

BEING A LIVING SOUL: IMAGE-BEARING, CREATION CARE, & OUR PRIESTLY DUTY

A biblical theology of *Nephesh*, *Imago Dei*, and the *Abad* & *Shamar* mandate.

REDEFINING THE SOUL (NEPESH)

YOU ARE A SOUL, YOU DON'T JUST HAVE ONE

BODY (material)
MIND (immaterial)
SPIRIT (immaterial)

INTEGRATED WHOLE

SHARED GRIGIN, BUT...

ANIMALS ARE ALSO LIVING SOULS (NEPESH):
Share material dust & breath of life.

"THROAT" OR "NECK":
Physical portal for breath, food, and life.

SIN DISINTEGRATES HUMANITY & EARTH

Rebellion severed spiritual connection. Caused physical suffering, decay, and creation to "groan".

THE HUMAN DISTINCTION: IMAGO DEI & VICE-REGENCY

MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD (IMAGO DEI)

Creativity
Moral Discernment
Relational Love
Covenant Worship

LIVING STATUES (SALEM) OF THE KING
Reflecting His character wherever planted.

CO-RULING AS VICE-REGENTS

Stewarding creation under God's authority.
Upholding sanctity of human life.

THE PRIESTLY MANDATE: ABAD & SHAMAR

THE SACRED DUTY: WORK (ABAD) & KEEP (SHAMAR)

ABAD (SERVE / RENDER PHYSICAL STEWARDSHIP)

SHAMAR (GUARD / PROTECT SACRED SPACE)

A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD FOR CREATION:

Eden as locus where heaven meets earth. Tasked with expanding God's kingdom presence.

EDEN AS THE ORIGINAL TEMPLE:
Terms define priestly duties in Tabernacle.

CREATION CARE AS PAGE-ONE THEOLOGY

CREATION CARE IS A PRO-LIFE ACT

Environmental degradation harms vulnerable life. Caring for creation establishes environments where human life flourishes.

STEWARDSHIP VS. SECULAR POLITICS:

Not a modern trend, but a primary theological responsibility in Genesis.

CONNECTED TO THE GOSPEL OF REDEMPTION

Points to God's ultimate plan: Christ redeems and resurrects both humanity and creation, not abandons.