

Health and Healing Lesson 5 2Q 2010

The Environment

What questions do you have regarding the environment?

To the best we are able to discern, what was the environment like when God created earth?

- The earth came forth from the hand of the Creator exceedingly beautiful. There were mountains and hills and plains; and interspersed among them were rivers and bodies of water. The earth was not one extensive plain, but the monotony of the scenery was broken by hills and mountains, not high and ragged as they now are, but regular and beautiful in shape. **The bare, high rocks were never seen upon them, but lay beneath the surface, answering as bones to the earth.** The waters were regularly dispersed. The hills, mountains, and very beautiful plains were adorned with plants and flowers, and tall, majestic trees of every description, which were many times larger and much more beautiful than trees now are. The air was pure and healthful, and the earth seemed like a noble palace. Angels beheld and rejoiced at the wonderful and beautiful works of God. {LHU 47.2}

Thoughts?

- As man came forth from the hand of his Creator, he was of lofty stature and perfect symmetry. His countenance bore the ruddy tint of health and glowed with the light of life and joy. Adam's height was much greater than that of men who now inhabit the earth. Eve was somewhat less in stature; yet her form was noble, and full of beauty. **The sinless pair wore no artificial garments; they were clothed with a covering of light and glory, such as the angels wear. So long as they lived in obedience to God, this robe of light continued to enshroud them.** {PP 45.3}

- While they remained true to God, Adam and his companion were to bear rule over the earth. **Unlimited control was given them over every living thing.** The lion and the lamb sported peacefully around them or lay down together at their feet. The happy birds flitted about them without fear; and as their glad songs ascended to the praise of their Creator, Adam and Eve united with them in thanksgiving to the Father and the Son. {PP 50.2}
- In the days of Noah a double curse was resting upon the earth in consequence of Adam's transgression and of the murder committed by Cain. Yet this had not greatly changed the face of nature. There were evident tokens of decay, but the earth was still rich and beautiful in the gifts of God's providence. The hills were crowned with majestic trees supporting the fruit-laden branches of the vine. The vast, gardenlike plains were clothed with verdure, and sweet with the fragrance of a thousand flowers. The fruits of the earth were in great variety, and almost without limit. The trees far surpassed in size, beauty, and perfect proportion any now to be found; **their wood was of fine grain and hard substance, closely resembling stone, and hardly less enduring. Gold, silver, and precious stones existed in abundance.** {PP 90.1}

Can you use your imagination to see the world before sin?

- Was it a dark place or brilliant with light?
- No jagged peaks, no death, decay, thorns, thistles,
- Unlimited control – how would they have exercised that control?
- Gold, silver and precious stones in abundance – how do you envision this?
 - Do you see rivers with ruby and diamond riverbeds, waterfalls with emerald, gold and silver linings, spring with pools of different precious stones and medals all shimmering and radiating brilliantly?
- What about their robes of light? Do you think the light emanated from them in a variety of colors, hues, intensities

corresponding with their mood, like our facial expressions change?

What happened after they sinned?

- After his transgression Adam at first imagined himself entering upon a higher state of existence. But soon the thought of his sin filled him with terror. **The air, which had hitherto been of a mild and uniform temperature, seemed to chill the guilty pair.** The love and peace which had been theirs was gone, and in its place they felt a sense of sin, a dread of the future, a nakedness of soul. **The robe of light which had enshrouded them, now disappeared,** and to supply its place they endeavored to fashion for themselves a covering; for they could not, while unclothed, meet the eye of God and holy angels. {PP 57.1}
- In humility and unutterable sadness they bade farewell to their beautiful home and went forth to dwell upon the earth, where rested the curse of sin. **The atmosphere, once so mild and uniform in temperature, was now subject to marked changes,** and the Lord mercifully provided them with a garment of skins as a protection from the extremes of heat and cold. {PP 61.5}

Why did their garments of light disappear and the temperature change? Where did the robe of light originate? Any thoughts on what it might be? What happened to the robe of light?

- When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tablets of the Testimony in his hands, he was not aware that **his face was radiant** because he had spoken with the LORD. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites **saw Moses, his face was radiant, and they were afraid to come near him.** ³¹ But Moses called to them; so Aaron and all the leaders of the community came back to him, and he spoke to them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near him, and he gave them all the commands the LORD had given him on Mount Sinai.

When Moses finished speaking to them, **he put a veil over his face.** ³⁴ **But whenever he entered the LORD's presence to speak with him, he removed the veil until he came out.** And when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ they saw that his face was radiant. Then Moses would put the veil back over his face until he went in to speak with the LORD. Exodus 34:29-35

Why was Moses face radiating? When they were stoning Steven what was his face doing? Where did such light originate? Why was Steven's face radiating? When might we wear a robe of light?

- **In the time of trouble** we all fled from the cities and villages, but were pursued by the wicked, who entered the houses of the saints with a sword. They raised the sword to kill us, but it broke, and fell as powerless as a straw. Then we all cried day and night for deliverance, and the cry came up before God. The sun came up, and the moon stood still. The streams ceased to flow. Dark, heavy clouds came up and clashed against each other. But there was one clear place of settled glory, whence came the voice of God like many waters, which shook the heavens and the earth. The sky opened and shut and was in commotion. The mountains shook like a reed in the wind, and cast out ragged rocks all around. The sea boiled like a pot and cast out stones upon the land. And as God spoke the day and the hour of Jesus' coming and **delivered the everlasting covenant to His people**, He spoke one sentence, and then paused, while the words were rolling through the earth. The Israel of God stood with their eyes fixed upward, listening to the words as they came from the mouth of Jehovah, and rolled through the earth like peals of loudest thunder. It was awfully solemn. And at the end of every sentence the saints shouted, "Glory! Alleluia!" **Their countenances were lighted up with the glory of God; and they shone with the glory, as did the face of Moses when he came down from Sinai. The wicked could not look on them for the glory.** And when the never-ending

blessing was pronounced on those who had honored God in keeping His Sabbath holy, there was a mighty shout of victory over the beast and over his image. {EW 34.1}

Why will our faces shine with light? The everlasting covenant is delivered, which is? The law of love written fully and perfectly in the heart and all know God intimately themselves! Reconciliation with God!

What happened to Adam and Eve's dominion and rule over nature?

- **Under the curse of sin all nature was to witness to man of the character and results of rebellion against God.** When God made man He made him rule over the earth and all living creatures. So long as Adam remained loyal to Heaven, all nature was in subjection to him. But when he rebelled against the divine law, **the inferior creatures were in rebellion against his rule.** Thus the Lord, in His great mercy, would show men the sacredness of His law, and lead them, by their own experience, to see the danger of setting it aside, even in the slightest degree. {PP 59.4}

What lesson was earth created to teach? Adam and Eve represented the Godhead, the animals created beings throughout the universe. When Adam rebelled the lower life forms rebelled to reveal the chaos, damage, destruction, death which transpires when beings are out of harmony with the law of love, which is the character of God.

What happened to plant life?

- **Christ never planted the seeds of death in the system. Satan planted these seeds when he tempted Adam to eat of the tree of knowledge which meant disobedience to God. Not one noxious plant was placed in the Lord's great garden, but after Adam and Eve sinned, poisonous herbs sprang up.** In the parable of the sower the question was asked the master, "Didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?" The master

answered, "An enemy hath done this" (Matt. 13:27, 28). All tares are sown by the evil one. **Every noxious herb is of his sowing, and by his ingenious methods of amalgamation** he has corrupted the earth with tares. {2SM 288.2}

Does this mean Satan has capacity to cause genetic mutations in nature? Can he directly affect nature? In the book of Job he brought a storm, so evidently he can.

What does it mean amalgamation? Consider this commentary regarding life on earth before the flood:

- Instead of doing justice to their neighbors, they carried out their own unlawful wishes. They had a plurality of wives, which was contrary to God's wise arrangement. In the beginning, God gave to Adam one wife--showing to all who should live upon the earth, his order and law in that respect. The transgression and fall of Adam and Eve brought sin and wretchedness upon the human race, and man followed his own carnal desires, and changed God's order. The more men multiplied wives to themselves, the more they increased in wickedness and unhappiness. If any one chose to take the wives, or cattle, or anything belonging to his neighbor, he did not regard justice or right, but if he could prevail over his neighbor by reason of strength, or by putting him to death, he did so, and exulted in his deeds of violence. **They loved to destroy the lives of animals. They used them for food, and this increased their ferocity and violence, and caused them to look upon the blood of human beings with astonishing indifference.** {1SP 68.1}

But if there was one sin above another which called for the destruction of the race by the flood, **it was the base crime of amalgamation of man and beast which defaced the image of God**, and caused confusion everywhere. God purposed to destroy by a flood that powerful, long-lived race that had corrupted their ways before him. He would not suffer them to live out the days of their natural life,

which would be hundreds of years. It was only a few generations back when Adam had access to that tree which was to prolong life. After his disobedience he was not suffered to eat of the tree of life and perpetuate a life of sin. In order for man to possess an endless life he must continue to eat of the fruit of the tree of life. **Deprived of that tree, his life would gradually wear out.** {1SP 69.1}

Thoughts?

As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Mt 24:37

Do we have problems like this today? Do we have problems with marrying many wives or husband, maybe not at once, but serially? I had a patient this week whose mother was married to 10 different men while his was being raised.

Do we have problems with violence in society? Cruelty to animals? Do we produce animals to slaughter and eat?

What was God's attitude toward the slaughter of animals?

- But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. ¹¹ But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and **many cattle as well**. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"
Jonah 4:10,11
- Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ¹¹ "The **multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?**" says the LORD. **"I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.** Isa 1:10,11

Did God ever enjoy the slaughter of animals? No! He is the giver of life, He hates the taking of life!

Do we have problems like the days of Noah today?

What does the meat industry do to the environment?

- According to a 2006 report by the Livestock, Environment And Development Initiative, the livestock industry is one of the largest contributors to environmental degradation worldwide, and modern practices of raising animals for food contributes on a "massive scale" to air and water pollution, land degradation, climate change, and loss of biodiversity. The initiative concluded that "**the livestock sector emerges as one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global.**"
- In 2009 two World Bank scientists estimated that meat industry contributes 51% of all emissions of greenhouse gasses.
- A 2006 study at the University of Chicago concluded that a person switching from a typical American diet to a vegan diet with the same number of calories would prevent the emission of 1485 kg of carbon dioxide per year. The difference exceeds that of an individual switching from a Toyota Camry to the hybrid Toyota Prius, and collectively amounts to over 6% of the total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

From Goveg.com

- Animals raised for food produce **130 times as much excrement as the entire U.S. population**, roughly 89,000 pounds per second, all without the benefit of waste treatment systems.
- According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, animals on factory farms in America produce 20 tons of fecal matter each year for every U.S. household.

- A pig farm with 5,000 animals produces as much fecal waste as a city of 50,000 people.
- According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the run-off from factory farms pollutes our waterways more than all other industrial sources combined.
- Factory farms also produce massive amounts of dust and other contamination that pollutes our air. A study in Texas found that animal feedlots in the state produce more than 14 million pounds of particulate dust every year and that the dust “contains biologically active organisms such as bacteria, mold, and fungi from the feces and the feed.”
- The massive amounts of excrement produced by these farms emit toxic gases such as hydrogen sulfide and ammonia into the air. The EPA reports that roughly 80 percent of ammonia emissions in the United States come from animal waste.
- When the cesspools holding tons of animal urine and feces get full, factory farms will frequently get around water pollution limits by spraying liquid manure into the air, creating mists that are carried away by the wind. People who live nearby are forced to inhale the toxins and pathogens from the sprayed manure.
- The EPA reports that chicken, hog, and cattle excrement have polluted 35,000 miles of rivers in 22 states and contaminated groundwater in 17 states.

What about use of fresh water? Do we waste fresh water in growing animals to slaughter and eat?

1 cubic meter of water equals 1000 liters or 264 gallons.

Estimated virtual water requirements for various crops (m ³ water/ton crop) ^[6]					
	Hoekstra & Hung (2003)	Chapagain & Hoekstra (2003)	Zimmer & Renault (2003)	Ok et al. (2003)	Average
Beef		15977	13500	20700	16726
Pork		5906	4600	5900	5469
Cheese		5288			5288

Poultry		2828	4100	4500	3809
Eggs		4657	2700	3200	3519
Rice	2656		1400	3600	2552
Soybeans	2300		2750	2500	2517
Wheat	1150		1160	2000	1437
Maize	450		710	1900	1020
Milk		865	790	560	738
Potatoes	160		105		133

For beef almost 4.5 million gallons of water for 1 ton of meat, a cow weighs between 1,000 and 2,000 pounds so this is for 1 – 2 cows

Are we today acting toward animals like they did before the flood? And consider God's law of love, God's law of love is the design template for life, giving rather than taking. What is happening as we take, exploit animals for slaughter and food? We are destroying the environment as well as our health. In other words, violating the law of love results in death, the wages of sin is death!

What about amalgamations?

- Research at the University of Nevada is ongoing into growing sheep with human organs. They inject sheep embryos with human stem cells in order to grow and harvest human organs for transplantation.
- Chinese scientists at the Shanghai Second Medical University in 2003 successfully fused human cells with rabbit eggs. The embryos were reportedly the first human-animal chimeras successfully created.
- In Minnesota in 2004 researchers at the Mayo Clinic created pigs with human blood flowing through their bodies.
- At Stanford they have created mice with brains that contain 1% human neurons and want to create mice with brains made of 100% human neurons. This is done by injecting embryonic mice brains with human neurons.

Thoughts? Are we like the days of Noah? What impact would it have upon the world if people gave up eating meat? Are there reasons that go beyond health for the individual? What about character of love for others, including animals?

MONDAY

Read second paragraph, “God Himself...” thoughts? What do you think about the idea of God “keeping” the Sabbath? How do you hear that? What does it mean? Is keeping it different than instituting it, or creating it? Is the Sabbath compulsory upon God? Is it a law that is obligatory to Him and His creation?

Do they mean “keeping the Sabbath holy”? What makes the Sabbath holy? Do we keep Sabbath holy by avoiding work?

- So, because Jesus was doing these things on the Sabbath, the Jews persecuted him. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.” ¹⁸ For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. John 5:16-18

Do we keep Sabbath holy by avoiding work? Does it matter what kind of work one is doing? How do we keep Sabbath holy?

What is it that makes Sabbath holy? It is invested with the attributes of God, truth presented in love and leaving others free. We keep Sabbath holy by having the law written on the heart. There is nothing exclusively behavioral we can do to keep Sabbath holy – the Jews did all the behaviors.

The Sabbath is evidence of God’s character, a revelation of His methods and principles! The Sabbath every week screams, “Satan lied”! Every seven days the existence of the 7th day Sabbath proclaims God is not like Satan alleged, God is love, God presents truth in love and leaves us free!

We keep the Sabbath holy by moving away from selfish existence and living lives of God and others first, living the truth in love and leaving others free. Every Sabbath, we voluntarily choose to set aside self-absorbed activities, self-serving activities, and instead focus on God, friends, family and ministry. We give our minds time to rest from the cares of the world and celebrate our relationship with God!

Read fourth paragraph, “As the centuries...” thoughts? Do we do this today? How?

What is the true meaning?

TUESDAY

Read third paragraph, “Exploitation...” thoughts?

- “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. 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.**” Rev 11:17,18

Thoughts?

Does any of what we have studied today have any impact on how we live our lives? If we love God, love others, love life, do we kill? Do we exploit the environment, eat animals etc? Are there reasons beyond living a healthy life for vegetarian diet?

In fact, is love for life a higher motive than keeping self healthy?

Read bottom pink section, “Years ago...” thoughts?

Truth is we shouldn’t worry about what happens to the environment or the earth, for we cannot control what happens to that, our responsibility is for our conduct. We are responsible for

how we live. We don't eat vegetarian because we believe by so doing we will save the earth, we know that if the entire world were vegetarian that the world is still getting worse. We do these things because they are the right action to take, because they are the only actions we can take and become more like God.

WEDNESDAY

Top section asks, "What, if anything, can we do to improve our environment?"

Should we be focused as individuals or church on saving our environment? Or is it a side track? A way of diverting attention away from saving people?

What is the world trying to do with carbon credits? Are they setting up a system of rules whereby they will "save" the planet? Is this another way to avoid God's salvation, we will save ourselves? Is it another deception of Satan to control buying and selling and economies and countries?

THURSDAY

Read third paragraph, "One thing...." Are "modern sun worshippers" people who tan a lot?

FRIDAY read questions 1,2,4 and discuss