

**Taking Care Of God's World**  
**Genesis 2:1-9; 15-24 ~ Colossians 1:15-20**  
**Preached by Rev. Dr. Harry Cahill**  
**Babcock Presbyterian Church**  
**Sunday, April 25, 2010**

I love the poetry of the Genesis creation stories. Yes, that's right I said creation stories. The first story is in the first chapter, the second story is in the second chapter and each has its own unique themes and perspectives.

You're probably more familiar with the first one. "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep while a wind from God swept (or brooded) over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light...'"

"Thus God spoke and so began the process of creation and when his creation was finally completed, "God saw everything he had made, and indeed it was very good."

Maybe a scientist can tell you how the universe was made but the scientific method can't tell you why the world was made, let alone whether or not the creation is inherently good or evil. At the same time, the creation stories in Genesis may not be grounded in the scientific method, but they can tell us why God created the world and that God was pleased with the outcome.

On the other hand, the scientific method can't make value judgments. For example the scientific method can't and won't differentiate between the value of human life over against plant and animal life. From the strictly scientific point of view all three play equal roles in the earth's ecosystem. From what I understand of Darwin's theory of evolution "the survival of the fittest" simply means if a lion meets an unarmed man in the jungle, the lion wins, but if the man has a hunting rifle and has good aim, all bets are off. Of course, the fact the man has a rifle could lead some to conclude the man has an unfair advantage, but in strict accordance with the scientific method, that would be a value judgment and have no place in the equation.

So, the creation stories primarily report why God created the world. What's more the Bible reveals this nonscientific truth: God gave mankind dominion over the earth. In the first creation story we read, "God blessed and said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion...'" (Genesis 1:28)

In the second creation story it reads, "...out of the ground the Lord formed every animal...and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name." (Genesis 2:19)

So, according to the Bible, God made the world to be our home, and everything in the world, water and air, the soil, vegetation and all animal life are for our use.

What's more, according to the Bible, God gave us dominion. That means God gave mankind sovereignty over the earth. But the Bible also says that with authority comes responsibility, God expects us to take care of the world, to be good and faithful stewards of the environment.

Of course, living in the ancient world the Hebrews didn't face the environmental challenges we have today. The worst they could do was over use the soil by not following the Mosaic crop rotating laws and the rich and powerful running small farmers off their ancestral lands. We, on the other hand, because we live in a throwaway culture with the reality of land, water and air pollution, have the more immediate need to maintain the environment's delicate balance by doing our small part to care for God's creation.

I could give you a long list of "green" suggestions of what you can do in your homes and work places but this morning I'd like to show how an Anglican Church in Great Britain has come together to be good and faithful stewards of their property and enhancing the surrounding community's quality of life.

SHOW VIDEO  
[TAKING CARE OF CREATION. mp4](#)

Like St. Luke's in Great Crosby, we too are blessed with several acres of unused land. Maybe we can use our resources to promote both the care of God's creation and our stated vision to bring Christ to people. At this point, we have no grand plan, but maybe the Spirit is stirring in just enough of you, who love gardening and want to be and make a difference in our community, to come together, pray for guidance and begin the process of discerning where the Lord is taking us.

Listen again to St. Paul's message to the Colossians:

"God was pleased to have his fullness dwell in him and through him to reconcile himself to all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross." (Colossians 1:15-20)

Again, the creation stories tell us why God created the world and Paul reaffirms it: God desires to reconcile all things on earth and heaven to himself by inviting us to be partners in his ministry of reconciliation, helping the world along with everything and everyone in it to be in harmony with God's perfect will.

If you're like me, when you see on the evening news the terrible things happening in and to our broken world, you're so overwhelmed with the enormity of it all, and can only wonder if anything you could do would ever make a dent. But maybe that's all God wants from us, to make dents in our small corner of the Kingdom, as we are called, knowing ultimately God alone can save the world.

May we be vigilant and faithful as God shows us the way to glorify his Son as we exercise our dominion over the world God so loves.