

The environmental crisis - and why it should be of primary concern to Christians



Timetable

- 9.30am Opening worship
- 9.45am Creation – a Christian perspective
- 10.30am Personal & corporate responses
- 11.00am Coffee
- 11.30am Participating personally in God's care
- 12.15pm Questions and discussion
- 12.29 Prayer and blessing

Worship



**All creatures of our God and King,
lift up your voice and with us sing
alleluia, alleluia!**

**Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,
O praise him, alleluia!**

**Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
alleluia, alleluia!**

**Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light,
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Let all things their Creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the
Son,
and praise the Spirit, three in one.
O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Psalm 148



Thou art worthy O Lord to receive glory and honour and power:
For thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are
And were created

Rev 4.11



In silence...

Give thanks to God for an example of beauty you have beheld.....

This week

This year

This life-time

Share an example with your neighbour

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven,
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against
us,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
For ever and ever,
Amen**

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Cape Town, S.Africa



Venice, Italy



Great Barrier Reef, Aus



Sudan, Africa



Alaska USA



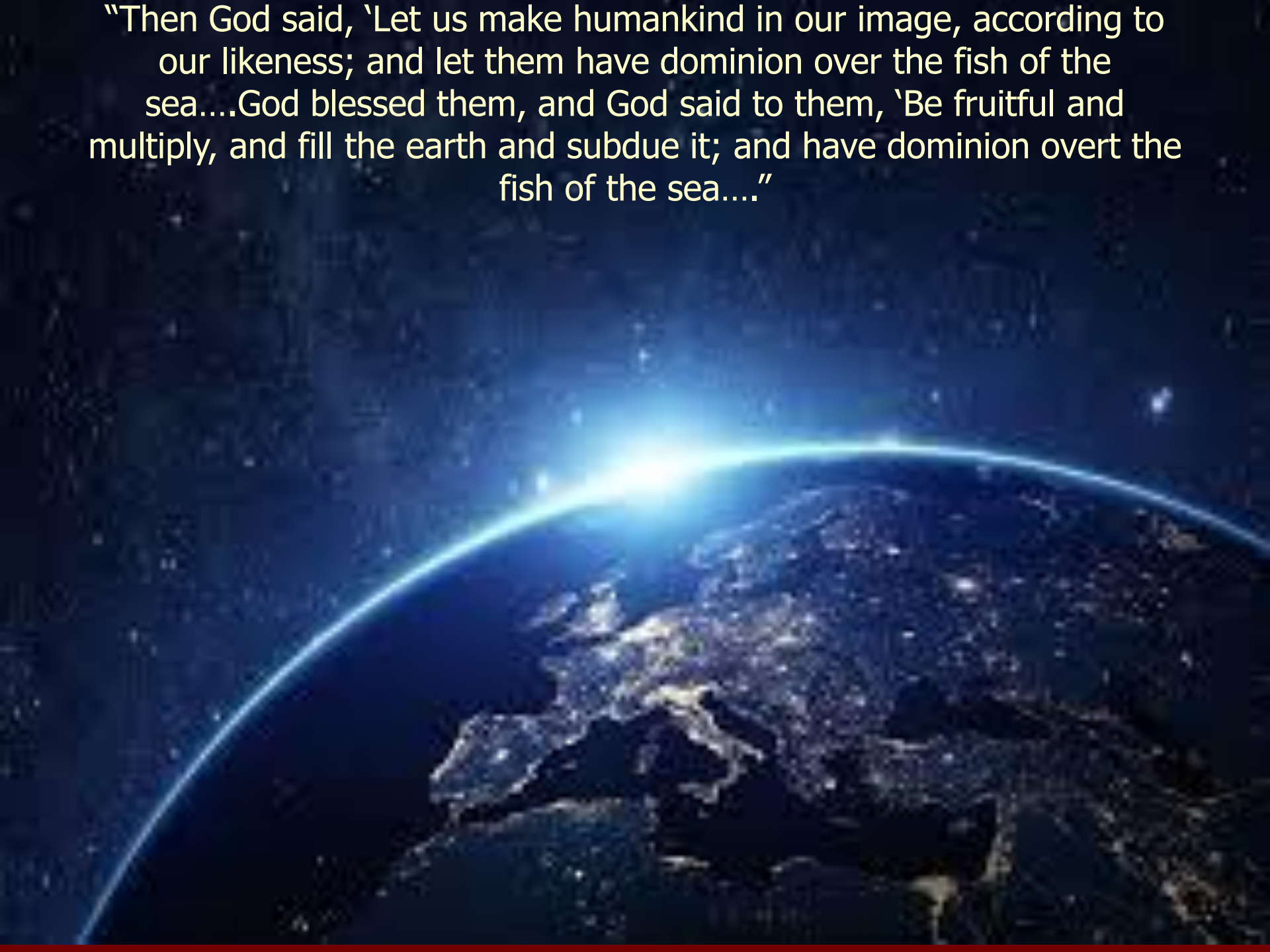
Mumbai, India



The Alps, Europe



“Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea....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....”





Stewardship?

RECLAIMING GENESIS 1



OUR PLACE IN CREATION

A long-exposure photograph of a night sky showing star trails. The trails are concentric circles centered on a bright star, likely Polaris, in the upper left. In the foreground, the dark silhouette of an observatory dome is visible on the right side, and other structures are faintly visible on the left. The sky is a deep blue-purple color.

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

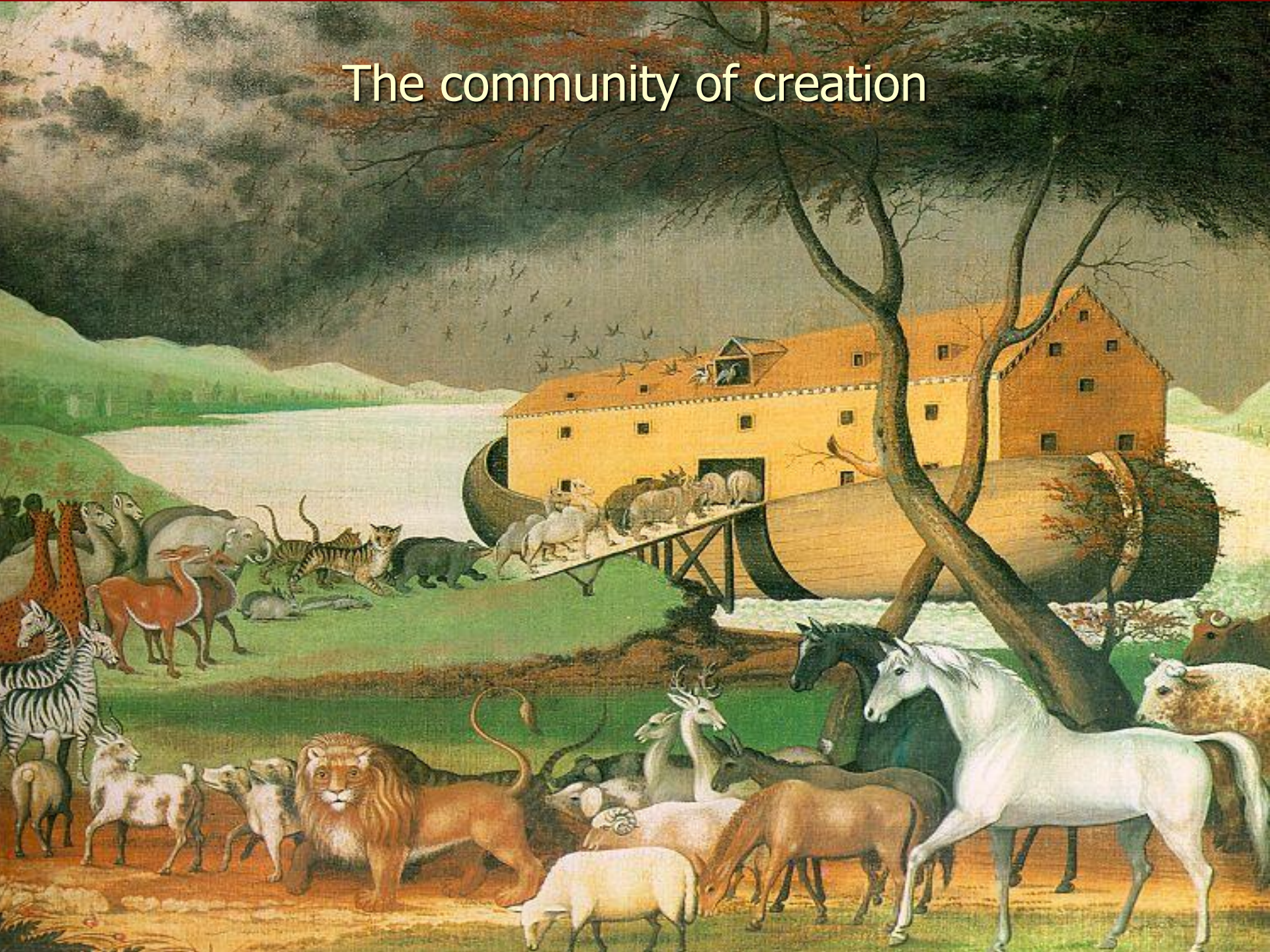
what is mankind
that you are mindful of them,
human beings that
you care for them? -Psalm 8: 3,4

“I believe that the community – in its fullest sense: a place and all its creatures – is the smallest unit of health and that to speak of the health of an isolated individual is a contradiction in terms”

Wendell Berry



The community of creation

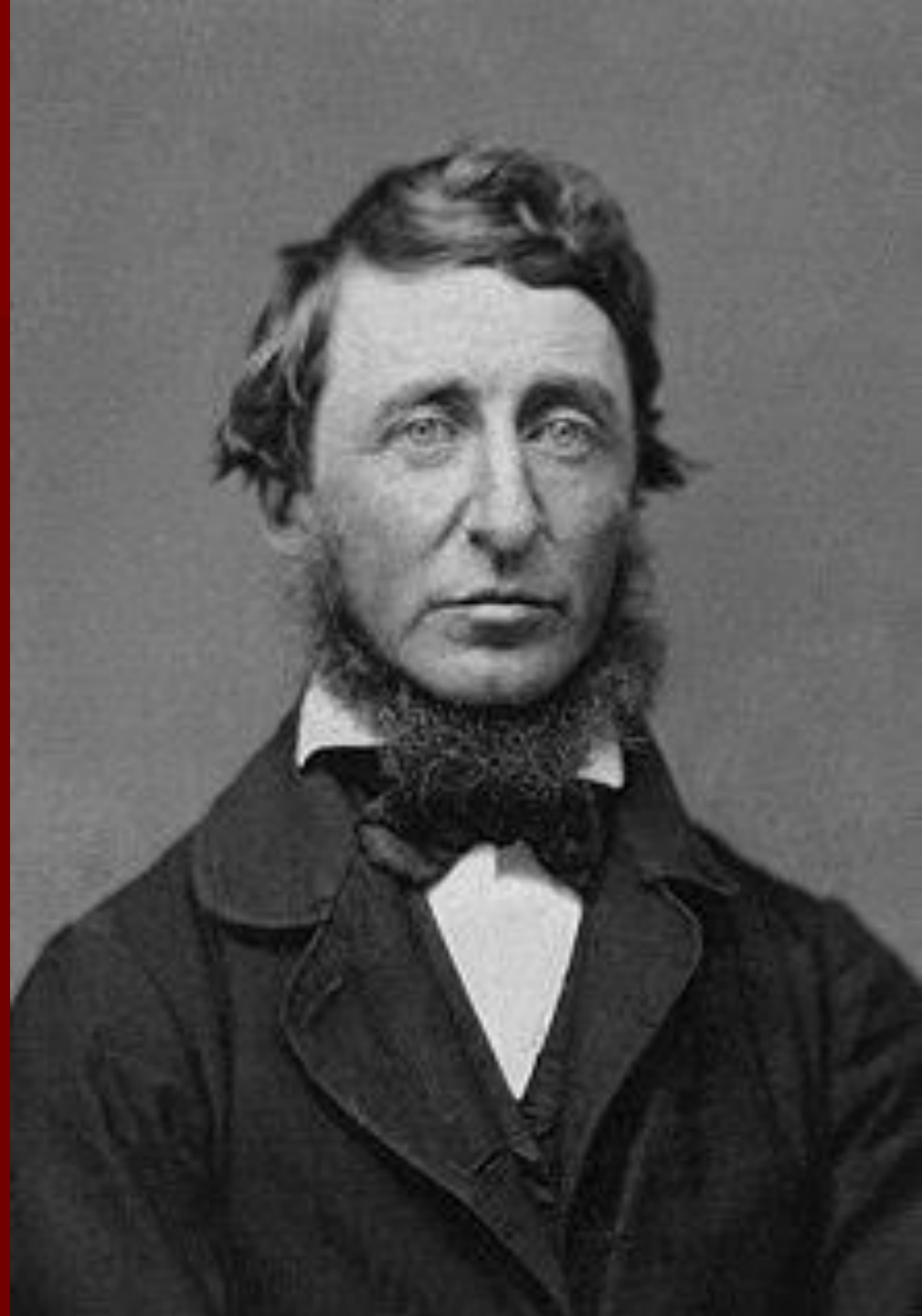


We want to get behind the beauty, but it is only a surface. It is like a mirror that reflects to us our own desire for good. It is a sphinx, an enigma, a sorrowfully irritating mystery. We want to feed on it, but it is only an object we can look on; it appears to us from a certain distance. The great sorrow of human life is knowing that to look and to eat are two different operations. Only on the other side of heaven, where God lives, are they one and the same operation. Children already experience this sorrow when they look at a cake for a long time and nearly regret eating it, but are powerless to help themselves. Maybe the vices, depravities and crimes are nearly always or even always in their essence attempts to eat beauty, to eat what one can only look at. Eve initiated this. If she lost our humanity by eating a fruit, the reverse attitude— looking at a fruit without eating it— must be what saves. Simone Weil



“This curious world we inhabit is more wonderful than convenient; more beautiful than it is useful; it is more to be admired and enjoyed than used”

Henry David Thoreau 1837





wilderness matters



E X P L O R I N G

T H E

D E S E R T

S O L A C E

A N D

O F

M O U N T A I N

F I E R C E

S P I R I T U A L I T Y

L A N D S C A P E S

"In the vast desert of pop spirituality, Lane's book is an oasis."—Kirkus Reviews

B E L D E N C . L A N E



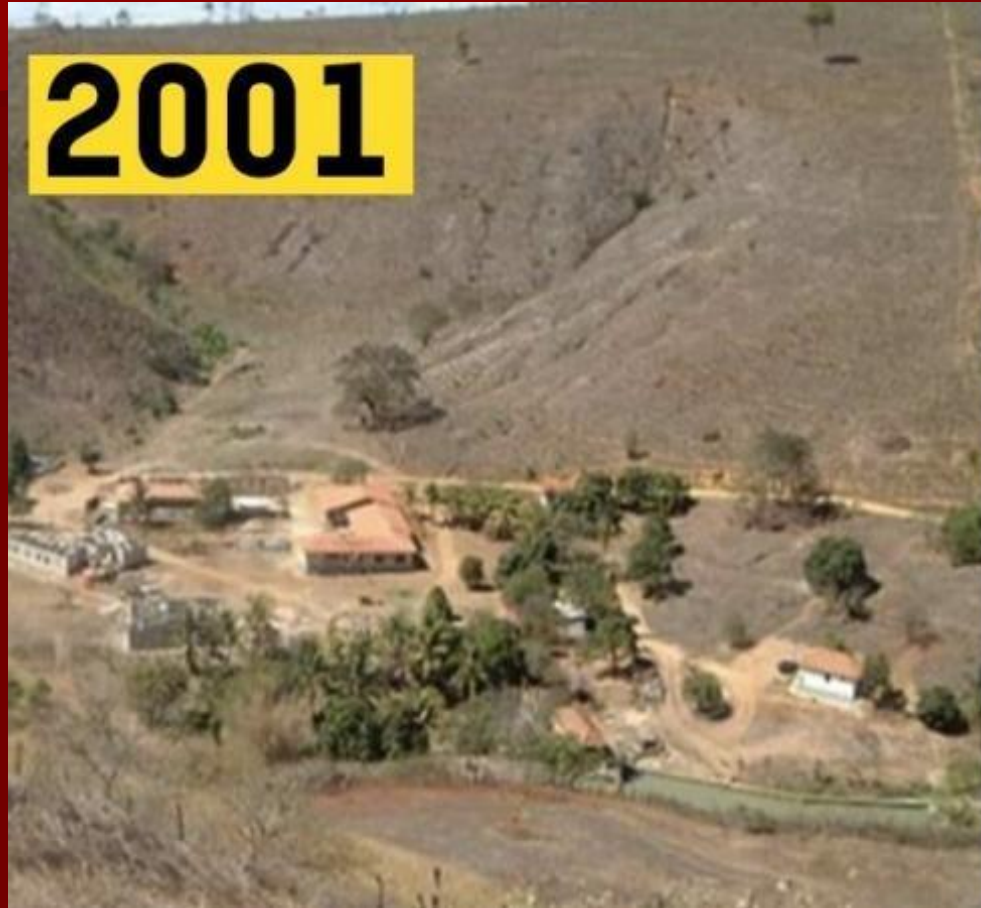
Tal Shahar

“The forest is already ‘developed’,
the forest is life”

Franco Viteri, Sarayaku leader, Ecuador



2001



2019



“the land shall not be sold in perpetuity for the land is mine; with me you are but migrant workers and tenants” Lev 25.23

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.

⁷ 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.

⁹ 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.

Is 11.6-9







WITH THE END IN MIND



“The probability is overwhelming that we belong to a generation that will be found by its successors to have behaved deplorably”

Wendell Berry



“To serve as custodians of creation is not an empty title; it requires that we act, and with all the urgency this dire situation demands”

Desmond Tutu

Big picture

Global empathy

Future thinking

Be upbeat

Be practical



“The great obstacle is simply this: the conviction that we cannot change because we are dependent on what is wrong. But that is the addict’s excuse, and we know it will not do”

Wendell Berry

