

HOW DO CHRISTIANS LOOK AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT?

THE CREATION STORY

This is the sequence of events from the creation story at the beginning of Genesis 1:

First Day: God made day and night.

Second Day: God made the sky, oceans & land.

Third Day: God made all kinds of plants.

Fourth Day: God made the Sun and the Moon.

Fifth Day: God made water & sky creatures.

Sixth Day: God created the other animals. He made humans to rule over the Earth.

Seventh Day: God finished his work and rested. He blessed the Seventh Day as a special day.

"God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it".

Genesis 2:15



WHAT DOES CHRISTIANITY TEACH ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT?

* All religions respect the world around them and offer guidance on environmental issues. Christians believe that the Earth belongs to God and that humans are stewards in charge of its care.

* Most Christians believe that God gave human beings a special responsibility within creation to cultivate it, guard it and use it wisely. This is called stewardship. Man has to work within creation and to look after it.

* Humans are given everything for their needs, implying that they can use whatever they want from creation for their survival.

* **The Christian Declaration on Nature** was drawn up at Assisi (Italy) in 1986 makes the following points very clearly:

- All creation, both with and without humans, has a close interdependence which was made in this way by God. This harmony of creation is to the glory of God.
- Humans have the role of protecting all created things, not abusing or destroying them.
- All types of exploitation of the world and its resources and all creatures are rejected. Humans must not do anything that risks damage to the world, including nuclear warfare.

