

AUSTRALIA

"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

2 Chronicles 7:14

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WORSHIPPING THE CREATION

The world has gone crazy with concern for the natural environment Today's in-word is GREEN Everyone-- from children at school, to manufacturers of just about everything, to politicians, to the media---is constantly speaking up the need to "save the planet" by preserving the natural fauna and flora of our world at the expense of resource development because Planet Ark "is all we have". Most people have no concept of the new earth that God will create when this tired old earth is no more Consequently the creation is idolised with reverence and awe and must be preserved at all costs. Moreover, because of the universally accepted theory of evolution, the primates, at least, are considered to be "our close cousins". Perhaps therein lies another clue to today's universal concern, a notion that is validated by the Australian Conservation Foundation stating that all species must be looked upon "as our companions on planet Earth, commanding equal respect". That is, humans are no more valuable than animals, just a product of the evolution of the species like everything else

Far More Superior

Consequently, many conservationists virtually worship whales and dolphins and trees for which they would risk their lives to save from the bulldozer; and important mineral reserves are declared sacrosanct for their "ecological value"—even to saving a rare spider! It all seems so commendable. Man sacrificing his livelihood for the preservation of nature. How noble! And how misguided! All forms of life are certainly not of equal worth. Humans are far more superior to any other creature. having self-consciousness, with imagination and memory as well as mental, emotional and spiritual qualities that no animal possesses. It is also completely at odds with Scripture which claims that man is made in the image of God. Moreover, in the Sermon on the Mount Jesus spoke of the surpassing worth of a human being over the animals: "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Wanton Destruction of Forests

Of course, there is a need to protect the environment. The wanton destruction of tropical forests and rare animals and the erosion of arable land are matters of real concern; as is the pollution of the atmosphere, streams, rivers and oceans. Obviously, essential for the ongoing development of the nation is the controlled logging of forests, the culling of wild animals (such as kangaroos, camels, rabbits and goats), mining under careful management and the judicial clearing of land for agriculture Our world should be treated with care and concern, for at the beginning the Creator commanded man to "be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves on the earth". The world at large, however, rejects the Word of God and has fallen for the original temptation in the Garden of Eden that they "would be as gods", deciding what is right and wrong. Consequently, man has replaced God on the throne and usurped it for himself. As a result, environmentalism has largely superseded Christianity as a form of religious belief which will brook no disagreement nor place any credence on the veracity of the holy Word of God

Humanistic Science

Humanistic, secular science has undermined faith in God and replaced it with a belief that as the world progresses technologically all our problems, including environmental concerns, can be overcome. Our materialistic view of life, however, completely overlooks the part God the Creator of heaven and earth plays in the creation. Yet since the beginning of the world God's invisible qualities are clearly seen in what He has beautifully made---majestic mountains, spectacular sunsets, stars and planets, flowers, forests, lakes and green meadows, animals, birds and man himself, and the vastness of the universe Nevertheless, many people in their ignorance "Professing to be wise, have become fools and changed the glory of the Almighty God to idolise birds and beasts and reptiles. Therefore God has given them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonour their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator".

Vile Passions

"For this reason God gave them up to vile passions Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty of their perversion." (Romans 1: 22-27) Surely there can be no clearer picture than this of the perverted practices of lesbianism and homosexuality which are not only condoned and accepted without doubt today but actually promoted as a normal way of life. Moreover, many "greenies" are involved in this deviant lifestyle which is helping to undermine the traditional family values once held so dear in this fair land of Australia, the Great Southland of the Holy Spirit.

Moral Degradation

While the environment should be safeguarded as much as possible, we should be far more concerned with the moral degradation that is ruining many souls. For while the earth will ultimately be destroyed by fire as once it was destroyed by water in the Great Flood of Noah's day, we human beings have a higher destiny. What we all need to realise is that the things of this world, which are visible, are temporal, changeable and perishable. The suffering world we know is not the fulfilment of His Divine plan, but the renewed and restored world. Here is the meaning of creation: physical man is not the ultimate purpose of God, but man redeemed and glorified. Through the ages runs an increasing divine purpose that is centred in Christ Jesus, who Scripture describes as "a Lamb slain from the foundation of the world". You see, the concept of the redemption of mankind goes back to the very beginning. He is the central truth of creation, as the Word of God reveals, "For by Him and through Him and to Him are all things". Moreover, while the earth will be destroyed by fire, God will create a new earth wherein righteousness will dwell. And, if the present-day fulfilment of biblical prophecy is any indication, it may well happen in the not-too-distant future. Indeed, we may well be hovering on the cusp of the wave breaking on the coming millennial reign of Christ on earth. The natural disasters which are occurring more and more frequently these days could well be the creation groaning with birth pangs eagerly waiting to be "delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God" (Romans 8:21) It's time to look up and see the salvation of our God. Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, Creator of the heavens and the earth, hallowed be Your name. As Your army of watchmen and warriors we call on You to convict this sinful world of *Worshipping the Creation* instead of the Creator. Omniscient Father, thank You for the magnificent treasures of Your glorious creation and for Your supernatural River of Life which flows in Your servants. Abba Father, we pray, reveal Yourself to all who earnestly seek You through Your Living Word, JESUS CHRIST, and receive Your omnipotent Spirit of matchless grace, wisdom and power. Thank You, Sovereign Lord, for Your Holy Spirit in us to be overcomers by the power of His anointing imparted through Jesus Himself. Eternal Father, we humbly worship You as the One who governs all the laws of nature and watches over the affairs of men. We join the hosts of heaven in rejoicing that our God reigns in CHRIST JESUS as King and Lord over this Great Southland of the Holy Spirit, to God's glory. Amen.

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man; in love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.