

**“The Biblical mandate for CARING for CREATION”** by Dick Tripp.  
Avery Bartlett Books.

Conservation, water care, global warming, climate change and many other such issues are very much to the fore in the news these days. The protection of endangered species and the environment are hot topics too.

For the world at large such concerns are largely motivated by the need to preserve the diminishing resources that are threatened by misuse, overuse and the growth of resource-hungry corporations. It is all too obvious that if future generations are to survive and prosper then these valuable resources must be protected and preserved.

For Christians, according to Dick Tripp, author of “**The Biblical Mandate for CARING for CREATION**”, there is an even more telling reason to confront this growing crisis in our world and this is something that poses a serious challenge both to the church as well as to us as individuals.

From Genesis through to the book of Revelation, at the end of the Bible, there is presented a Biblical mandate for caring for God’s creation. God is the master craftsman; the whole universe was formed, and brought into being, at His command. Psalm 24 verse 1 spells it out... *“The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world and all who live in it.”*

God loves diversity, beauty and fruitfulness. All that He created joins in praise to Him. To mankind, created in God’s image, was given the role of trustee, or steward, to oversee and take care of God’s creation. Therefore we have a responsibility to preserve and truly value what God has entrusted to us.

In chapters one and two Dick presents, very clearly, the situation as it is today and the reasons why this crisis has come about, and is as serious as it is. It is pretty overwhelming. In this regard he quotes widely from other authors, authorities and research; as he does throughout his book. This is an indication of the lengths to which he has gone to present a convincing and accurate picture of the true state of affairs that currently exists in our world of diminishing resources.

Dick then goes on to detail the emergence and growth of the modern environmental movement. Christianity has had both a positive and negative influence; as chapter four explains. The following chapter details something of the growing concern and emphasis that is evident among some Christians today as to the need to care for creation.

The Bible has a great deal to say about God’s pleasure in, and concern for, His creation and this is spelt out in the chapters that follow. This includes the fact,

as previously mentioned, that human beings are created in the image of God. An image spoilt by rebellion, disobedience and selfishness that combined has had such a profoundly negative effect on creation.

God showed His concern for creation, and His desire for its preservation, when He entrusted Noah with the task of preserving the many species that joined him in the ark during the flood recorded in Genesis.

Israel too, as the nation chosen to represent God to the world at large, was given; to quote from Deuteronomy and Numbers, – *“a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valley and hills; a land of wheat and barley, vines and fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills...a land truly flowing with milk and honey.”* (End of quote p. 97)

That bountiful land was given to them as an entrustment to be cared for and preserved. Chapter ten spells this out in detail. The final four chapters look at what the Lord Jesus had to say about creation, followed by what the New Testament tells us about the relationship of the church to it.

Dick Tripp writes...*“There are a number of passages in the Bible which make it clear that Peter’s statement that God would “restore everything, as he promised long ago through the holy prophets” (Acts 3:21) includes the restoration of not only humans but the whole creation.”* (End of quote)

The final chapter presents the contrast between two cities, Babylon and Jerusalem, cities that feature prominently in Bible history and prophecy.

I admit to not having done justice to all that Dick Tripp has included in this most illuminating and challenging book. It really does have to be read to be appreciated. Not only are the subjects of creation and our stewardship of it dealt with in detail, the closing pages present a clear gospel challenge and the need for personal salvation.

Although it is only mentioned in passing, one jarring note for those who believe in a literal six day creation, is Dick’s mention of billions years being needed to bring creation into being. This though, should not, in any way, be allowed to detract from the vast amount of first class Bible teaching included in the excellent book.

**“The Biblical Mandate for CARING for CREATION”** by Dick Tripp is published in New Zealand by Avery Bartlett Books R.R.P. \$24.99.

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