature of the universe that was "*without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep.*"<sup>2</sup> That change was caused by the creative Word of God and the creative power of the Holy Spirit.

The time factor of creation is also questioned. Some Christians say that "planet earth" is 6,000 years old. Some scientists say hundreds of thousands of years and some even millions of years. Which is correct?

***2 Peter 3:8** But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*

We do not know the length of the "days" that the Lord designed in which to create all that we know as our universe. But this we do know, "**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**"<sup>3</sup> And creation was completed in six of God's days, and on the seventh day God rested.

**Laws of nature established at creation:**

**Law of Gravity:**

When God created the universe, He created it with laws or principles in place that govern its working. One of those is the **Law of Gravity**, which we understand as dancers. We might want to soar as we dance, but gravity keeps us grounded, and all we can manage are hops, jumps and leaps.

Our Creator God is the Master Conservationist. He brought into the universe, and our planet in particular, another law from the moment of creation.

**Law Of Conservation Of Matter:**

***The law of conservation of matter ... states that the mass of an object or collection of objects never changes over time, no matter how the constituent parts rearrange themselves.***

***The mass can neither be created nor destroyed.***

***... the total mass of the reactants or starting materials must be equal to the mass of the products.***<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Genesis 1:3

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 1:2

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 1:1

<sup>4</sup><https://www.nuclear-power.net/laws-of-conservation/law-of-conservation-of-matter/>

No matter what scientists might do to destroy matter, they can only change any matter into another form. Every speck of dust, every drop of water, and everything else on the face of this planet was there on the day of creation. We are made up of atoms that existed from that very first day. To me that connects me back and grounds me in God's creation like nothing else can.

The only matter that is no long on earth, is that which humanity has sent in space, and much of that returns to earth, or to earth's atmosphere as "space junk". But, it is still within our universe, even if it sits on another star or planet, like the moon or Mars, or orbits a distant body in space.

Scientists through the centuries have tried to make perpetual motion machines, but they have failed.

#### **Perpetual Motion:**

*"Perpetual motion is motion of bodies that continues indefinitely. A perpetual motion machine is a hypothetical machine that can do work indefinitely without an energy source."*<sup>5</sup>

God has perfected perpetual motion. Consider the rotation of the stars and planets around the sun, the movement of the tides and winds. What man cannot manage, God does with ease.

#### **Law of Seedtime and Harvest:**

*Genesis 8:22 "While the earth remains, **seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, And day and night shall not cease.**"*

When Adam and Eve were created by God, in God's image and likeness, **each of us was created in them, within the seeds they each carried.** We were created from the dust of the earth and the moisture of the dew, moulded by God's own hands in the creation of our first ancestors, Adam and Eve.

In the rest of creation, God spoke and there was... When God created humanity, He did it differently:

***Genesis 1:26-31 26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness..." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."***

***... 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.***

Genesis 2:7 tells us that **Adam was created from the dust of the ground, and God breathed life into him.** Verse 27 describes God putting Adam into a deep sleep and removing a rib, from which to form Eve, his wife. **This was a very personal creation, God using His hands and His breath to form them.** They were formed on the sixth day, and on the seventh day, God rested – so Adam and Eve experienced the very first Shabbat. They were not propelled into a life of hard work, but rested in the Garden, where in the cool of the day, they walked and talked with God.

#### **In God's Image and Likeness:**

We are made in God's image and likeness. What an honour was bestowed upon humanity. God saw us as VERY good.

***Psalm 8:4-6 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?***

***For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honour.***

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.google.com.au/search?q=law+of+pepetual+motion&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b-ab&gfe\\_rd=cr&dcr=0&ei=lg-JWt7UFu3DXsO0osAD](https://www.google.com.au/search?q=law+of+pepetual+motion&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b-ab&gfe_rd=cr&dcr=0&ei=lg-JWt7UFu3DXsO0osAD)

**Hebrews 2:7-9** repeats this description, so it was not just an Old Testament teaching to be ignored by "New Testament people".

#### **Our Place of Governorship:**

God's intention in our creation is for us to *"have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*<sup>6</sup> His final instructions in Genesis 1 are:

*"Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; **fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**"*

*And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food. 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so."<sup>7</sup>*

God gives four instructions: **Be fruitful** (or "bear fruit," have babies). **Multiply** (as each new generation has more children and they have more children). **Fill the earth** (populate). **Have dominion** (or authority and management) over all the other creatures.

#### **The Fall:**

We all understand that between Genesis 1 and now, of course, Genesis 3 has happened. Sin has entered into God's perfect creation, and we live with the consequences, because, thanks to the **Law of Seedtime and Harvest**, we have been tainted by that sin of our ancestors. Since then human beings have **dominated**, **not had dominion**, over each other, and over God's beautiful creation.

Over millennia the land has been raped and the waters and the seas polluted. Species after species has become extinct. Humans kill each other in greater and greater numbers.

#### **The Redemption Of God's Creation:**

Did sin catch God napping? Was God unaware that the serpent was seeking the destruction of God's most precious creations, man and woman, Adam and Eve?

No, the amazing thing is that God **knew**, even as He was creating Adam and Eve, that they would sin. What a great love is that for humanity, that God would continue, knowing the outcome, and knowing the cost to God's own self, that He did not scrap his plans! He could have destroyed the sinners in the Garden, but he chose a different solution:

**Genesis 3:14-15** *So the Lord God said to the serpent...:  
And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her Seed;  
He shall bruise your head,  
And you shall bruise His heel."*

Through the prophets of old, God spoke to a people that He chose, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The patriarchs and the prophets spoke **"the one who was to come,"**<sup>8</sup> a Messiah, an Anointed One, a Redeemer, a Near Kinsman who would buy the world back from the Destroyer.

The Seed that God referred to is the Lord Jesus Christ, who came into the world at "the fullness of God's time"<sup>9</sup>. This was the most costly purchase ever made.

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<sup>6</sup> Genesis 1:26B

<sup>7</sup> Genesis 1:28-30

<sup>8</sup> Revelations 11:17

**2 Corinthians 5:21** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The One whose life was never tainted by sin took on **“the sin of the world<sup>10</sup>”** with all the guilt and shame that that entailed, and he carried it to Calvary where He suffered the consequences on our behalf. Each and every sin that has ever been or will be committed, had been paid for in full. Praise God, what an amazing Redeemer we have!

We often quote **John 3:16** so often when speaking of redemption, but we forget that it is followed by Verse 17.

**John 3:16-17** For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but **that the world through Him might be saved.**

There is a promise here of redemption for those who believe, as Billy Graham told us so often, but **there is also a promise for the world to be saved.** Let us look firstly at the redemption of those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Galatians 4: 4-7** But when the fullness of the time had come, **God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as children. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child, then an heir of God through Christ.**

Once again the **Law of Seedtime and Harvest is in effect.** We, who were born under the **Law of Sin and Death<sup>11</sup>** because of the sin in Genesis 3, have been born again under the **law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus.**

**Romans 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

#### **Redemption of Creation:**

No longer, slaves to sin, **we are the adopted children of God.** But what does that adoption entail as far as our dominion of the world is concerned?

**Romans 8:18-22** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the children of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now.**

**Romans 8:20-21** For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the children of God... **The creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**

The ancient law of Israel had many provisions to guard the natural environment. The agrarian structure of their society made it obvious that the environment mattered. **The land was to rested every seven years.**

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<sup>9</sup> Galatians 4:4

<sup>10</sup> John 1:29

<sup>11</sup> Romans 8:2

In the Proverbs, we see again the way that created things have an order that is to be respected. "A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal."<sup>12</sup> The **beasts of burden were to be taken to drink, even on the hallowed Shabbat.**

We acknowledge the pollution of the oceans and the waterways, the raping of the land by over-plant, destructive mining practices, etc., the decimation and extinction of our wildlife. But what can we do as individuals?

We need to change our thinking –

- no more head in the sand attitude ignoring the problem, or
- the "it will be right", it will fix itself attitude, or
- the let someone else fix it, or
- the "I am too insignificant to do anything" mindset.

Our first responsibility is to

- bring it to God, and as Daniel did, confess the sins of our people to God and ask forgiveness for our bad stewardship.
- We should to pray for the problems that are brought to our attention.

***Romans 8:26-27*** Likewise ***the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***

**We might not know exactly what the solution is, but God does.** We need to pray that God's will be done in each situation.

- As artists we should dedicate our art medium, be it dance, writing, painting, playing an instrument to God for the purpose of interceding, and of reminding others of the beauty with which God has surrounded us.
- We should ask our Creator and creative God to inspire our art, to fill our hearts with God's love of creation, and our of that love to minister to others.

In practical terms we should do what each of us can, no matter how little it may seem.

- **Take your own bags** to bring groceries home from the supermarket.
- **Choose fruit and vegetables that aren't wrapped in plastic** if possible.
- **Recycle where you can**, and what you can, eg., kitchen waste.
- **Find uses for bottles, boxes, cartons**, etc.
- **Recycle clothing**, etc.
- **Think twice before discarding things that others might be able to use.**
- **Encourage each other in these things.**

The Scriptures say:

***Romans 8:20-21*** ***For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the children of God... The creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.***

It is not the Green Party of politics, or Green Peace that is named here as being the instrument of change in the travailing world. It is the "***the revealing of the children of God***".

***Genesis 1:31*** ***And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.***

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<sup>12</sup> Proverbs 12:10

A simple gift, made from a recycled wire coat hanger, fabric, lace scraps and old d'oileys...

