

Scripture never treats animals as disposable. They honour God, they teach us and their lives are in His hand.

So where does that leave us? Viewed together, those who care for animals and the planet, the true environmentalists, are standing in the very moral and spiritual space that faithful Christians should already occupy.

Which raises a final and uncomfortable question, especially for followers of the modern prosperity gospel and those who preach endless material enlargement:

How does any of that fit with the moral and scriptural imperatives we have just seen, and why do so many rich and successful ministers preach prosperity while ignoring responsibility?

Now that really is a question to ponder. The issue isn't whether prosperity preachers risk becoming the Whitewashed tombs Jesus spoke of in Matthew 23:27.

That kind of hypocrisy is obvious. What is far more unsettling is the possibility that we too, through laziness or simply the comfort of our lives might drift into the very same danger . . .

**A personal
journey of
discovery...**

Module 03

**If God made the Earth for
humanity, then maybe we
should all be eco warriors.**

The planet is undeniably in trouble, and most of us, whether through faith or otherwise, accept that human behaviour is a major driver.

**A personal journey of discovery, discussed
over 10 modules.**

Together we'll challenge the clichés, put the spotlight on religion, and maybe rediscover the truth we were meant to share and why it really is good news!

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03

If God made the Earth for humanity, then maybe we should all be eco warriors.

The planet is undeniably in trouble, and most of us, whether through faith or otherwise, accept that human behaviour is a major driver. Tonight we want to explore a question that sits at the crossroads of faith and environmental science:

If someone believes the Earth was created and entrusted to humanity, what responsibility does that place on them? And for those who do not believe in creation: Is the ultimate debt and responsibility we bear for this planet really any different?

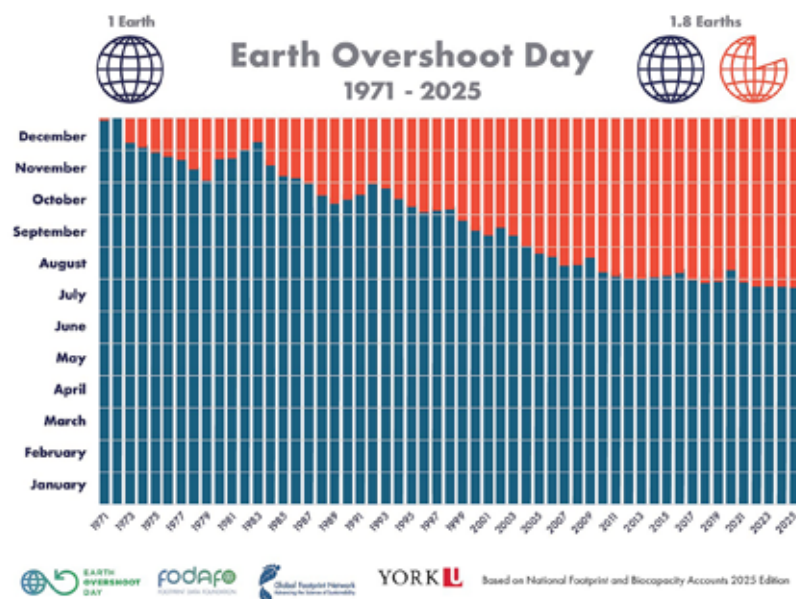
Whatever we decide together, for our own future something has to be done.

To understand the urgency, let's look at the numbers:

The problem: Earth Overshoot Day 1971 to 2025

(Earth's biocapacity ÷ humanity's demand x 365 days)

It compares how fast forests grow back, how much fish populations replenish, how much fresh water cycles, how much CO2 ecosystems can absorb and how quickly soils recover versus how much food, water, timber, land and energy we use, our carbon emissions and mineral extraction.



To put this in perspective, in 2000 Overshoot Day was in late September. Today it is in late July.

God's view of the Earth

And as we are discussing responsibility, those of us who believe in a Creator who gave us the Earth have an added layer.

Isaiah 40:12 *"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?"*

Psalms 95:4 to 5 *"In His hand are the deep places of the earth; the heights of the hills are His also. The sea is His, for He made it; and His hands formed the dry land."*

Psalms 104:5 *"He laid the foundations of the earth, so that it should not be moved forever."*

Scripture consistently reinforces this theme...

Matthew 10:29 *"Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will."*

Isaiah 11:6 to 9 *"The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat... They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain."*

These passages paint a picture of a world that God not only made but measures, holds, sustains and delights in. A world intended for

peace and harmony, not destruction.

The intriguing question is: could environmentalists and Christians be sharing the same moral space without realising it?

1. The planet needs respect, and so does God

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

If Christians truly respect God, then they must also respect His gifts, which includes the Earth.

2. The planet needs us to reduce consumption, and so does God

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Matthew 6:19 to 20

"Take nothing for the journey... and do not have two tunics apiece." Luke 9:3

The planet groans under overconsumption. God calls His people away from hoarding and towards simplicity and trust.

3. The planet needs us to change the way we see and use animals, and so does God

"Even the wild animals will honour Me." Isaiah 43:20

"Ask the beasts, and they will teach you... the fish of the sea will explain to you... in whose hand is the life of every living thing." Job 12:7 to 10