

BETHANY SCHOOL

Towards a Christian curriculum

Topic Theme – Living things - Plants and Animals

CONTEXT

God given order, diversity and individuality, including our human responsibility to subdue, exercise wise dominion over and use all of creation ... to His glory.

Genesis 1: 11-12 The third day '... Let the land produce vegetation ...'

Genesis 1: 24-25 The sixth day 'Let the land produce living creatures ..'

Genesis 3: 17 'Cursed is the ground because of you ...'

Psalms 65: 9-13 'You care for the land and water it ...'

Psalms 104: 14 'He makes the grass grow for the cattle ...'

Hebrews 6: 7 Unproductive land (and lives) are in danger

Luke 6: 44 '... each is recognised by its own fruit.'

When God created the Earth it was 'very good'.

The fall and the flood brought changes to all the Earth (death and decay), including the plant and animal kingdoms and man's interrelationships with them.

God has placed into the Earth's natural cycles the power to rejuvenate itself. The 'healing' processes designed to deal with death and decay are: the Water Cycle, the Rock Cycle, the Nitrogen Cycle and the Carbon Cycle

God has made covenants and promises towards His creation.

The Earth will be finally renewed when, as a result of Christ's complete and sufficient work, God brings in the new heavens and the new (renewed) earth.

Until then man is responsible for using and taking care of the creation as good and faithful stewards. People have a special responsibility to enjoy God's creation, act responsibly towards it, develop the resources it contains and look forward as believers to inhabiting, with God, the new earth purged of sin and its effects.

People are not intruders into nature. This earth is our home! All other parts of creation obey the Creator's laws. People have been given a will to choose to learn His ways and obey them or to choose to ignore and disobey them. It is because of this responsibility and accountability that we need to consider the spiritual nature of our relationship with our environment. God expects us to: enjoy creation; exercise wise dominion without exploitation and greed; follow biblical laws, principles and instructions relating to our mandate to subdue the Earth; anticipate with wonder the glory of the renewed heavens and the renewed Earth.

Aims

- Through a study of the beauty, richness, diversity, order and complexity to be found in the plant and animal kingdom, gain an understanding of these realms and also, an understanding that God is creative, knowledgeable, and powerful beyond measure.

- By looking into the Bible, learn of God's plans and purposes for His creation and discover the laws and principles which govern the interrelationships between the created realms.
- By looking at mans' ideas and achievements, back in history and in the present day, examine the effects of our obedience or disobedience to godly ways.
- Study current ideas about how we should treat plants and animals and interpret trends and possible future directions in the light of a biblical world view.
- Suggest appropriate personal and institutional responses to our learning.