

Deuteronomy 22:6,7

I. Dominion and Domination Differ

A. God made the natural order and liked what He produced. And God said, ***Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind***, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. ***And God made the beast of the earth after his kind***, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and ***God saw that it was good.*** (GENESIS 1:24-25)

B. People were created to be caretakers. And God said, ***Let us make man in our image***, after our likeness: and ***let them have dominion*** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and ***over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*** (GENESIS 1:26)

C. God ordered the ecology for His purposes. So God created man in his own image, ***in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*** And God blessed them, and God said unto them, ***Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*** And God said, Behold, ***I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.*** And ***to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat:*** and it was so. (GENESIS 1:27-30)

D. Originally everything fit together and satisfied its purpose. And ***God saw every thing that he had made***, and, behold, ***it was very good.*** And the evening and the morning were the sixth day. (GENESIS 1:31)

E. The world's problems started with sin and its curse; when mismanagement compounds the problems domination replaces dominion. And unto Adam he said, ***Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife***, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, ***Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;*** Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ***In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*** (GENESIS 3:17-19)

II. Animals Actually Do Have Rights

A. God starts dominion on simple and objective grounds. If a bird's nest chance to be before thee in the way in any tree, or on the ground, ***whether they be young ones, or eggs, and the dam sitting upon the young, or upon the eggs, thou shalt not take the dam with the young:*** (Deuteronomy 22:6)

B. God is no DEIST abandoning His Providential government. **Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?** (LUKE 12:6)

C. Everything under man's authority suffers from sin and its consequences. For we know that *the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.* (ROMANS 8:22)

D. Each ecological decision exposes the moral presuppositions directing it. A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel. (PROVERBS 12:10)

III. Righteousness Is a Matter of Self-interest

A. God sets limits to human authority over nature; the possible is not necessarily the appropriate. But thou shalt in any wise let the dam go, and take the young to thee; that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days. (DEUTERONOMY 22:7)

B. Obedience to God is a life and death matter. Thou shalt keep therefore his statutes, and his commandments, which I command thee this day, that it may go well with thee, and with thy children after thee, and that thou mayest prolong thy days upon the earth, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, for ever. (DEUTERONOMY 4:40)

C. Do not presume to outwit God; follow the maker's instructions. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (PROVERBS 3:5-6)

D. Clarity about Who is in charge and how to approach the basic rules makes a big difference; do not try to do God's thinking for Him. By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life. (PROVERBS 22:4)

E. Stay out of God's way; He will take care of everything. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. (PSALM 37:5) Rest in the LORD, and *wait patiently for him: fret not thyself* because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. (PSALM 37:7)