

# Reading Scripture in an age of ecological disaster

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## 1. Problems

1.1 James Lovelock on climate change

1.2 James Lovelock on stewardship

(Cf. J. Lovelock, *The Revenge of Gaia: Why the Earth is Fighting Back - and How We Can Still Save Humanity* [London: Allen Lane, 2006].)

1.3 Other problems with stewardship

## 2. Human Dominion within Creation (in the Torah)

2.1 The right to use (Gen 1:26, 28; cf. Ps 8:6-8)

2.2 Ruling like God

2.3 Ruling fellow-creatures - hierarchy qualified by community  
cf. Deut 17:14-20

2.4 Ruling within the order of creation - sharing the earth  
cf. Gen 1:28-29

2.5 Enhancing creation (Gen 2:15)

2.6 Preserving creation (Gen 6-8)

2.7 Letting creation be - legislative limits on Israel's use of the land  
Exod 20:10; 23:10-12; Lev 25; Deut 5:14; 22:6-7; 25:4  
wild animals: Exod 23:11; Lev 25:7.

## 3. Humanity in the Community of Creation (in Job and Psalms) - One Creature among Others

3.1 Putting us in our place (Job 38-39)

3.2 Living in a shared home (Ps 104)

3.3 All creation's praise of God  
Pss 19:1-3; 69:34; 97; 98:7-9; 148; Isa 42:10-11; Phil 2:10; Rev 5:13  
the 4 living creatures: Rev 4:6-8

## 4. Conclusions

The human dominion entails

- (1) recognizing that we have this exceptional power as one creature among others
- (2) using other creatures for human life and flourishing while respecting the order of creation and the right of other living beings also to life and flourishing
- (4) letting wild nature be as well as intervening in it, exercising the dominion in restraint as much as in active intervention
- (5) intervening to preserve as much as to change
- (6) enhancing as well as preserving.