



STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION

GENESIS 1:26, 2:15; ROMANS 1:22-23; GENESIS 8:22

LEARN THE WORD

Psalm 8:5-6

Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.

- God gave Adam responsibility and authority—dominion—over His creation. As descendants of Adam, we have the same responsibility.
- Our sovereign God is faithful to sustain His creation. He has promised to maintain the cycles of seasons, temperatures, and night and day.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

After school, some of your friends are talking about the climate change discussion you had in science class. Your science book claims that man is destroying the earth—man is the cause of all the climate changes.

What could you say?

Textbooks are written by people. People make mistakes. Only God is perfect. His Word contains no errors. We don't need to fear the ever-changing predictions of man when we can trust a sovereign God. God says in His Word that He will keep His creation. We can always trust God's Word over man's word.

Activity: These words from the lesson are all mixed up! Read the clues on the right. Write the letters in the boxes by matching their colors to spell the words correctly.

1. — *To be responsible for something or rule over something.*
I N O N I O D M

2. — *A person who takes care of something for someone.*
R T W E D S A

3. — *God is the one who made all things.*
R E C O A R T

4. — *We should not worship this, but should take care of it.*
T I O N R C A E

Answers: 1) Dominion 2) Steward 3) Creator 4) Creation

HOMESWORD FOR PARENTS

When God created the world, it was perfect—it was all very good (Genesis 1:31). Man and all of creation lived together without any stress in a harmonious environment. But God did provide a hierarchy of authority. He intended that Adam and Eve be the ones to tend the garden and keep it (Genesis 2:15). He instructed them to multiply and fill the earth and to have dominion over it and all of its creatures (Genesis 1:28). This “Dominion Mandate” ordained by God gives all of us, as the heirs of Adam, a special responsibility to diligently care for God’s earth from a biblical perspective.

What this means, however, is not always easily determined. Because of the high profile of this issue, you will come across many strong opinions. God did create resources for man’s use in sustaining life. But we find today those who want to abuse the resources out of greed and selfishness, causing needless loss and destruction in other areas. We see also the overly enthusiastic conservationists who appear to worship the creation more than the Creator—clearly a position not ordained by God (Romans 1:25).

In dealing with this issue, as with all matters, we need to consult the full counsel of God’s Word before making decisions, while always keeping in mind God’s promise to preserve the earth: “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, day and night, shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22).