

Working With Sustainability

Bible Study

Read Genesis 1:28

Subdue doesn't mean domination but being stewards who are caretakers on behalf of God, the owner.

- How does this creation command shape our responsibilities in caring for people and planet?
- How does seeing why God made the world and made us rulers shape our work purposes and motivations?

Read Leviticus 25

Sabbath & Jubilee laws ensure sustainability of economic use as the land has rest and prevent excessive wealth staying in the hands of the rich by returning land and cancelling debt.

- Why are these laws given?
- What do these laws tell us about God?
- What do they tell us about the ways God wants us to live on his earth?
- How might these laws apply today?
- What might be the impact?

Read Matthew 22:36-38

- What does our stewardship of resources show about our love for God and love for our neighbours?

Read Romans 8:18-25

The earth will one day be made new and God's people will live with him in a perfect new creation (see Revelation 21:1-3).

- What is the current state of creation?
- What does the hope of new creation change our perspective on our present earth?
- If all is going to be made new does that mean
 1. we don't need to care about the old
 2. we care more about the old as we anticipate the new?

GENESIS Chapter 1

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

Leviticus Chapter 25

1 The Lord said to Moses at Mount Sinai, 2 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: 'When you enter the land I am going to give you, the land itself must observe a sabbath to the Lord. 3 For six years sow your fields, and for six years prune your vineyards and gather their crops. 4 But in the seventh year the land is to have a year of sabbath rest, a sabbath to the Lord. Do not sow your fields or prune your vineyards. 5 Do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the grapes of your untended vines. The land is to have a year of rest. 6 Whatever the land yields during the sabbath year will be food for you—for yourself, your male and female servants, and the hired worker and temporary resident who live among you, 7 as well as for your livestock and the wild animals in your land. Whatever the land produces may be eaten. 8 "'Count off seven sabbath years—seven times seven years—so that the seven sabbath years amount to a period of forty-nine years. 9 Then have the trumpet sounded everywhere on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement sound the trumpet throughout your land. 10 Consecrate the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you; each of you is to return to your family property and to your own clan. 11 The fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; do not sow and do not reap what grows of itself or harvest the untended vines. 12 For it is a jubilee and is to be holy for you.