



Holy Trinity
Combe Down



St Andrew's
Community Church

Homegroup Material Sunday 22nd September, Genesis 9:1-17

Tim mentioned eco-guilt, eco-apathy, eco-cynicism, and eco-anxiety during Sunday's sermon. Which of these (or which combination) do you most relate to?

Read Genesis 9:1-17

1. According to *Genesis 6:5-7* AND *Romans 8:19-22*, how does human sin affect all of creation? Share ways in which you see this in the world around you today.
2. God saves Noah (and family) through the ark. He then blesses them (9:1-2) [*NB there is a hint that sin continues to affect humanity and creation, as 'fear and dread' enters the relationship (v.3)*]. In verses 2-6 what evidence is there that God has given humanity a place of authority over creation? How does this view run counter to the way a purely scientific view of the world might see things?
3. Vv.8-11 describe God making a covenant with Noah and all living creatures. This has been described as a 'cosmic covenant'. Why is it significant that this covenant includes 'every living creature'?
4. On Sunday Tim commented on this cosmic covenant by saying: 'there is a human duty towards other creatures in creation which is covenantal'. Do you think this is the case? If so, how does it sit alongside the idea that humanity has authority over creation?

If you have had enough theology, you can skip to question 9...

5. The cosmic covenant finds its fulfilment in the new covenant (or testament) in Jesus' blood, as described in *Colossians 1:20* and *Romans 8:19-23*. How is 'my' individual salvation bound up with the restoration of all creation?
6. Does *2 Peter 3:7-12* suggest there is discontinuation between this present world and the new creation?
NB. V.6 references the 'destruction' of the world in Noah's time (therefore 'destroy' almost certainly doesn't mean total destruction)
7. How does the certain hope of *Revelation 21:1-5* give encouragement for our engagement with creation today?

8. Some Christians worry that focusing on environmental concerns will distract us from the main focus of worship and evangelism. This seems like a legitimate concern. What do you think? Can we have both and? Why/why not?!

[For further reading on this subject you might like to consider 'Surprised by Hope' by Tom Wright, or 'Planetwise' by Dave Bookless]

9. 'Why not go for just followers of Jesus taking his creation as seriously as he takes it' (from sermon on Sunday). Does this approach help Christians who may differ on their precise views around environmentalism work together in this aspect of our discipleship? If so, how can we help one another take some practical steps (think individual and communal)?

Take time to pray for particular areas of need around the world. You might like to consider the human impact on the environment.

You might like to pray for the work of A Rocha (<https://arocha.org.uk/get-involved/pray/>)

Rev. Tim Lewis