

from Igniting A Revolution

In the Beginning God Created the Earth and “Ecoterrorism”¹

L. A. Kemmerer

Most of us do not view “ecoterrorism” as a standard Sunday activity for mainstream Christians. In fact, the ignoble (and misleading) title “ecoterrorism” strongly suggests something less than exemplary behavior. Yet surprising as it may seem, many of the activities of “ecoterrorists” are firmly supported by Christian scripture.² Moreover, scriptural support comes from the heart of the Christian tradition: the first two chapters of Genesis, Prophets, the injunction to love, and the life of Jesus.

Two fundamental teachings are critical to an eco-sensitive spirituality: a sense of interconnections—including an appreciation for the majesty and fragility of creation—and a call to action on behalf of creation (Gulick, 185-87). Christian scripture offers both. Due to length constraints, this essay explores only a few key Biblical passages and concepts. It supports what many would consider a radical, theologically-based eco-justice movement. Though this interpretation is by no means fundamentalist or mainstream, it stems from a reasoned, literal exploration of scripture, one that has been supported by both theologians and scholars.

Genesis and Creation: Interconnections, Majesty, and Fragility

“In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters” (Genesis 1:1). Genesis Chapter One and Two provide the Christian account of creation (a Hebrew/Jewish text also accepted by Islam). Creation preceded the Fall of humanity, which occurs in Genesis Chapter Three. The Fall radically alters the perfect, God-given universe in which the first people are placed. Only in Genesis Chapters One and Two do we see the world as God hoped it would be. How do these chapters reveal God’s intent for this spinning globe?

Much of importance is revealed in Genesis 1:1–25. In the six days of creation the deity creates all that we know of the universe: light, the sky,

