

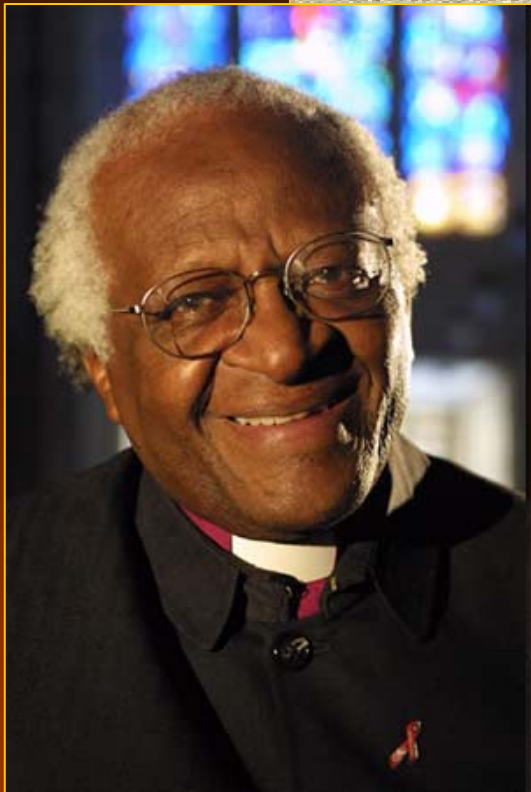


Jesus is Coming Plant a Tree

Jesus, Justice and the End Times
SEEK YE FIRST - Session 6

Options Galore





“Everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.”

—Genesis 1:31

THE GREEN BIBLE

Understand the Bible's Powerful Message for the Earth

FOREWORD BY DESMOND TUTU

NRSV
New Revised Standard Version

- Green-letter edition—over 1,000 verses highlighted
- Green topical index and Green Bible Trail Guide for further study
- Inspirational essays by scholars and leaders
- Environmentally friendly—cotton/linen cover, recycled paper, soy-based ink, and water-based coating

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

I would not know how to be human, how to think as a human being, how to walk as a human being, how to talk or how to eat as a human being except by learning from other human beings.

We're made to live in a delicate network of interdependence, for we are made for complementarity.



We must act now and wake up to our moral obligations. The poor and vulnerable are members of God's family and are the most severely affected by droughts, high temperatures, the flooding of coastal cities, and more severe and unpredictable weather events resulting from climate change.

We, who should have been responsible stewards preserving our vulnerable, fragile planet home, have been wantonly wasteful through our reckless consumerism, devouring irreplaceable natural resources. We need to be accountable to God's family. Once we start living in a way that is people-friendly to all of God's family, we will also be environment-friendly.



N. T. WRIGHT

Wright believes in a second coming of Jesus but not one in line with popular caricature - components of his argument

- heaven is right here, though not visible
- God's future is part of our present time
- OUR ROLE AS CHRISTIANS is not passive, sit around to let the good times roll
- He speaks of OUR INHERITANCE



CONCERNING OUR INHERITANCE (1)

(C)enturies of the Western Christian tradition have given the emphatic, though often implicit, answer: Heaven is our home, our inheritance. We have reread the story of the Exodus in those terms, with the crossing of the Jordan symbolizing the bodily death that will bring us to heaven itself, the "Canaan" for which we long . . . The inheritance however is not "heaven." Nor is it, of course, Palestine, a small geographical strip in the Middle East. **Our inheritance is the whole renewed, restored creation.**



OUR INHERITANCE AFFECTS US NOW (2)

(T)he whole point of the Christian gospel is that, with the resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit, **God's future has come forward to meet us in the present.** What God intends to do at the last has already broken into the world the way it is.

(That is the dramatic point about Easter: not that God has simply done an extraordinary miracle on Jesus' behalf, but that **with Jesus, new creation has already begun, and Jesus' followers are invited not only to benefit from it, but to share in the new project it unleashes.**)



OUR ACTION IS GOD-CENTERED, NOT SELF-CENTERED (3)

Bearing God's image doesn't just mean sorting yourself out, but **reflecting that image into the creation in wise stewardship, the renewal of human life to which we are called . . .** You must therefore **live, in the present, as far as possible as you are going to live ultimately in the future."**



People less willing to sacrifice for environment (poll)

There is both growing public reluctance to make personal sacrifices and a distinct lack of enthusiasm for the major international efforts now underway to battle climate change

Less than half of those surveyed said they were prepared to make personal lifestyle changes to reduce carbon emissions. And only one in five respondents -- or 20 per cent -- said they'd spend extra money to reduce climate change. (TC, Friday, November 28, 2008)



OUR PRESENT ACTION MUST INCLUDE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

To deny a Christian passion for environmental work, for putting the world to rights insofar as we can right now, is to deny the goodness of creation, on the one hand, or the power of God in the resurrection and the Spirit, on the other, or quite possibly both.



TO ALL CHRISTIANS

**Jesus is coming
– plant a tree**

Trees store carbon,
produce oxygen

Provide shade and
anchor soil

Look beautiful and
create habitat for
birds



Ranges of environmental action

No problem, no action required

I have a sense that the way I treat the environment is not right

Its all useless because of India and China

Based on personal research, reading, discussion and experiment I know I need to change things but don't know how

Bottled water causes more problems than it solves so I won't use them, ever

I have purchased a copy of the GREEN BIBLE



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I am an active re-cycler

Whale-watchers have a negative impact on whales, first nations, and tourists

I buy more of my food locally than I did a year ago

I took my first steps in a public march to save the Woodwyn farm for agricultural use

I need to find out more about run-of-river power and the Victoria sewage project (I need to get my shit together)



RANGE OF ACTIONS

I support the objectives of the Kyoto Accord and support similar legislation after 2012 and have communicated this to my Member of Parliament

I now refuse to travel by air more than once each year, and attempt to use no power whatsoever at least five days each month

I enjoy being chained to trees



Anglican Communion Environmental Network - Aims

To encourage Anglicans to support sustainable environmental practices as individuals and in the life of their communities.

To provide information about policies embraced by synods, councils and commissions, and especially by the instruments of Unity (Statements by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Resolutions and Reports of the Lambeth Conference and the Anglican Consultative Council)



ACEN

To support local initiatives by providing information about ideas and best practices developed around the communion.

To share information about resources and initiatives that may be of value to Anglicans everywhere.

To provide an opportunity for interested Anglicans to meet both as a formal network, and informally via electronic media.



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1. When people say “Jesus is coming (again)” what are they really saying?
2. When you consider a range of environmental actions, where do you locate yourself in this list.
3. If you chose to plant a tree, where would you plant it or urge its planting?

