



REVISITED

# THE GREAT EXCHANGE

JoLynn Gower

Spring 2019

217-493-6151

[jgower@guardingthetruth.org](mailto:jgower@guardingthetruth.org)

Lesson 9

# VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

---

- ✘ **Romans 1:21-25** For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and **exchanged** the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they **exchanged** the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- ✘ Exchanged: *allasso*: to alter, to substitute one thing for another

# CHRISTIAN EQUALS GREEN

---

- ✘ God saved us in order that he might rescue all of creation. Earth is groaning, waiting for the sons and daughters of God to be redeemed and filled with the Spirit. Why? So that they can invade the planet and rescue it from the demonic destruction that has played havoc with the atmosphere, the ecology balance, all the things we see around us. Our call is to be God's agents, to rescue not only the human race but the whole of creation. Tony Campolo
- ✘ God is constantly creating anew. God also invites us to be re-created and join the work of God as co-creators. Rob Bell
- ✘ What if Jesus didn't come to start a new religion, but rather came to start a political, social, religious, artistic, economic, intellectual and spiritual revolution that would give birth to a new world? Brian McLaren

# WHAT GOD SAYS

---

- × **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
- × Rule: *radah*: have dominion
- × **Genesis 1:28** God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- × Subdue: *kabash*: to bring into subjection; keep under
- × This was intended to be under the headship of God

# EARTH'S DESTRUCTION

---

- × **2 Peter 3:6-7** ...through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.
- × **2 Peter 3:10-12** But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!

# BUT IN THE MEANTIME....

---

- × **2 Peter 3:13** But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
- × **Psalms 115:15-16** May you be blessed of the LORD, maker of heaven and earth. The heavens are the heavens of the LORD, but the earth He has given to the sons of men.
- × Given: *nathan*: to assign or entrust
- × **1 Corinthians 10:26** FOR THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS.
- × The earth belongs to God; man was appointed to superintend it; man lost control of the earth to Satan at the time of the original sin

# THE RULER OF THIS WORLD

---

- ✘ **John 12:31** "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."
- ✘ One of the roles of the Kinsman Redeemer was to redeem the land that his relative had lost
- ✘ People were given the earth to superintend under God, but lost control to Satan
- ✘ Jesus purchased redemption for the earth, but hasn't yet transacted business with what He purchased
- ✘ For now, Satan continues as the ruler of this world
- ✘ Jesus has placed His seal on the deed of earth, and only Jesus, the rightful owner, can break the seal
- ✘ **Revelation 5:9** And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

# NEW EARTH

---

- × **Isaiah 65:17** "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind."
- × **Revelation 21:1-4** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer *any* sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."



# NEW EARTH

---

- × New: *kainos*: fresh, new (*neos* would be entirely new)
- × **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.
- × Since Jesus is the one who is going to redeem the earth, is the “green” agenda in the church about saving the planet, or about worshiping the creation rather than the creator?
- × Creation: *ktisis*: that which has been created
- × Many in the green earth movement believe that Christians are the perpetrators of all things wrong ecologically with the earth – that the eastern religions got things “more correct” with their worship of an Earth goddess, “Mother Earth” or Gaia

# BECOMING ONE WITH EARTH

---

- ✘ The richness and diversity of our religious tradition throughout history is a spiritual resource long ignored by people of faith, who are often afraid to open their minds to teachings first offered outside their own systems of belief. But the emergence of a civilization in which knowledge moves freely and almost instantaneously through the world has spurred a renewed investigation of the wisdom distilled by all faiths. This panreligious perspective may prove especially important where our global civilization's responsibility for the earth is concerned...The last vestige of organized goddess worship was eliminated by Christianity as late as the fifteenth century in Lithuania." Al Gore
- ✘ Claiming to be a baptist, Gore praises new age and eastern religious view of earth

# DISCERNMENT IS IMPORTANT

---

- ✘ **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (MSG)** Don't you realize that this is not the way to live? Unjust people who don't care about God will not be joining in his kingdom. Those who use and abuse each other, use and abuse sex, use and abuse the earth and everything in it, don't qualify as citizens in God's kingdom.
- ✘ **1 Corinthians 6:9-10 (NASB)** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God.
- ✘ Christians are called to stewardship of the earth; however, Satan is currently earth's ruler

# WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

---

- ✘ **Romans 8:19-22** For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but **because of Him who subjected it**, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.
- ✘ **2 Peter 3:13** But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
- ✘ Jesus paid the price for redemption of the earth; He has not yet broken the sealed deed to transact business with His purchase