

Eco-Theology

Scriptural Lenses and Creation Ethics

Dominion / Subduing Ethic (Ownership)

A literal reading of first creation narrative

“Fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over... every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:28

Interpreted that humanity is superior to the rest of creation. Therefore, can do whatever we want with it.



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Christian Stewardship Ethic (Management)

Tempers the dominion/subduing language

Holds up second creation narrative in Genesis 2:15, The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden “to tend and keep it” [abad and shamar].

Conservation-Preservation Ethics

Agrarian roots of the Brethren.



Eco-Justice Ethic (Accessibility)

Focuses more on changing institutional structures by working with political, economic, and social processes to achieve justice and environmental health

Prophetic Tradition: e.g. Ezekiel 34

Liberation Theologies



Creation Kinship (Community)

Interdependence between all life.

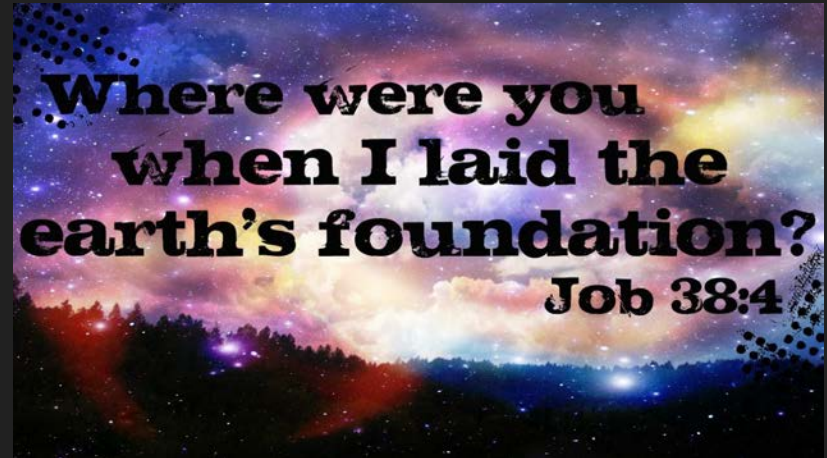
Values creation as gift from Creator God.

Wisdom literature (Job 38)

God as the Breath of Life. (Psalm 104)

Integrity of ecosystems.

Explored in indigenous wisdom, Eastern Orthodox and Ecofeminist theologies



Some Suggested Resources

Creation & the Environment: An Anabaptist Perspective. (Calvin Redekop, ed.)

Introduction to Evangelical Ecotheology. (Brunner, et al.)

The Bible and the Environment. (David Horrell)

Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture. (Ellen Davis)

Dumping in Dixie: Race, Class, and Environmental Quality. (Robert Bullard)

Watershed Discipleship. (Ched Myers)