

Genesis - 2: 4 - 8, 15

What a beautiful world -

There are 2 creation accounts - chapter 1 and chapter 2
And they are very different

Chapter 1 is the one that goes - day 1 - nothing , Day 2 - sun and moon, etc
Chapter 2 is more like - well there wasn't much rain, it was mainly springs..
Chapter 1 is more formal
Chapter 2 is more friendly like.

The names for God are different - Chapter 1 is Elohim - which is like God
Chapter 2 its yahweh - the personal name, he reveals to Moses

The order of creation is different -
In chapter 1 its all very like evolution - there's sea, vegetation, sea life, birds,
Then animals then humans
In chapter 2 its man first, then shrubs and trees,
And then the animals are brought past Adam for naming

Oh and chapter 2 also has real names of real places - like Tigris, Cush and Euphrates.
There's lots we could say about why there's 2 versions, how they sit together,
And if you want to take genesis as literal rather than myth then I guess you've already worked
out how you reconcile these 2 things!

But I wanted to say about our view of nature and humans role in it.

Beuase in the first creation - we come last, and we are told to fill the earth and subdue it, and
to be kings and queens over creation - it is all ours for food, and to be responsible for.

So some people say - look - we can eat it all, we can use all the resources of teh world.
Some even translate the word to Dominion - dominate -
They view that God has given us the world to use, however we see fit.

The second creation account is quite different.

We are formed first - and then God shapes a world around us - plants, water.
God finds us companions among the animals, before making another like us -

But its what he says about the world I want to focus on.

The lord - yahweh - planted a garden, and put the man he had formed into it,
Adn told him - to TAKE CARE OF IT!

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had
formed.

And The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of
it.

Adam is the husband of creation -
he partners with it
He provides for it

He protects it and nurtures is.

As one commentator has said -

He was a husband before Eve was created

Rather than thorns and thistles and taming the wild world
What about an image of love, devotion - of union

Those who say they'd rather be in their garden than in church
Or you're nearer to God's heart in a garden
Have stumbled upon a truth..

So today - as we think about our wonderful world
I don't want to say - think about climate change and how we're destroying it!
I don't want to say - come on everyone, recycle more, turn off your lights, cycle everywhere
(I mean sure, do those things, but we can get quite tired and depressed beating ourselves up
about all that)

- let's think about how we can fall in love with the world - and be good husbands to it.

When did you notice something in creation - a sunset, a rare bird, a common bird
A smell, a sound.. a taste...

Would it be ok to speak to the animals - we named them, they look to us for protection,
provision and partnering - talk to your cat, talk to the bird, the trees - tell them how you're
doing, ask them to show you more of God!

Do you have bird boxes

What are your ideas, your ways of seeing the beauty in the world?
Take a couple of minutes to think - when did I see beauty
What did I notice

Then share with your neighbour, and we can see if we can share some idea or moments

Ideas from congregation - what helps us see beauty in the world..

All these are little things. You might say - what difference

**But listen - in a relationship - the little things are the big things! Am I right?
And lots of little things add up - from the tiny ant - care for them!**

Let our love for the world grow from a spark, to a flame

Side Song - beauty for brokenness - piano, + guitar.. -ON POWERPOINT