



Creation Command 4: let's sustain life

Genesis 1:11 *“Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so.”*

I love the critics that say the Bible is old, draconian, and primitive. One thing the Bible is not: is primitive. Why does it talk about the universe and stars well before astronomy found its footing? Why does the Bible warn against eating animals that are harmful like pork and some shell fish well before science had influence? I went to a bird sanctuary in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. It gets cold here in the winter. Why do the birds stay at this sanctuary year-round? Birds need three things to stay: food, water, and shelter. This sanctuary sits on a thermal hot spot so the ice never forms. The trees provide berries and shelter. Genesis 1 has 4 commands of creation that set up that scenario for living creatures: light, water, land, and plants. The Bible is pretty smart.

What do we need to survive? The Bible thinks we need water, light, land, and food. Not only food, but food that reproduces itself. I have wondered why God gave the Israelites Manna but not the first creatures on the planet. Instead, God provided fruit for food and trees for shelter. In a way God set up the perfect sanctuary to house living creatures. I guess that God wanted to create survival cycles. We know that water has an evaporation cycle. Light and darkness cycle. I suppose that even the tides cycle too. Everything you need for life to exist, God commanded into creation. Do you put your fish into an aquarium before the water, filter, and rocks? The Bible is smart.

Did you notice? Can you see it? There is a theory that the living creatures like humans were vegetarians. We are not there in the creation story yet, but humans were also naked. They ate fruit. The animals seem to be friendly. What happened when Adam and Eve fell from grace? God pretty much changed the rules. Eve will have pain in child bearing. Was there supposed to be birthing in the beginning? God made them wear animal skins. Were the animals supposed to be killed for clothes? Also, the plants became riddled with thorns. In a way, the fall of Adam and Eve made the sanctuary a living hell.

God tells the humans to tend the garden. Yet, God provided all they needed to make survive. God told the man not to eat of the tree in the middle of the garden. I suppose the tree of life (allowing you to live forever) was somewhere there as well. I just find it funny that people bash the Bible, but they can't see it. This book begins with an orderly set up for living creatures. It could have begun with man. It could have begun like other creation accounts with a God battle. There was a spiritual war between Satan and God. When did it happen? Yet, the first four commands of creation don't go there at all. There is no epic battle. Humans are not even the focal point. God is setting the stage by creating a self-sustaining ecosystem first.

If you read Genesis 2 you will see the account of creation focus in on humans. God creates these creatures and then brings all the animals to them. God tries to give the man a helper. At first, He provides animals but the man is not complete. So, God creates a female helper for the man. I only make mention to this because God made all the food and animals to sustain the man. Some people say that humans have ruined nature. I can't disagree. Yet, God made everything for man. Humans have spent their lifetime trying to outdo God. Occom's Razor states that the simplest answer is usually the best. How much that humans have created has harmed us?

Finally, I want you to read Matthew 6:25-34. If Jesus is God, then this is his creation statement. Jesus goes on to say that if God made all these things in its spender, are not humans more important? Why say that the earth was not supposed to be for humans? Humans may have ruined it, but creation was spoken into existence for humans. God provided the Israelites a way through the desert. God gave them water from rocks and manna from the sky. God also provided humans a way back to him after being tossed from Eden. I do believe that part of the revelation account is tied to birth pains. Jesus said we will know when the time comes for the end of days. I wonder if all the ruining of this planet will come to a conclusion as well.

In the first 4 commands of creation, God set up creation to live. Humans will spend a lifetime trying to tear down what God has made. I said the last command was a crossroad of setting up livable conditions. This fourth command is also a pivotal spot. God has created all those humans need to survive. The next few commands are what I call housekeeping. It's like an artist tweaking his creation to look just right. It's nice to have light and water. Yet, what is their relationship to humans. What more is needed to keep creation cycling and flowing? Thriving!