

IF WE HAD JUBILEE WE WOULD NOURISH AND PROTECT THE EARTH

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IF WE HAD JUBILEE WE WOULD RESPECT AND NURTURE THE EARTH

By Jim
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A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.
Psalm 24:1-2 KJV

The land shall not be sold for ever: for the land is mine; for ye are strangers and sojourners with me.

Leviticus 25:23 KJV

Only when the last tree has died, and the last river has been poisoned, and the last fish has been caught, will we realize that we can't eat money. Cree proverb.

If the earth really belongs to God, why are we so free to denude, damage, pollute, and in other ways destroy the earth and its flora and fauna? Why does human hubris continually override common sense and moderation? Why do we with great abandon continue our destructive ways as we foul our nest and move toward creating an unlivable world? Why are we seemingly incapable of learning anything from the ecological principles found in nature?

Simply, it's because we exalt human knowledge and technological discoveries achieved by science and engineering above the wisdom of God Almighty. We think we can find a technological solution to every problem. We think science will save us. How else can one explain the climate change deniers who ignore masses of data derived over many years that show global warming to be a fact caused primarily by human burning of fossil fuels?

Another

cause is the misapplication of God's instructions to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. In Gen. 1:26-28 they are instructed to rule over the earth, populate it, and subdue it and all its creatures. This passage has been interpreted as divine license to do whatever we wish with the earth, including natural resources and creatures. But the balancing concept found in Gen. 2:15 about nurture and care for the earth is routinely ignored.

Another

cause is the mistaken belief that what happens now doesn't matter because the whole earth will soon be destroyed by God-sent fire anyway. This view is based upon a literal interpretation of only a few scriptures, which might also be referring to a figurative "destruction" of the earth, or even to the coming destruction, not of the earth itself, but of its many anti-God political, economic, and social systems.

The Genesis

values connected to the idea of "subduing" the earth are alive and well today as monster trawl nets scour the ocean's depths for valuable fish while ignoring the massive destruction they do to the sea floor and other species of life. It lives in the deniers of global warming and their claims that such warming can't be proven and therefore doesn't exist. And it lives right here in the U.S. as we gleefully fracture underlying rock formations in a greedy search for more oil that only adds to our other woes.

And the

values of husbanding and nurturing the earth and creation that would normally counter the destructive "subdue" mindset cannot gain traction amid the outright lies and fears spread by predatory global corporations and their political henchmen. Their fallacious claim is that the very future of humankind depends upon continuing our destructive onslaught on the earth and its vulnerable systems in the futile search for economic growth and efficiency, and more of everything, whether we need it or not.

So what can

you do? One thing is for you to form a mental and emotional resistance to the outlandish claims you hear every day. Just because they say it does not mean it is so. And resist the common ethic that the more goods and toys you have the better off you are. Jesus said that "A man's life consists not in the abundance of things he possesses." Act as if this were true.

And pray

without ceasing. I think we have gone beyond the point where human effort will save us. Only God can, and he will, bring about the new vision necessary for us to begin implementing his kingdom here on earth. Pray for it.

