



APRIL 25, 2021 | CRAIG REES

**Big Idea:** We don't celebrate creation with integrity when we show no care for what God created, owns, deems good, and will ultimately return to both reclaim and restore.

**Key Scripture:**

Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis 3:17

Isaiah 11:6-9

Romans 8:18-23

Genesis 2:15

Genesis 6:1ff.

Isaiah 24:3-8

Revelation 21, 22

1. In what ways do you engage with the beautiful creation we have here in Michigan? What role does creation play in both your *worship of* and *connection with* God?
2. What teaching have you heard on "creation and Christians"? From where does your understanding of the Christian responsibility to creation mostly stem?
3. What do you make of the assertion that religious affiliation has less of an influence on a person's view of climate and energy than their political affiliation, ethnicity, and race? What conclusions would such an assertion lead to about the role of Scripture in a believer's understanding of their responsibility?
4. How should a believer approach Scripture for understanding their response to an issue when there's no obvious place to turn? How do we ensure that it's a genuine understanding of Scripture that drives our approach, rather than our background and experience?
5. Read Genesis 1:26-28 noting the words 'rule' and 'subdue' and Genesis 2:15 with the words 'work' and 'care.' What do these two Scriptures say to the Christian's responsibility towards creation and 'rights' over it?
6. Read Romans 8:18-23. Creation, humanity, and the Holy Spirit are all said to 'groan'. How do you think creation groans?
7. Read Revelation 21-22. The passage says that just as creation shared in the fall, so to it will share in redemption. What strikes you about the relationship between humanity, creation, and animals?
8. How has this message caused you to think or relate differently to creation? How well do you think you are stewarding your small corner of creation?
9. Think about the week ahead, is there a relationship, an environment, or a situation where your biggest takeaway might be applicable?