

BIBLE STUDY ON CREATION CARE

CREATION

Read the following passages:

- Genesis 1:28-31
- Genesis 2:15

The Creation Mandate:

- *read MWC article "Called to be Caretakers"*
- KABASH >Subdue the earth
- RADA >Dominion over animals
- AVAD >Till, work, serve
- SAMAR >Keep, protect

CREATION GROANS

Read the following passages:

- Genesis 1:28-31
- Jeremiah 5:22-25
- Isaiah 45:18
- Romans 8:20-22

Discuss the following questions:

- How is creation groaning? Why is human abuse such a threat to the earth? Why is it a serious problem?
- What makes humans abuse the earth? Is there a spiritual reason?
- What is God's intention for the earth? What are God's purposes?

Main points:

- God created everything and human beings are part of God's creation
- Creation is fallen along with each individual, all of humanity and all God-ordered human structures
- Human activity has powerful effects on the rest of creation.
- What human beings do to creation is a moral issue
- All of creation waits for redemption

CREATION REDEEMED

Read the following passages:

- Isaiah 65:17-18
- Joel 2:21-24
- Colossians 1:15-20
- Revelation 21:1-3

Discuss the following questions:

- How does creation relate to atonement and redemption?
- How will creation be redeemed? When does it begin for creation? (How are we redeemed? When does this begin for us?)
- How will a redeemed creation look?

Main points:

- All of creation will be redeemed, renewed, made new in Christ.
- This process has already begun as it has for us, we just await the final consummation and work towards it.
- It will be a new heaven and a new earth of SHALOM, harmony, joy and abundance for all.

CREATION AND JUSTICE

Read the following passages:

- Genesis 2:15
- Deuteronomy 16:20
- Psalm 72:1-4, 6-7, 16
- 1 Timothy 6:17-18

Discuss the following questions:

- How is creation care a peace and justice issue?
- How do we work for justice for all of creation?
- What are some practical ways to care for creation?

Main Points:

- We have been given the mandate to “till and keep” the earth
- Since all of creation has been subjected to injustice, it is a work of justice to restore it to wholeness
- Creation care is linked to economics, racism, war, etc. and problems in one often compound the other
- We need to think about how our lifestyle affects the environment.