

Judeo-Christian Religious Environmental Values: Basic Tenets

Judaism:

- Divinely ordained human role: *shomrei adamah* (keepers of the earth – Gen 2:15)
- “For the Earth is mine” (Lev 25:23)
- Love your neighbor as yourself (Lev 19:18)
- Dominion as responsible stewardship; partners in work of Creation (Gen 1:28)
- Bal Tash’hit: prohibition against wanton destruction (Deut 20:19)
- Tikkun Olam: repairing the world under God’s sovereignty (Aleinu –Jewish prayer)
- Tu B’ Shevat: Jewish new year of the trees
- Sabbath for people, land, and animals (Lev 25:1-5; Ex 23:11)

Evangelical Christian:

- Creation is God’s handiwork (Gen 1:1-2:2; Ps 24:1)
- Humans, made in divine image, are to care for the Earth (Gen 2:15)
- Christ is the one by whom all things were created, in whom all things hold together, and through whom all things are reconciled to God (Col 1:16-20)
- All creation awaits God’s promised redemption (Romans 8:19-22)

Mainline Protestant:

- Peace, justice, service, and the integrity of creation (stewardship and eco-justice)
- Creation and redemption, humanity and nature, are profoundly integrated (incarnation)
- Environmental racism and environmental justice

Roman Catholic:

- Environmental Justice for the poor and vulnerable
- Human dignity
- Regard for the common good
- Sustainable economic development that serves authentic human needs

Seven biblical principles for creation care (Bratton, 2004)

Stewardship
 Do not destroy (*ba'al tashit*)
 Divine joy
 Neighborliness
 Sabbatical
 Respecting the disadvantaged
 Prudence

Seven biblical principles for creation care (DeWitt, 1994)

Earthkeeping
 Christ as creator, sustainer, reconciler
 Sabbath rest
 Enjoy but not destroy
 Seek first the kingdom of God
 Seek true contentment
 Practice what you believe

Bouma-Prediger’s Ten Reasons to Care for Creation (2001)

1. Self-interest
2. Obligations to future generations
3. Simplicity – an earth-friendly way of life is more joyful
4. The eco-justice argument
5. Animal rights
6. Intrinsic value, and value generates duty (Ps 104,96; Gen 1:31)
7. Interdependence.. common good... community... (Gen 6-9; Ps 104,148)
8. Divine command argument (Gen 2:15, Lev 25 - Sabbath)
9. Image of God argument – dominion, imitate Christ’s rule
10. For the Beauty of the Earth – the grateful heart argument

Rasmussen’s Seven Christian Cosmological Approaches (1991):

Dominion
 Stewardship
 Partnership
 Sacramentalism
 Eco-feminism
 Prophetic-teacher
 Evolutionary

Varieties of eco-theology

Laurel Kearns (1996)
 - Eco-Justice
 -Stewardship
 -Creation Spirituality
 +Ecofeminism



Some of the most commonly expounded tenets of Christian and Jewish ecotheology (and corresponding Scriptural references) include:

- God's proclamation of the intrinsic value of all creation, which is designated *very good* (Genesis 1:31).
- The human call to serve and protect creation (Genesis 2:15), exercising the power of dominion (Genesis 1:26–28) responsibly, as stewards of the earth which is the Lord's (Psalm 24:1); observing *ba'al tashit*, God's prohibition against wasteful destruction (Deuteronomy 20:19).
- God's protective covenant with all life (not just with human life) at the new beginning of the human story after the Flood (Genesis 9).
- God's intention that human productivity be restrained through Sabbath rest for the sake of humans, wildlife, and land (Leviticus 25–26; Exodus 23:10), and the fact that Sabbath rest is part of the very order of creation (Genesis 2:2–3).
- God's displeasure with violent, unjust, greedy people, whose disobedience and unfaithfulness, warn the prophets, leads to devastation of the land (Hosea 4:1–3; Jeremiah 12:4; Zechariah 7:8–14). These warnings presage John's prophecy of the time to come for rewarding the faithful and 'for destroying those who destroy the earth' (Revelation 11:18).
- God's humbling comparison of humans to other creatures and the natural world (Job 38–41); God's exhortation to forsake vanity and materialism by appeal to nonhuman exemplars (Luke 12:24–48), especially in light of God's abundant provision (e.g. Psalm 104).
- The revelatory value of the 'Book of Nature,' whereby knowledge of God is gained by observing creation (Romans 1:20; Job 12:7–9; cf. Psalm 19:1–4).
- The doxological celebration of the creator by all creation (e.g. Psalms 65, 96, 98 and 148).
- The identification of the cosmic relevance of Christ, through whom all things were made (John 1:3; Colossians 1:15–17; Hebrews 1:2), in whom all things hold together and are sustained (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17), and through whom all things are reconciled to God (Colossians 1:20); God's salvific intentions for all creation (John 3:16–'For God so loved the *cosmos*...'; see also Mark 16:15) and the link between human redemption and the redemption of all creation (Romans 8:19–25).
- The Kabbalist notion of *tikkun olam*, the repairing of the world (e.g. Feldman, 2003), which is sometimes connected with the environmentally prescient celebration of Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish New Year for Trees (Elon *et al.*, 1999).
- Eschatological (end times) visions of cosmic harmony, where the 'wolf shall live with the lamb,' and where 'they will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain' (Isaiah 11:6–9; 65:25), and when creation will enjoy the freedom of the children of God (Romans 8:19–21).

(Source: Hitzhusen, G.E. 2007. Judeo-Christian theology and the environment: Moving beyond scepticism to new sources for environmental education in the United States. *Environmental Education Research*, 13 (1), 55-74.)

Wildman's Eco-theology and Environmental Ethics bibliography:

http://people.bu.edu/wwildman/WeirdWildWeb/proj_bibs_ecoethics_00.htm

Evangelical Declaration on the Care of Creation:

<http://www.creationcare.org/blank.php?id=39>

The Biblical Basis for Creation Stewardship (Fellowship Church, 2003):

<http://fellowshipknox.org/files/files/creation-stewardship.pdf>

The Genesis of Ecotheology...

Chapter 1: In the Beginning God Created the Heavens and the Earth

Earth was a formless void...

And the wind (*ruach*) of God swept over the face of the waters

God speaks some things into being:

Let there be light... Let there be sky...

God orders some things:

Darkness from light, waters from waters, sea from land...

And set lights in the dome... (sun and moon to *rule* day and night)

God says: *Let* the earth bring forth vegetation... the waters *bring forth* swarms (*sharats*) of living things... the earth *bring forth* creatures of every kind...

God blessed the fish and the birds to *be fruitful, multiply, and fill (male') the earth*...

On the same day the Earth brought forth the land creatures:

God creates human beings *in God's image*, male and female, and lets them rule (*radah*) over the earth and its creatures...

God blesses the humans to be fruitful (*parah*), multiply (*rabah*); fill/replenish (*male'*) the earth and subdue (*kabash*) it, and rule/have dominion (*radah*) over the creatures.

God gives the humans and the other creatures plants for food...

Along the way, as God created these things, God saw that they were Good;

Finally, God saw all that he had made, and it was Very Good

(Septuagint: *lian kala*: altogether good and beautiful, exceedingly good).

Chapter 2: Thus the Heavens and the Earth Were Completed

God then rested from creating on the seventh day, and blessed the Sabbath;

Hallowed it because on that day God rested from the work of creating.

A mist came up from the Earth, and watered the ground (*Adamah*);

and God created *Adam* from the *Adamah*...

God planted a garden... placed *Adam* in the garden...

and made every tree *that is pleasing to the sight and good for food* to grow out of the *Adamah*... and a river went out of Eden to water the garden...

2:15: God placed *Adam* in the garden to dress (*abad*) and keep it (*shamar*)...

God decides *Adam* should not be alone, so forms all the creatures out of the *Adamah*, and whatever the *Adam* calls them, they are named...

But they disobey...

3:17: Cursed (*arar*) is the ground because of you... by your sweat you'll eat bread... dust to dust... sent out of garden to *abad* the *Adamah*. (ground later cursed, *arar*, for Cain)

And:

6:1: when people began to multiply (*rabab*), God saw their wickedness, their thinking only evil continually (6:5), and God was sorry he made them;

God's heart was grieved... (Uh-oh...)

God decides to destroy them (all flesh)... because the Earth was corrupt, and filled (*male'*) with violence. 6:13: The Earth is filled (*male'*) with violence because of them... so I will destroy them and the earth... 6:17: God will bring a flood to destroy every creature, all flesh, everything that has the breath of life in it...

The Genesis of Ecotheology...

But:

Noah (*Noach* = “rest”) will be saved by building an ark and bringing two of all kinds, male and female each, into the ark. Noah did all he was commanded.

With Noah, things proceed as God commands...

The flood brings chaos and un-creation...

But then God brings a wind, and the waters subside...

All things come out of the ark to be fruitful, multiply, and increase (*sharats*)...

God says he will never again curse (*qalal*) the ground or destroy all living creatures like this...

8:22: Seasons, seed-time and harvest, will endure...

Chapter 9: Then God Blessed Noah and his Family, and Made a Covenant...

God blesses Noah and his sons:

be fruitful (*parah*) and multiply (*rabah*), and fill (*male'*) the earth...

(always good advice to rare peoples...)

Dominion powers acknowledged but not “charged/commanded” – taking of life delimited...

Be fruitful (*parah*) and multiply (*rabah*), **ב** (bet) bring forth abundantly (*sharats*) on

earth and multiply (*rabah*)... [no dominion/subdue (*radah*) **ד** (dalet) line!]

God’s covenant with Noah and with ALL LIVING THINGS...

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth. ¹²God said, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.’ ¹⁷God said to Noah, ‘This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.’

From “Uh-oh” to “Hallelujah”?

Let stones cry out...

Let trees clap their hands...

Let all things praise God...

Creation, itself in bondage, is eager for our adoption, so it too might share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

Let’s not play small with our Light – Let it Shine!

Dominion After Genesis...

Micah 7:19

He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities under foot (*kabash*). You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Leviticus 25:43

You shall not rule over them with harshness, but shall fear your God.

I Kings 4:24-25

For he had dominion over all the region west of the Euphrates from Tiphseh to Gaza, over all the kings west of the Euphrates; and he had peace on all sides. (And note: God gave Solomon the greatest wisdom of all time; he composed 3,000 proverbs, 1,005 songs, and: “He would speak of trees, from the cedar that is in the Lebanon to the hyssop that grows in the wall; he would speak of animals, and birds, and reptiles, and fish. People came from all the nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon... (I Kgs 4:33-34))

Psalm 8

¹O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens...

³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.

⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,

⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

⁹O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Psalm 24:1-2

¹The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

²for he founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

Wisdom of Solomon 9:1-3a

¹O God of my ancestors and the Lord of mercy, who have made all things by your word, ²and by your wisdom have formed humankind to have dominion over the creatures you have made,

³and rule the world in holiness and righteousness, and pronounce judgment in uprightness of soul,

⁴give me the wisdom that sits by your throne...

Hebrews 5:4-5

⁴And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was

⁵So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”...

Dominion After Genesis...

Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Deuteronomy 17:14-20

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and have taken possession of it and settled in it, and you say, “I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,” you may indeed set over you a king whom the Lord your God will choose. One of your own community you may set as king over you; you are not permitted to put a foreigner over you, who is not of your own community. Even so, he must not acquire many horses for himself, or return the people to Egypt in order to acquire more horses, since the Lord has said to you, “you must never return that way again.” And he must not acquire many wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; also silver and gold he must not acquire in great quantity for himself. When he has taken the throne of his kingdom, he shall have a copy of this law written for him in the presence of the Levitical priests. It shall remain with him and he shall read in it all the days of his life, so that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, diligently observing all the words of this law and these statutes, neither exalting himself above other members of the community nor turning aside from the commandment, either to the right or to the left, so that he and his descendants may reign long over his kingdom Israel.

See Ezekiel 34:11-31 – God the True Shepherd

Ezekiel 34:21-22

Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

Ephesians 1:20-23

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church,

²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

What is man that he has been given dominion over the creatures? It is the man “who has first looked up to the stars, and realized how small he is in comparison with the glory of the Heavens. It is the man who knows his place in the creation. . . . This Adam is no strong ruler, trampling the earth; this is the shepherd king or the gardener.” –*Margaret Barker, 2002, “Paradise Lost: Religion, Science and the Environment.”*

The Prophets Decry

Hosea 4:1-3

Hear the word of the Lord, you Israelites, because the Lord has a charge to bring against you who live in the land: “There is no faithfulness, no love, no acknowledgement of God in the land. There is only cursing, lying and murder, stealing and adultery; they break all bounds, and bloodshed follows bloodshed. Because of this the land mourns, and all who live in it waste away; the beasts of the field and the birds of the air and the fish of the sea are dying.”

Jeremiah 12:4

How long will the land mourn and the grass in every field be withered? Because those who live in it are wicked, the animals and birds have perished.

Zechariah 7:8-14

And the word of the Lord came again to Zechariah: “This is what the Lord Almighty says: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other.’”

But they refused to pay attention; stubbornly they turned their backs and stopped up their ears. They made their hearts as hard as flint and would not listen to the law or the words that the Lord Almighty had sent by his Spirit through the earlier prophets. So the Lord Almighty was very angry.

“‘When I called, they did not listen; so when they called, I would not listen,’ says the Lord Almighty. ‘I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations, where they were strangers. The land was left so desolate behind them that no one could come or go. This is how they made the pleasant land desolate.’”

Jeremiah 4:22-28; 5:23-25

4:22: “My people are fools; they do not know me. They are senseless children; they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil; they know not how to do good.”

I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty; and at the heavens, and their light was gone.

I looked at the mountains, and they were quaking; all the hills were swaying.

I looked and there were no people; every bird in the sky had flown away.

I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert; all its towns lay in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger. This is what the Lord says:

“The whole land will be ruined, though I will not destroy it completely. Therefore the earth will mourn and the heavens above grow dark, because I have spoken and will not relent, I have decided and will not turn back.”

5:23: But these people have stubborn and rebellious hearts; they have turned aside and gone away. They do not say to themselves, ‘Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives autumn and spring rains in season, who assures us of the regular weeks of harvest.’

Your wrongdoings have kept these away; your sins have deprived you of good.

Jeremiah 9:12-14

What man is wise enough to understand this? Who has been instructed by the Lord and can explain it? Why has the land been ruined and laid waste like a desert that no one can cross? The Lord said, “It is because they have forsaken my law, which I set before them; they have not obeyed me or followed my law.

Instead, they have followed the stubbornness of their hearts; they have followed the Baals, as their fathers taught them.”

The Prophets Decry

Ezekiel 15:8

I will make the land desolate because they have been unfaithful, declares the Sovereign Lord.

Ezekiel 33:25-29

Therefore say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Since you eat meat with the blood still in it and look to your idols and shed blood, should you then possess the land?

You rely on your sword, you do detestable things, and each of you defiles his neighbor’s wife. Should you then possess the land?’

Say this to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: As surely as I live, those who are left in the ruins will fall by the sword, those out in the country I will give to the wild animals to be devoured, and those in strongholds and caves will die of a plague.

I will make the land a desolate waste, and her proud strength will come to an end, and the mountains of Israel will become desolate so that no one will cross them.

Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I have made the land a desolate waste because of all the detestable things they have done.’

Ezekiel 34:11-19

“For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I myself will search for my sheep and look after them. As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down, declares the Sovereign Lord. I will search for the lost and bring back the strays. I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy. I will shepherd the flock with justice.

“As for you, my flock, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats. Is it not enough for you to feed on the good pasture? Must you also trample the rest of your pasture with your feet? Is it not enough for you to drink clear water? Must you also muddy the rest with your feet? Must my flock feed on what you have trampled and drink what you have muddied with your feet?

Micah 6:1-2; 7:13

Listen to what the Lord says: “Stand up, plead your case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. Hear, O mountains, the Lord’s accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the Lord has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel.”

The earth will become desolate because of its inhabitants, as the result of their deeds.

Revelation 11:18

The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great—and for destroying those who destroy the earth.

Christocentric Creation, Cosmic Redemption & Reconciliation

Romans 8:19-24a

¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God;

²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now;

²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

²⁴For in hope we were saved...

John 3:16

For God so loved the world (*kosmos*) that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Col 1:15-20

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation;

¹⁶for in him **all things** in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—**all things** have been created through him and for him.

¹⁷He himself is before **all things**, and in him **all things hold together**.

¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in **everything**.

¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself **all things**, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Hebrews 1:2-3

²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of **all things**, through whom he also created the worlds.

³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and *he sustains all things* by his powerful word...

John 1:1-4

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God.

³**All things** came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being

⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Acts 3:19-21

¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

²⁰so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus

²¹who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration (restoration of **all things**) that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.

Ephesians 1:8b-10

⁸... With all wisdom and insight

⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,

¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up **all things** in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

I Corinthians 15:28

When **all things** are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who put **all things** in subjection under him, so that God may be all in all.

I Corinthians 8:6

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are **all things** and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are **all things** and through whom we exist.

Christocentric Creation, Cosmic Redemption & Reconciliation

II Corinthians 5:17-19

¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, **everything** has become new!

¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation:

¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

Ephesians 1:20-23

²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come.

²²And he has put **all things** under his feet and has made him the head over **all things** for the church,

²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Revelation 21

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...

³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

⁴he will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

⁵And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making **all things** new."...

⁶Then he said to me: "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."...

¹⁰And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God...

²²I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

²³And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

²⁴The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it.

²⁵Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there.

²⁶People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

²⁷But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood...

Revelation 22

¹Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb

²through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; **and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.**

³Nothing accursed will be found there any more (and there shall be no more curse KJV). But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him;

⁴they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

⁵And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Isaiah 11:6-9

⁶The 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.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They 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.

Hosea 2:18

I will make for you a covenant on that day with the wild animals, the birds of the air, and the creeping things of the ground; and I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land; and I will make you lie down in safety.