

ORDER OF SERVICE

March 27, 2022

Worship in Fellowship
Worship in Music
Worship in Communion
Worship in Message
Worship in Giving

Jeremy Mikeska
Wayne Braudrick

Staying Power With Creation

Selected Scriptures

Staying Power Series

Life Change: we serve as sustainable sextons of creation.

Sustainability...

God owns creation.

Ps 89:1

God made humans His sextons.

Gen 1:27-28

God provides for His sextons:

Ancillary authority and responsibility.

Gen 9:1-2

Subsidiary intelligence.

Job 35:10-11

Humility.

Job 38

In response, wise humans:

Appreciate the gifts.

Ps 8:6-9

Discern best stewardship practices.

Luke 14:28-30

Avoid target fixation.

Luke 10:38-42

Follow God's plan.

My response:

What area of responsibility do I need to better appreciate?

Where am I being a poor steward?

What is my most likely area of target fixation?

How can I better follow God's plan to create, generate, give?



Staying
POWER

a sustainable life of stewardship

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

SUSTAINABILITY





courtesy newstarget

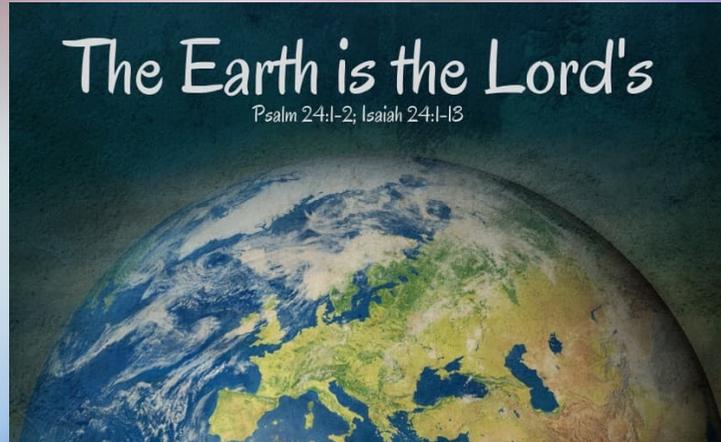


courtesy Huffington Post

3 views of sustainability



Humanity



Creator God



Titanic elites

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole wide world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got the wind and the rain in his hands. [3x]

He's got the whole world in his hands.

He's got everybody here in his hands. [3x]

He's got the whole world in his hands.

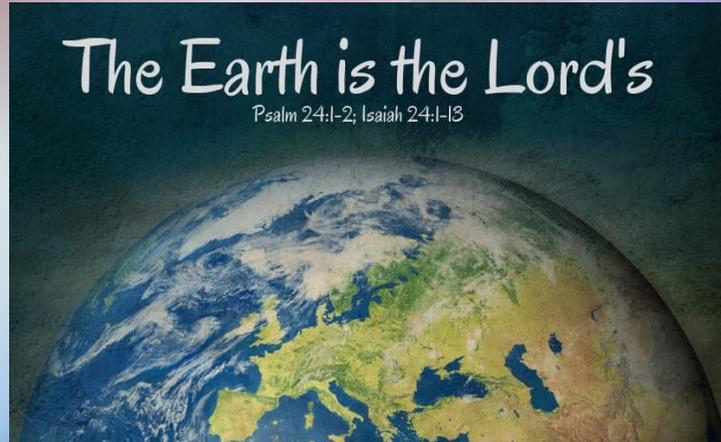
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3 views of sustainability



Humanity



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Psalm 89

**¹¹ The heavens
are yours; the earth
also is yours.
The world and
everything in it—
you founded
them. ^{CSB}**

Psalms

Ezr

Ne

ES

Job

Pr

Ec

Song

Is

3 views of sustainability



Individual



Creator God



Titanic elites

Psalm 71

**5 For You are my hope, O Lord GOD;
You are my trust from my youth.**

**6 By You I have been upheld from birth;
You are He who took me out of my mother's womb.
My praise *shall be* continually of You. ^{NKJV}**

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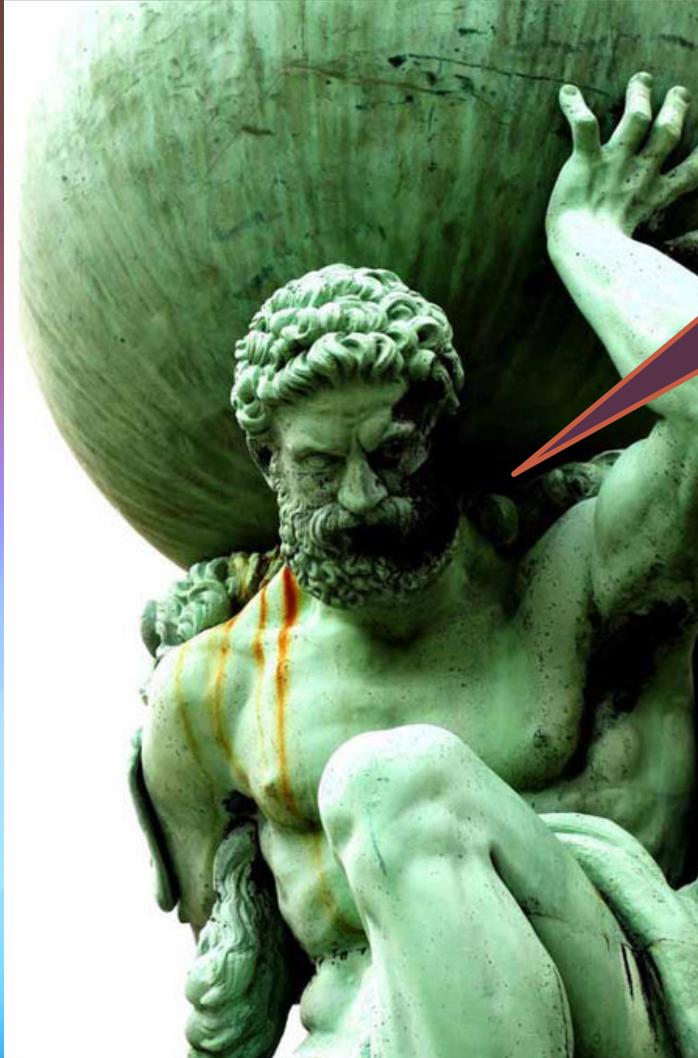
**6 By You I have been upheld from birth;
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**Hebrew: סמך smk = to be sustained
entered modern Arabic as samaka سَمَكَ = to be lifted
high; to ascend through another's power**

Colossians 1

**16 Everything was created by him [Jesus],
in heaven and on earth,
the visible and the invisible,
whether thrones or dominions
or rulers or authorities—
all things have been created through him and for
him.**

**17 He is before all things,
and by him all things hold together. ^{CSB}**



**Does that mean we
do nothing regarding
sustainability?**

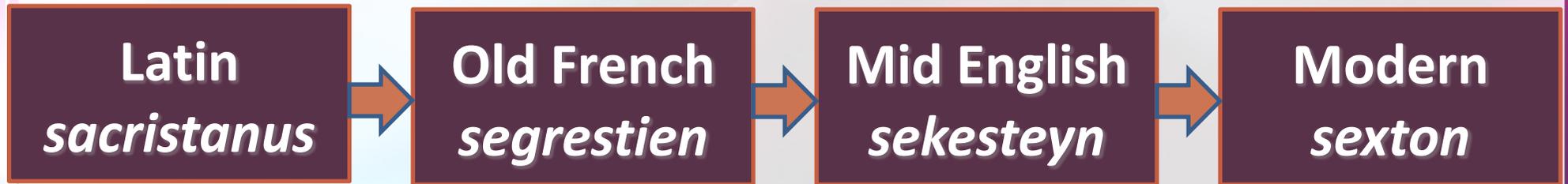
Genesis 1

**27 So God created man in his own image;
he created him in the image of God;
he created them male and female.**

**28 God blessed them, and God said to them,
“Be fruitful, multiply,
fill the earth, and subdue it.**

**Rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky,
and every creature that crawls on the earth.” ^{CSB}**

Sexton comes from an old Latin term *sacristanus*. The *sacristanus* was a gatekeeper, someone who looked after the long-term health of a city by seeing that the right goods went into the city and the refuse was removed the correct way out of the city.



Genesis 1

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Yes.
Yes, I am.

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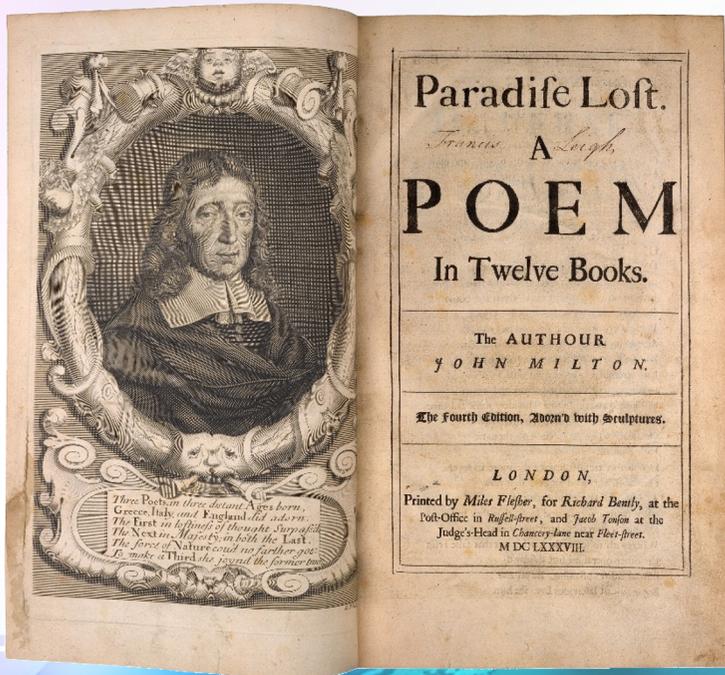
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Genesis 9

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false authority

Authority usurped,
from God not given
– Book XII, line 66



ancillary authority

The image of their glorious
Maker shone,
Truth, wisdom, sanctitude
severe and pure,
(Severe, but in true filial
freedom placed,)
Whence true authority in
men – Book IV, lines 290-293

#1



#2



#1



#3



#2



#1

#3



#1



#3

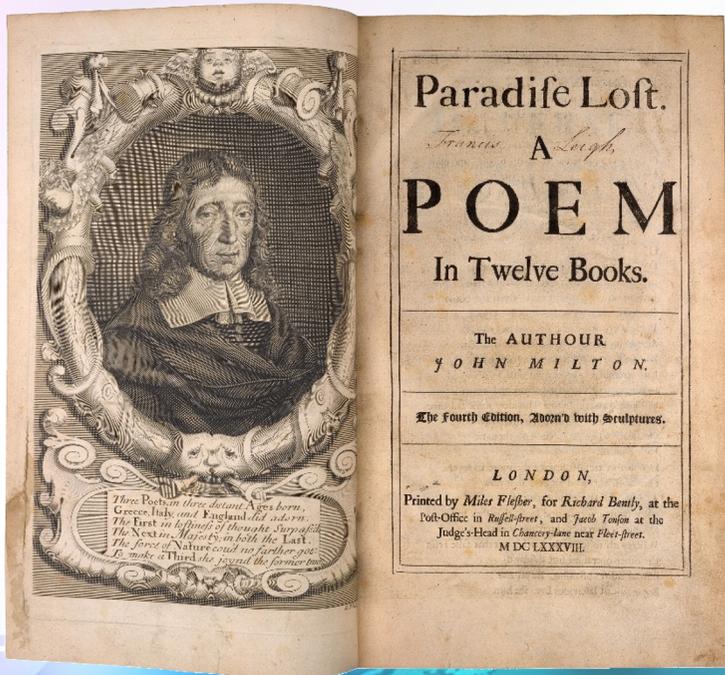


#2



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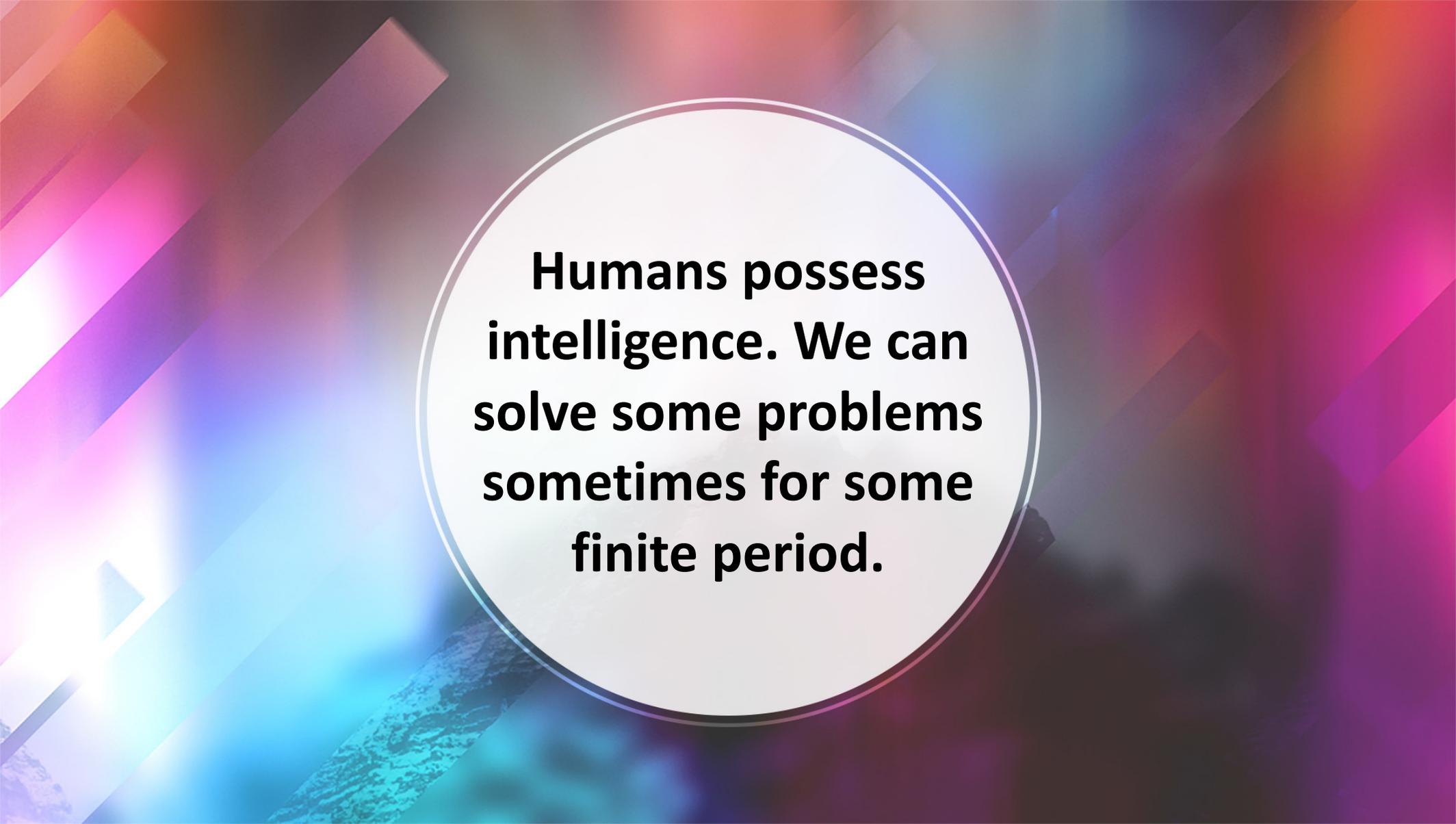


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Job 35

¹⁰ ...God my Maker,
who provides us with songs in the night,
¹¹ who gives us more understanding than the animals
of the earth
and makes us wiser than the birds of the sky. ^{CSB}



**Humans possess
intelligence. We can
solve some problems
sometimes for some
finite period.**



courtesy Enterprise Hub



The MobiWan

courtesy Mobilus Labs/Trimble

My protection [sound elimination] earplugs are in, but I can hear my guys talking to me as clearly as if we were 6 feet apart in a quiet room.

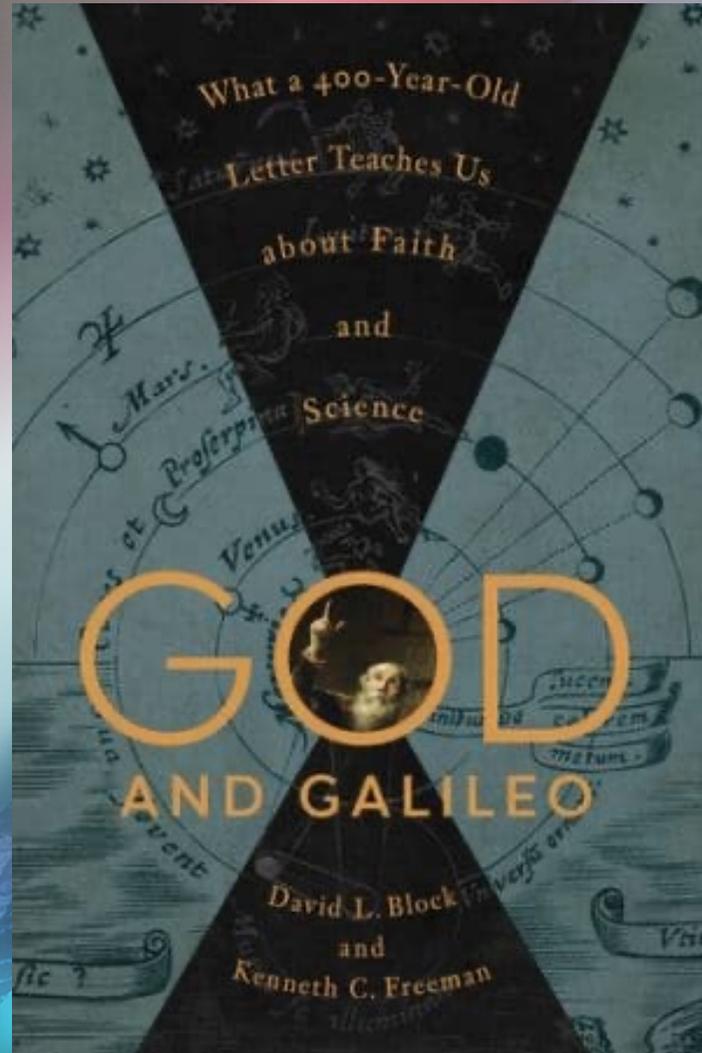


courtesy techround

Job 35

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of the earth
and makes us wiser than the birds of the sky. ^{CSB}

**The great thinkers let the evidence lead them.
And the reasonable, intelligent conclusion is that
all we think is merely subsidiary to the One who
begins all thought.**



courtesy Crossway

**The great thinkers let the evidence lead them.
And the reasonable, intelligent conclusion is that
all we think is merely subsidiary to the One who
begins all thought.**

Job 38

**² Who is this who obscures my counsel
with ignorant words?**

**⁴ Where were you when I established the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.**

⁵ Who fixed its dimensions? Certainly you know!

**²¹ Don't you know? You were already born;
you have lived so long!**

**³¹ Can you fasten the chains of the Pleiades
or loosen the belt of Orion?**



courtesy Shutterstock

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Job 38

32 Can you bring out the constellations in their season

and lead the Bear and her cubs?

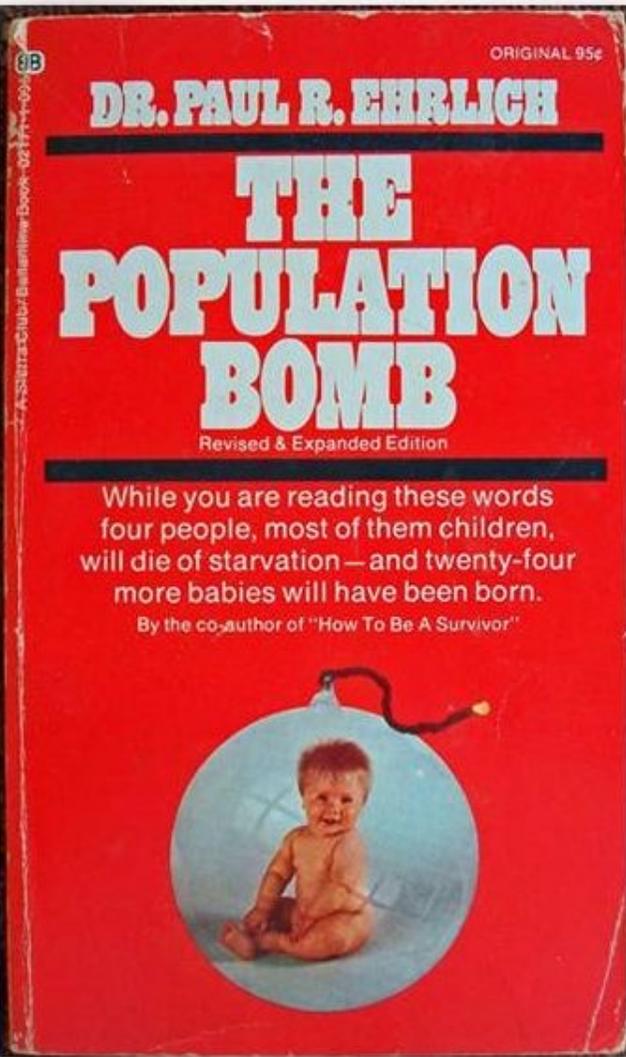
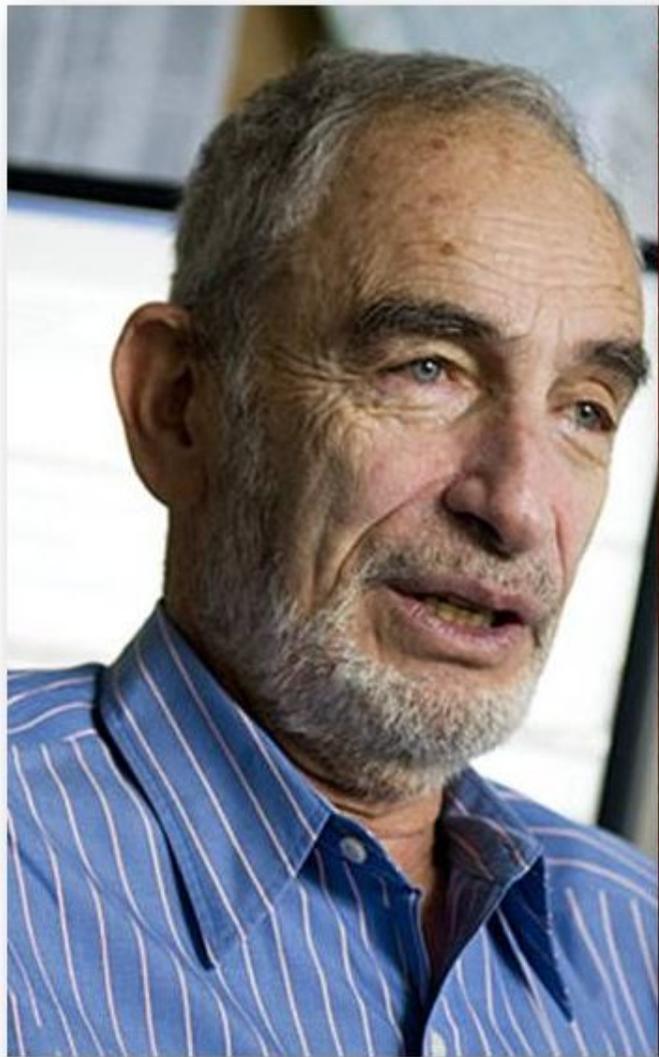
33 Do you know the laws of heaven?

Can you impose its authority on earth?

**34 Can you command the clouds
so that a flood of water covers you?**

35 Can you send out lightning bolts, and they go?

Do they report to you, “Here we are”? ^{CSB}



Assigned
reading with
an unsubtle
message:

Baby = bad

Jason L. Riley

Apocalyptic predictions have long been the coin of the realm for the modern green movement. In 1967, brothers William and Paul Paddock wrote *Famine 1975!* In 1968, Paul Ehrlich's *The Population Bomb* declared that "the battle to feed all of humanity is over. In the 1970s, the world will undergo famines—hundreds of millions of people are going to starve to death despite any crash programs embarked upon now."

Jason L. Riley

In 1969, President Nixon called for a task force to examine the effects of population growth. And 50 years ago this month, the Rockefeller Commission on Population Growth and the American Future released its findings. The document predicted a seemingly endless string of catastrophes that a more populous America would have to confront.

Jason L. Riley

More droughts, famines and pollution were in store. Energy shortages, mineral depletion and deforestation were inevitable. Higher poverty rates and fewer job opportunities were unavoidable. “In short, we find no convincing economic argument for continued national population growth,” it concluded. “Recognizing that our population cannot grow indefinitely...the Commission recommends that the nation welcome and plan for a stabilized population.”

Jason L. Riley

Five decades on, these predictions have not aged well. The U.S. population now numbers more than 330 million, up from around 200 million in 1970. Yet Americans breathe cleaner air and drink cleaner water than they did 50 years ago. Poverty rates are lower, obesity is a bigger problem than hunger, and the current unemployment rate...reflects a labor shortage.

Jason L. Riley

Internationally, the trends have likewise been favorable, even as the world's population has doubled over the past half-century. The International Monetary Fund has tracked the quality of air, water, fisheries and natural habitats in 180 countries for more than a decade, and 178 of them have shown improvement. – Jason L. Riley, *“Environmental Alarmism Has Hardly Changed Since the '60s”*



Psalm 8

⁶ You made him [the human] ruler over the works of your hands;

you put everything under his feet:

⁷ all the sheep and oxen,

as well as the animals in the wild,

⁸ the birds of the sky,

and the fish of the sea

that pass through the currents of the seas.

⁹ LORD, our Lord,

how magnificent is your name throughout the earth! ^{CSB}

We have a tendency to grumble about the gates we are given to guard.



**These kids are driving me crazy!
My job is too hard!
Church ministry is exhausting!
Public service is a beating!
Everyone you meet in
environmental work is a
charlatan!**



ABANDON YOUR POSTS

FLEE! FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES!

quickmeme.com

To the gate!



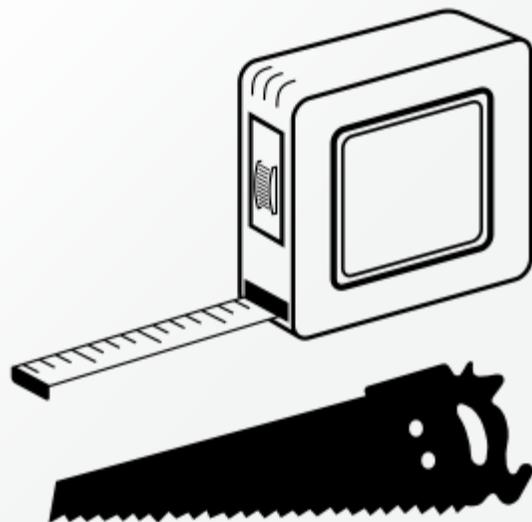
courtesy New Line Cinema

Luke 14

28 For which of you, wanting to build a tower, doesn't first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? 29 Otherwise, after he has laid the foundation and cannot finish it, all the onlookers will begin to ridicule him, 30 saying, 'This man started to build and wasn't able to finish.' ^{CSB}

THINK

**MEASURE
TWICE
CUT ONCE**



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**"MEASURE ONCE
CUSS TWICE"**

Staying
POWER

a sustainable life of stewardship

Why study this?

***Premise:* We live in a very odd time. People throw around the word “sustainability” as a prop for some remarkably short-sighted, unsustainable ideas. We pretend to despise “throw-away” culture yet we divorce, cancel, and abandon others at an alarming rate. Humans supposedly are concerned about the future of humanity yet applaud as unborn children are murdered and populations fall below maintainable replacement levels.**

Why study this?

Upon examination, the problems with our “sustainable solutions” seem to come not from particular programs or ideas, any of which may have at least some merit. The abiding difficulty is deeper and centers on our very understanding of the universe. However well-intentioned, those who don’t respect the true owner of something become mere thieves when they meddle. However hard they labor, those who reject God’s clear instruction and provision are mere hubristic fools. However much they may applaud their own efforts, those who don’t stay the course are mere hypocrites.

***Objective:* That we engage in God's sustainable stewardship program.**

Objective: That we engage in God's sustainable stewardship program.

Regarding creation, how does one engage in God's sustainable stewardship program?

- **appreciate our gifts**
- **discern best steps**
- **avoid target fixation**

Target fixation occurs when an individual becomes so focused on an observed object (be it a target or hazard) that they inadvertently increase the risk of colliding with the object. It is especially noted when an operator in control of a high-speed vehicle fixates so intently on the target that they steer in the direction of their gaze. The term was originally used in World War II fighter-bomber pilot training to

describe pilots flying into targets during a strafing or bombing run. – Glen Edmunds, “The Phenomenon of Target Fixation and How to Avoid It”



Johannes Vermeer
Christ in the House
of Mary and Martha
1656

courtesy Scottish National Gallery



Luke 10

³⁸ While they were traveling, he entered a village, and a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who also sat at the Lord's feet and was listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, and she came up and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to serve alone? So tell her to give me a hand."

⁴¹ The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has made the right choice, and it will not be taken away from her." CSB

**Target fixation:
worried about
poor service,
Martha offers
poor service.**

courtesy Scottish National Gallery



Quixote fights hard! He is zealous! But his fearful fixation on injustice causes him to joust with windmills in the dark.



courtesy deviantart

environmental SCIENTIST



August 2018
Journal of the Institution
of Environmental Sciences



Everything
Well, that
is proceeding
wasn't supposed
as hypothesised
to happen

courtesy IES

Regarding creation, how does one engage in God's sustainable stewardship program?

- **appreciate our gifts**
- **discern best steps**
- **avoid target fixation**
- **follow God's plan**

Genesis 9

¹ God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. ² The fear and terror of you will be in every living creature on the earth, every bird of the sky, every creature that crawls on the ground, and all the fish of the sea. They are placed under your authority.” ^{CSB}

Exodus 23

**¹⁹ Bring the best of
the firstfruits of your
land to the house of
the LORD your God.**

CSB

What area of responsibility do I need to better appreciate? What gate should I better guard as God's sexton?

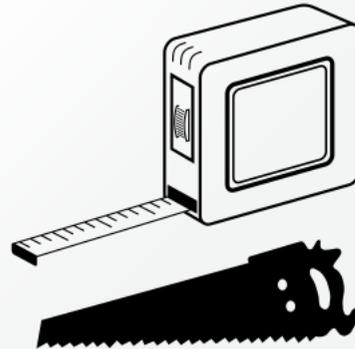


courtesy New Line Cinema

Where am I being a poor steward? Where am I not measuring twice, counting the cost?

THINK

**MEASURE
TWICE
CUT ONCE**



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What is my most likely area of target fixation? Where am I missing out on the best in pursuit of good, or causing harm despite good intentions?

**How can I better
follow God's
plan to create,
generate, give?**

**Marc Chagall
*Noah and the
Rainbow*
1963**



Staying
POWER

a sustainable life of stewardship