The 4 C's of Creation Care (2021)

INTRODUCTION

The news is never short of stories telling us that the world is in crisis. 2021was marked as a pivotal year when global leaders gathered at the G7 Summit with climate crisis on the agenda and much hope of a sustainable global future pinned to the talks at COP26 in Glasgow. By watching the news it is hard to tell what is fact and what is spin, so we shall begin our study by having a reality check. Consider these five facts about climate change:

- **Global warming:** According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) over the past 22 years, twenty have been the warmest on record. The planet has warmed by nearly 1°C in the past century. To avoid the worst effects of climate change there is a global agreement that we should keep the temperature rise well below 2°C from the pre-industrial era; the aim is 1.5°C. Currently we are on course for an increase of 4°C+!

- **Natural extinction:** The IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (2019) presents eye-opening evidence that dozens of species of plants and animals are currently becoming extinct each day—nearly 1000 times the natural rate. By mid-century, it is feared as many as 30-50% of the total species found on Earth will have disappeared. Rising temperatures are leading to intensified natural disasters—wildfires, hurricanes, droughts and floods. Further, melting icecaps, changing sea levels and temperatures are affecting the seasons, animals' habitats and migration patterns.

- **Human suffering:** The Lancet report (2018) highlights the combination of rising temperatures and a growing population has led to an increase in heat-related deaths. This has also led to worse air quality, poor crop production, landslides, increased spread of infectious diseases and has threatened freshwater deposits. Further, the impact of suffering is thought to disproportionately affect those in poor countries.

- **We know the solution:** The U.N. climate report (2018), and subsequent reports, have warned us that global carbon pollution must be cut by half in the next 10 years for us to avoid catastrophic, irreversible damage to our planet. And yet we're going in the opposite direction (2017 +1.7%, 2018 +2.7%).

- **We don't take it seriously:** In 1988 the United Nations Environmental Programme and World Meteorological Organization formed the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This panel combines studies from global experts as well as commissioning its own to keep governments around the world informed as to the drivers of climate change and to highlight areas of adaptation and mitigation that can reduce those risks. These are the policies that shape our everyday lives.

  In 2013, an IPCC report suggested it 'extremely likely (95-100%)' that global warming is mostly man-made – largely down to burning fossil fuels and deforestation on a mass-scale. Further nuanced surveys support this finding (Cook, 2016) citing those scientists *not* affirming holding a neutral (not denying) position.

  Despite this, the countries with the biggest global emissions, who can make the greatest impact in addressing the issue—China, the U.S.A. and Russia—continue their investment

in the fossil fuel industry. In this area, the BBC reported (April 2021) that the U.K. had taken a "world-leading position", committing to bring forward their climate target by 15 years, aiming to cut carbon emissions 78% by 2035; yet, in 2022 the UK committed to opening a new coalmine. Whether any of this is 'good politics' or a serious aim remains to be seen but this is a drop in the ocean until all countries take this situation seriously—you need a global solution to a global problem.

NB Further summaries of reports are here: https://www.un.org/en/climatechange There is also a list at the rear of this booklet. Much peer-reviewed research is freely available by Googling a specific question.

This summary offers a worrying picture for our world. Discuss briefly why you think countries are reticent to take this issue seriously? What might make the biggest difference to influence policy changes?

Consequently Christians need to consider whether this is only a pressing worldly matter or is also a pressing discipleship matter. To do this, each of our four studies will build on one another to give us a broad picture of the four C's of creation care. Following a quote and icebreaker question, each theme will be considered from three angles: up, in and out. A key question / Bible passage for each section is indicated with a ❖ for those with less time:

UP Looking at some texts from the Old and New Testament and considering what God has to say.

IN Considering how this matters to us.

OUT Thinking about how we might apply what we've learned to our lives.

RESOURCES Should you wish to dig a little deeper, there are a few resources at the back to help you get started.

NEXT STEPS At the back there are also a number of practical suggestions of ways to put this learning into practice.

1. CREATION: dominion or responsibility

"More science and more technology are not going to get us out of the present ecologic crisis until we find a new religion, or rethink our old one..." *Lynn White*

Lynn White, a medieval historian, wrote these words in 1967. This controversial article sought to raise awareness of the climate crisis, which we continue to face today. White considers that Christianity had created a dualism where humanity was seen as distinct from nature. He therefore considers Christians should take significant responsibility for promoting the idea that it's ok for humans to exploit creation for their own benefit (though he does praise Francis of Assisi!)

Do you think Christianity has had a positive, negative or neutral impact on how you perceive your responsibility for creation care?

In this study we consider our place within creation.

In the beginning God created all things, bringing life and light and declaring it 'very good'. One preacher helpfully notes that God 'forms then fills'.

❖ **Read Psalm 24:1-2 and Genesis 1:24-28, 2:15** *(do read all Genesis 1 if you have time)*

- ❖ What do these passages tell us about God and his relationship to the world?
- What does God create on day six?
- How does God relate to the world he has created?

❖ **Re-read Genesis 1:27-28 and 2:15.** There are some key issues here we need to unpack. Start a discussion around the meaning of the three commands given to humanity (1:28) and two reasons given for man being in the Garden of Eden (2:15). During the discussion, bring in the info below — how does this change our understanding?

INFO TO INTRODUCE DURING DISCUSSION

The word 'subdue' usually refers to hostile action against an enemy (Num 32:22) or even to 'rape' (Est 7:8). The term 'to rule' is most commonly used over reluctant servants (Lev 26:17; Ezk 34:4). However, as those made in God's image, He is asking us to rule over nature as a benevolent king; ruling as he would (Lk 14:15-24). When this is linked with Genesis 2, the responsibility to 'work' and 'take care' of the land shows a duty of care as well as a right to make a living. It seems there is a mutual need to bring life through a duty of care for all—an interdependence.

- To appreciate the idea of godly rule, reflect together on Psalm 72:12-14 and Luke 14:15-24. Consider also how Jesus demonstrates God's 'rule' as 'the image of the invisible God' (Col 1:15).

- When do you feel nearer God — outside or inside? Why?
- ❖ Why is our role as stewards of the earth (Gen 2:15) a significant part of the conversation about being a Christian and our responsibility to the environment?
- How might knowing this affect your choices on a daily basis?

❖ **INFO:** Historically, different interpretations of these passages exist. John Calvin (16th century) understood them to give humanity authority over all living creatures — to dominate and subdue — but they lived in fear of wild animals attacking humans. Today, we have the opposite concern with many animals becoming extinct. So as Calvin DeWhitt interprets it today, 'dominion means responsible stewardship' (The Green Bible).

- Is there only ever one 'right' reading of a particular text?
- ❖ How might trying to read the text with someone else's context and life journey help us? Exercise: choose a parable or psalm you're familiar with and then imagine yourself in an alien context or life-circumstance (a pub, a school, on the street, rich beyond measure…). *E.g., Read the parable of the lost sheep (Luke 15:1-7) as if a homeless person*. As you read, invite the Holy Spirit to help you see how this text might speak differently to you through someone else's eyes.

- What one thing can you take away from this study to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus?
- Go for a walk this week and take note of all the 'good' in creation (including you!)
- ❖ If we were made to 'rule' as Jesus does, what one thing could you do this week to take that responsibility seriously?
- How might you respond to someone who challenged you about the idea that as Christians we should work interdependently with all creation?

2. CHRIST: people or creation

"I look upon this world as a sinking ship, and the Lord has given me a lifeboat, and told me: 'Moody, save all you can'." *D. L. Moody*

The preacher D. L. Moody came from a worldview that understood the Bible to teach the world was like the Titanic — destined for destruction — so why did we need to care for it? For Moody only individual souls could be retrieved from the wreckage of this world; the earth itself was beyond redemption.

What do you think about this? Do you agree with Moody that the discussion around the environment is a 'distraction' from a Christian's main duty — to lead people to Christ to be saved?
(Be gracious in your listening and responding)

In this study we consider Christ's relationship to creation.

The more we love someone, the more we care about the things they care about. As followers of Jesus our desire should be to grow in relationship with him. One way we can know God more is to see how he interacts with his creation—as the one who is present in and through all creation. ❖ Look at one of the OT passages and Colossians.

Read Genesis 9:8-17.

- Who does God make his covenant with following the flood? Is this surprising?
- When something is repeated through out a passage the author is usually trying to get our attention! What two terms are repeated? ("all creatures" and "all flesh")
- What does this tell us about how God views his relationship with humans and creation?

Read Psalm 147.

- List the different ways God is active in this Psalm. There are two themes running side by side: humanity and creation. Divide them up. What do you notice about God's presence?
- In what ways does God bring healing? (v3-4)
- What do v10-11 tell you about the role of creation in connection between God and humanity?
- What does this Psalm communicate about God's overall involvement in creation?

Read Colossians 1:15-20.

- What does Paul tell us about Christ's relationship to creation?
- How does Paul expand Christ's work upon the cross — is it just for people?

- Paul presents an expansive view of Christ — as Creator, sustainer and reconciler of all things. How might that change your understanding of your connection to all parts of creation?

- Psalm 147 uses the rhythms of the seasons as a reason for praise. Look out of your window. Give thanks for God's presence and activity where you live.
- Our choices have a direct impact upon the environment — whether for convenience or necessity. Consider the following quote in light of your lifestyle choices.

> "For individuals, flying is the most carbon-intensive thing you can do. Holiday air travel makes up around 10% of the average UK annual carbon footprint. Cut that out — or travel by train, with about a tenth of the emissions — and you can produce a real and immediate effect." (The Week, Oct 2019)

Flying may not be your thing but what's the equivalent challenge for you?

- ❖ Through Christ's sacrifice upon the cross we find reconciliation between heaven and earth. How should this affect our prayers for problems we see in creation as well as for those facing humanity?

Jesus teaches in Matthew 7:1 that we should not judge others by a different standard to the one we're using for ourselves.

- ❖ What kind of changes do you think others should be making to solve the climate crisis? How does that view reflect in how you manage your life?
- Consider exploring how your daily habits impact the environment using the BMS carbon-emissions calculator (find a link in the resources near the back)
- Jesus is our perfect example of how to live a godly life—fulfilling God's purpose for humanity—but his journey led to the cross. In what ways might you need to be sacrificial to do your part for climate justice?
- Spend some time with, or nurturing, something living — feeding the birds, planting seeds, walking slowly around a garden centre taking in creation. As you do, consider the mystery of God in his creation. Remember that God made and cares for all things and give thanks.

3. CORRUPTION: sin or salvation

"Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things. Look above you! Look below you! Read it. God, whom you want to discover, never wrote that book with ink. Instead, He set before your eyes the things that He had made. Can you ask for a louder voice than that?
St. Augustine of Hippo (Sermon from The Essential Augustine)

St. Augustine was an early Christian theologian and philosopher (354-430 A.D.). His ideas have been influential in Western thought to the present day. Among the original ideas he expressed was the theological concept of the Book of Nature as the complement to the Book of Scripture.

Think about the news this week. Share some items that reflect the brokenness of this world. Think about which parts are 'natural' and which are caused by humans. How do you think Augustine would explain this brokenness?

In this study we consider sins relationship to creation.

Since the fall sin has disconnected us from God. Building on our last two studies this also means we're disconnected from creation. A study of two main passages will help us to see the problem and also consider the solution.

❖ **Read Genesis 3:14-19.**

- What are the four main consequences of God's judgement following Adam and Eve's disobedience (think about both people and things)?
- How is the relationship between humans and creation corrupted (v15)?
- Who is cursed and who is not?
- Romans 3:23 reminds us, 'all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.' Would you agree that when we apply this to creation care we cannot deny our part in damaging God's creation? If so, why? If not, why not?

Read Romans 8:18-22.

- Can you spot the echoes of Genesis 3 in this section of Romans?
- Consider how Paul describes the 'groans' of nature throughout these verses? (see also Joel 1:10-12) NB Paul uses a word for 'creation' that does not usually include human beings and is highlighting the importance of creation in its own right.
- ❖ What does Paul say nature is destined for?
- ❖ How does Paul describe the relationship between nature and humanity — are they on a par or is one more important than the other?

As a bonus(!) read / recall John 3:16.

- What is God's solution to the problem of sin for humanity and creation?

- When natural disasters strike the question many ask is, 'Why would God allow this destruction?' How does our study influence how you might answer that question?
- On the news we regularly hear warnings about the need to respond "now" to avoid a climate catastrophe. How do modern-day warnings compare with those of the prophets, for example, Hosea 4:1-3? How do you respond to this idea?
- Our study reveals creation care is not just about nature but also about justice. Failures over time to care for people and places, to stand against injustice, have led to the eroding, exploitation and destruction of lives and landscapes. As God's children let us repent and pray for the brokenness of this world.
- ❖ Paul uses the metaphor of pain in childbirth to reflect the idea of hope (life comes out of pain). The Christian lifestyle should have distinctive markers that reflect Jesus' call to love, show compassion, be generous and forgiving. In what ways do you reflect these 'fruits' in your life when considering creation care and in what areas do you need the Spirit to help you grow?

- ❖ What area of creation is causing you to 'groan'? How could you respond?
- Consider exploring how your daily habits impact the environment using the BMS carbon-emissions calculator (find a link in the resources near the back)
- Pray for all those working for positive change around the world—renewable projects, Fair Trade, innovations to clean up our seas, care for one another.
- Take an interest in a local conservation or justice project.

4. (RE)CREATION: now or never

"I have learned you are never too small to make a difference. … I'm not that special. I can't convince everyone. I'm just going to do what I want to do and what will have the most impact." *Greta Thunberg*

It would be remiss of this study to ignore the voice of the young. In a report from Tearfund and Youthscape—*Burning Down The House* (2020), 9 out of 10 young people (14-19) cared deeply about climate justice *(NB the term change is not used for, as we have observed, this is also a case of injustice in the wider sense)*. Just one in ten were confident their church family is doing enough about it.

This is not about getting more young people in the church but about the church engaging in the issues that matter in our day. However, our desire to engage with this conversation will very much depend on our view of what happens to this world in the end. Should we care? Do we really need to do anything other than to make others feel better?

How high on the agenda is climate justice in your church life and your personal life? What is your understanding of what happens to creation at the end of the world? (Share honestly and don't miss the personal bit!)

In this study we consider what happens at the end of time.

We've all seen the movies about how the world will one day explode or aliens will come and blow it up! But what does God reveal through his word? Our final study explores what happens at the end of time when our world is no more. We start in Isaiah hearing the promise of a restored "Messianic Kingdom". Though the family tree of Jesse (David's father) has been reduced to a stump, God will make it grow a new branch (see Isaiah 4:2; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15; Zechariah 3:8). The new king will be given God's spirit and we hear about the creatures in this Kingdom of peace.

Read Isaiah 11:1-9

- ❖ Who is affected by the arrival of this 'shoot'? How are things different?
- Thinking about v6-9, what do these images suggest about God's intentions for creation?
- Can you spot any echoes of Genesis 1 and 3?

Read Isaiah 65:17-25

- ❖ What similarities do you notice with Isaiah 11:1-9 and where has the vision expanded?
- Can you spot any echoes from Genesis 1-3?

- The phrase ‘a new heaven and a new earth’ expresses a vision of cosmic redemption and salvation. Whilst this study is focused on the climate issues, take a moment to note how this passage also draws in wider issues, such as social justice.
- To appreciate the fullness of this vision we have to translate it into our culture. E.g. v23: what might the world look like if everyone earned a liveable wage so they need not worry? Try translating some other themes into your context.

❖ **Read Revelation 21:1-5**

- If you’re having déjà vu reading this then that is no surprise! John uses very similar language to Isaiah. What similarities can you see and what do they tell you about the importance of a restored creation?
- The Greek word behind ‘new’ implies renewal *(NB some commentators disagree)*, and the ‘sea’ represents the threat of chaos and cosmic evil. With this in mind, how might you summarise this passage in your own words?
- One major difference between Isaiah 65:17-25 and Revelation 21:1-5 is God’s place in the narrative. What do we learn about God’s role in the new creation? Note: do we go up or does he come down?
- If you’ve time, read Genesis 2:4-3:20. What similarities/differences are there between the first and the new creation?

- Isaiah 11’s beautiful description of a redeemed creation is understood to have been ushered in with Jesus and therefore gives us a picture of the world we should be working towards. How can we play our part in the redemption of the earth without going to the other extreme and ignoring our responsibility to invite people to meet Jesus too?
- ❖ If God’s ultimate purpose for the ‘new earth’ is to restore/renew all things (rather than destroy) how should this shape our conversation as Christians around creation justice?
- Which of the promises from Revelation 21:3-4 offers you the most hope or comfort at the moment?
- How would you use this study to help someone struggling with Christians engaging in climate justice? Are there questions you’d still need to explore to be convinced this is a discipleship issue?

- As you consider all that has been covered, how will you respond — in the realms of climate justice *and* social justice?
- Take time to study the various passages again reflecting on God’s love for his creation. Others you could read include: Job 38-39; Psalm 104; Micah 6:1-8; Ezekiel 34:17-22; John 1:1-5; Revelation 22:1-5.
- ❖ Share about an area of creation that interests/wows you. Do some research. Pray for wisdom & guidance as to how you can play your part in creation care.

- Think about your every day habits. Are there any 'quick wins' you can do — sharing lifts, reviewing your energy supplier, changing support to local food suppliers vis-à-vis those importing food from afar, recycling another item, buying less…

"God's intention for the earth was not for it to be exploited but for it to have the ability to produce and sustain life for us all not just humanity." *Arthur Brown, BMS World Mission*

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

As we come to the end of our study, take time to pray that the Lord will take this head knowledge and place it in your heart so that your hands might respond in praise to Him. We can't do everything but we can do something. What is it you will do in response to his love for the world (John 3:16)?

Here are a few more ideas for individual application and to consider as a wider church:

- **Creative Worship** Review how your church incorporates the theme of creation care into all areas of gathered worship — songs, prayers, responses, sermons, activities. Could you create new songs, poems, reflections based on Bible passages we've studied?
- **Live lightly** Reduce consumption, compost, grow food, change bulbs, public transport, car pool, eliminate plastic bags.
- **Act positively** Restore a stream or wildlife area, join conservation groups, support Christian agencies in this area, look local and become a friend of a society. Review how your church could be more environmentally aware and responsible.
- **Be informed** Read and surf the net, newspapers, speak with local interest groups. Consider how the consumer attitude of global trade in the West is having a negative impact on global care.
- **Keep watch** Be aware of destructive policies from corporations and politics both local, national and international. Be active in making your church aware.
- **Act politically** Lobby your local MP — "vote earth!" Sign petitions.
- **Work together** Consider as church what it looks like to care for creation and its creatures within your local context. How can you be good news in this area?
- **Live counter-culturally** Consider committing to do 3 / 6 / 12 months without buying any: new clothes / new shoes / DVDs / food from major importers (for example).
- **Offset travel** How might you reduce your carbon-footprint to NET zero?
- **Pass it on** Who else can you influence to raise awareness both biblically and practically? Who are your 'people of peace' (those open to faith discussions)?

A GENTLE WARNING: don't just cut and paste this study or ideas for your Pastor, start a conversation and explain why all this matters to you. Offer to help implement little changes or ask to create a group to explore this further. Work gently from where you're at, gradually educated your fellowship, and your ideas are more likely to be welcomed compared with a complete overhaul expected by tomorrow!

DIG DEEPER

The follow are just a sample of places you can go to learn more or find more resources. At the bottom are four general book recommendations.

Arocha.org.uk
Helps communities and individuals think about the impact their decisions are having within creation and suggests practical options, articles/facts, community forum. Also founder of 'Eco Church' — assess and educate your church in becoming more eco-friendly. Find small group studies, articles/facts and prayer ideas under **Ecochurch.arocha.org.uk/resources**

Baptist.org.uk/buen
This is the Baptist Union Environmental Network. This new initiative aims to raise awareness and respond to the environmental crisis through a network of hubs across the Regional Associations. Resources include video stories of how individuals and churches are applying creation care.

BmsWorldMission.org/get-involved/campaign/creation-stewardship
A calculator that explores your travel, energy and food consumption habits, also analysing their impact upon the environment. It then suggests ways you can offset these by supporting BMS projects in environmentally vulnerable areas. Other resources are also available.

FriendsoftheEarth.uk
Grassroots campaigning community — local focus (climate, nature, systems change, consumption). Resources include articles/facts, petitions and protest ideas.

GreenChristian.org.uk
A community of ordinary Christians from all backgrounds and traditions. Inspired by their faith, they work to care for Creation through prayer, living simply, public witness, campaigning and mutual encouragement. Resources include worship and prayer ideas, campaigns, magazine, articles/facts and small group studies.

Justmoney.org.uk
What do you know about your bank and it's wider impact on justice issues? Just Money have various tools for individuals and churches to explore those questions (and more!) to connect your faith and finances.

OperationNoah.org
A Christian charity working with the Church to inspire action on the climate crisis. A whole host of resources, including a church Climate Emergency Toolkit (assessment tool) and Climate Sunday. Also articles on the relationship between science and the Bible.

Research.un.org/en/climate-change/reports
A central library of major environmental reports and surveys from around the world.

Resoundworship.org/projects/doxecology
Doxecology is an album of 13 worship songs by British composers that celebrate '…the wonder of creation, acknowledge our failures, and anticipate a glorious restoration in Christ.' There's also a study guide to continue your climate care journey.

Tearfund.org/campaigns/climate-campaign
A campaign inviting people to 'join us through prayer and action to see a breakthrough in the climate crisis which is impacting those living in poverty most.' Resources include prayer ideas, small group studies, games, articles/facts, and church self-assessment tools.

WeAreTearfund.org/research-resources
These climate resources are specifically designed to help adults talk with young people about the current situation. In reality there are a huge amount of resources — podcasts, book recommendations, articles, small group studies, videos — from the theological to the practical. See also here for a report on how the church could lose youth over climate inaction: **youthscape.co.uk/research/burning-down-the-house**

Yccn.uk (Young Christian Climate Network)
An action-focused community of young Christians in the UK aged 18-30, choosing to follow Jesus in the pursuit of climate justice.

Book Recommendations

- ***Live Lent: Care for God's creation*** by The Church of England (Church House Publications, 2019).
  This "will help broaden your view of Christ's redeeming mission - a mission Christians are called to share." A simple 40-day devotional that was designed for Lent but could be used at any time. A version is also available for children.
- ***This changes everything: capitalism vs the climate*** by Naomi Klein (Penguin, 2015).
  This book goes one step beyond humanity or carbon being the problem of climate change but names the root problem as capitalism. An accessible, non-Christian book with a few 'fruity' words, it is aimed at the commercial market and offers another point of view. You may not agree with everything she says but it is worth reading to hear the 'other' voice.
- ***On earth as it is in Heaven: Socio-environmental experiences in the local church*** edited by Gínia César Bontempo (Regnum Books, 2019).
  Listen to stories of how others around the global are engaging in climate and social justice in their context. Be challenged by hearing the 'non-Western voice' share their experiences on mission. Recommended by BMS World Mission but not a light read.
- ***Bible and ecology—rediscovering the community of creation*** by Richard Bauckham (Darton, Longman and Todd, 2010).
  A deep theological dive into the relationship between humans and the rest of creation. Amongst other things Bauckman argues that the notion of a 'community of creation' offers a better view of the whole of Scripture rather than just the idea of 'dominion'.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Berry, R.J. (ed). *Environmental stewardship: critical perspectives — past and present*. London: T&T Clark, 2006.

Bauckham, Richard. *Bible and ecology*. Darton, London: Longman and Todd, 2010.

Brueggemann, Walter. *The message of the Psalms.* Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1984.

Davis, Bryan. *Caring for creation*. York: York Courses, 2020.

Dunn, James. *Romans 1-8 (WBC).* Dallas: Word Books, 1988.

Hanson, Paul D. *Isaiah 40-66 (Interpretation Commentary).* Louisville: John Knox Press, 1995

Kaoma, Kapya (Ed,). *Creation care in Christian mission (Regnum Edinburgh centenary series, volume 29)*. Oxford: Regnum Books, 2015.

Kiel, Micah D. *Apocalyptic Ecology.* Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2017.

Klein, Naomi. *This changes everything: capitalism vs. the climate.* London: Penguin Books, 2015.

Lucas, Dick, *The message of Colossians and Philemon (BST).* Leicester: Inter-Varsity Press, 2000.

Mays, James L., *Psalms (Interpretation).* Louisville: John Knox Press, 1994.

McKeown, James. *Genesis (Two Horizons OT Commentary).* Cambridge: William B. Eerdmans, 2008.

Moo, Douglas J. *Encountering the book of Romans,* 2nd Ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.

Stephens, Mark B. *Annihilation or Renewal?* Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2011.

The Green Bible. New York: HarperCollins, 2008.

Osborne, Grant R. *Revelation (ECNT)*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

The Church of England. *#LiveLent: Care for God's Creation*. London: Church House Publishing, 2019.

Wenham, Gordon. *Genesis 1-15, volume 1 (WBC).* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1987.

Wilcock, Michael. *The Message of Revelation (BST).* Nottingham: Inter-Varsity, 1975.

Williamson, Paul R. *Death and the Afterlife (NSBT 44)*. London: Apollos, 2017.

Young, Brad H. *The Parables: Jewish Tradition and Christian Interpretation.* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1998.

Articles and websites

Cook, John et al. 'Consensus on consensus: a synthesis of consensus estimates on human-caused global warming' 2016 Environ. Res. Lett. 11:4 048002 (2016 IOP Publishing Ltd) https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/11/4/048002/pdf

Harrabin, Roger. "Climate change: UK to speed up target to cut carbon emissions." 20 April 2021. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-56807520

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, IPBES. (2019, November 25). Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services (Version summary for policy makers). Presented at the IPBES Plenary at its seventh session (IPBES 7, Paris, 2019), Zenodo. http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3553579

IPCC, 2013: Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Stocker, T.F., D. Qin, G.-K. Plattner, M. Tignor, S.K. Allen, J. Boschung, A. Nauels, Y. Xia, V. Bex and P.M. Midgley (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA.http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/assessment-report/ar5/wg1/WG1AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf

IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland. https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/05/SYR_AR5_FINAL_full_wcover.pdf

Mendelsohn, Robert, Ariel Dinar and Larry Williams, "The Distributional Impact of Climate Change on Rich and Poor Countries." Environment and Development Economics 11, no. 2 (2006): 159-78. Accessed May 28, 2021. http://www.jstor.org/stable/44378961

Oliver, J.G.J. and Peters J.A.H.W. Trends in global CO2 and total greenhouse gas emissions: 2020 Report (PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency). https://www.pbl.nl/en/publications/trends-in-global-co2-and-total-greenhouse-gas-emissions-2020-report

Rannard, Georgina. "Met Office forecasts 2023 will be hotter than 2022." 20 December 2022. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-64032458

Reality Check Team. "Climate change: Is the UK on track to meet its targets?" 07 November 2022. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/58160547

Tearfund and Youthscape. 'Burning down the house' (2020). https://weare.tearfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Burning-Down-The-House-Youthscape-and-Tearfund.pdf and https://www.youthscape.co.uk/research/burning-down-the-house

The Rising. “Fighting climate change isn’t just an environmental issue — it’s a social justice issue too.” https://www.ecowatch.com/environment-social-justice-2646167147.html#:~:text=Fighting%20Climate%20Change%20Isn't,a%20Social%20Justice%20Issue%20Too&text=The%20plea%20for%20environmental%20justice,air%2C%20power%2C%20and%20shelter

United Nations Environment Programme (2019). Emissions Gap Report 2019. UNEP, Nairobi. https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/30797/EGR2019.pdf

“UN Report: Nature’s Dangerous Decline ‘Unprecedented’; Species Extinction Rates ‘Accelerating’.” https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2019/05/nature-decline-unprecedented-report/

Watts, N., Marcus Amann and Nigel Arnell et al. “The 2018 report of the Lancet Countdown on health and climate change: shaping the health of nations for centuries to come.” Lancet. 2018; 392: 2479-2514. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(18)32594-7

White, Bob, ‘Why should Christians care for the planet?’ November 2006. https://www.eauk.org/church/resources/theological-articles/why-should-christians-care-for-the-planet.cfm

White Jr., Lynn. ‘The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis’, Science 155 (1967) 1203-207

World Wildlife Fund for Nature. “Well, that is the million dollar question — biodiversity loss.” https://wwf.panda.org/discover/our_focus/biodiversity/biodiversity/

WWF-UK. “What are climate change and global warming.” https://www.wwf.org.uk/climate-change-and-global-warming