







The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

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Christian Environmentalism The earth in God's purposes

Romans 8:19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; 20 for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; 23 and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.



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Revelation 21 (NRSVA)

The New Heaven and the New Earth

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home[a] of God is among mortals. He will dwell[b] with them; they will be his peoples,[c] and God himself will be with them;[d]

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.'

Footnotes:

Revelation 21:3 Gk the tabernacle
Revelation 21:3 Gk will tabernacle
Revelation 21:3 Other ancient authorities read people
Revelation 21:3 Other ancient authorities add and be their God



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2 Peter 3:10-13 (NRSVA)

10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.[a]

11 Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening[b] the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire?

13 But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness

Footnotes: 2 Peter 3:10 Other ancient authorities read will be burned up 2 Peter 3:12 Or earnestly desiring



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Humankind - over the earth (Dominion)



Genesis 1:28 (NRSVA)

28 God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.



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The earth and human responsibility

Humankind - over the earth (Dominion)



The inescapable fact about the biblical term "dominion," from the Hebrew verb radah, is that it grants humans the right and responsibility to rule, to govern the rest of creation. It establishes a hierarchy of power and authority in which the human race is positioned above the rest of the natural world. Such a conclusion is clear from the use of radah elsewhere in the Old Testament, where it is employed for the rule of the head of the house over household servants (Lev. 25:43) and of Solomon's officers over his conscripted labour force (1 Kings 5:16 [Hebrew, 1 Kings 5:30]).

Theodore Hiebert, Rethinking Dominion Theology



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The earth and human responsibility

Humankind - over the earth (Dominion)



The verb "subdue," from the Hebrew <code>kavash</code>, depicts a hierarchical relationship in which humans are positioned above the earth and are granted power and control over it. The verb <code>kavash</code> is even more forceful than <code>radah</code>, describing the actual act of subjugation, of forcing another into a subordinate position.

Transmission of this vocation into the notion of 'stewardship'





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The earth and human responsibility



Humankind - of the earth (Dependence)

Thus Genesis 2 presents us with an alternative to the dominion theology of Genesis 1. Human beings are not created with special privilege or power. The first human is made of the same stuff, the arable soil of the biblical hill country, as are all of the other forms of life; and the divine breath blown into his nostrils is the same breath with which all the animals live and breathe (Gen. 2:7; 7:22). The language with which the role of the human in the earth is described is **not the language of lordship but of servanthood**.

Theodore Hiebert, Rethinking Dominion Theology



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The earth and human responsibility



Humankind - for the earth (Dependence)

Genesis 2:15 (NRSVA)

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it (abad) and keep it (samar)

usually translated 'serve and guard' elsewhere in OT 'till' used alone can = cultivate

when both words used together = either Israelites 'serving' God or 'keeping' his word OR to priests who 'keep' the 'service' or 'charge' of the tabernacle



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Humankind - for the earth (Dependence)

- 1 Chronicles 23:32 (NRSVA)
 32 Thus they shall keep charge (samar) of the tent of meeting and the sanctuary, and shall attend the descendants of Aaron, their kindred, for the service (abad) of the house of the Lord.

Numbers 3:7-8 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)
7 They shall perform duties for him and for the whole congregation in front of the tent of meeting, doing service (abad) at the tabernacle; 8 they shall be in charge (samar) of all the furnishings of the tent of meeting, and attend to the duties for the Israelites as they do service at the tabernacle





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Humankind - for the earth (Dependence)

The nations raged But your wrath has come. And the time for judging the dead, For rewarding your servants, the prophets, and the saints and all who fear your name, Both small and great;

And for destroying those who destroy the Earth (ges not kosmos). Revelation 11:18



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The earth and human responsibility



The creation - God's temple

The place of God's presence and seat of his rule

The place which humans are set to 'serve and guard'



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