

“Yet you made them only a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You gave them charge of everything you made, putting all things under their authority— the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals, the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea, and everything that swims the ocean currents.”

Psalms 8:5-8 NLT

lectio // Psalm 8

The Psalmist writes about God’s majesty and seems genuinely surprised that he will have anything to do with us. We are God’s creation! But then the Psalmist writes about our station and scope of authority. We are made a little lower than the angels but yet still have a lot of authority over what happens here on the planet. What is especially called out is the care for the animals. Not every animal is called out, but there is more than enough in this passage to get the idea that we (humans) are their (animals) caretakers. It has always baffled me, why aren’t I, why aren’t believers the best environmentalist ever? I don’t mean, extreme environmentalist that value bugs, grubs and shrubs ABOVE human life, but at least an acknowledgement that it is our honor and responsibility to care for the planet we’ve been given. So when it comes to overcrowding, hunting to extinction or plowing up wetlands for resorts, maybe Christians should be more outspoken on these things. I think the militaristic and protest culture of the “darwinist” has left us reactive to discovering a place of protectiveness. Thus, even without dishonoring the “imago dei” within us it has forced us to acquiesce our authority. That may be why the whole environmental, global warming conversations have left Christians looking like they are enemies of the planet, like the “smokers” in Waterworld or the “gassers” in Mad Max. We should be BETTER caretakers, not worse. We should be able to love, enjoy, even protect God’s creation MORE because of its beauty but also because it’s our responsibility.

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Dad,

As I sit overlooking one of the most beautiful spots in California, maybe even in the world (Lake Tahoe). I am challenged and inspired to be a better caretaker of this beautiful planet. When I see a “Keep Tahoe Blue” sticker, I don’t think, “environmental wackos,” I think, I want to help! I want people to see the beauty of this place and be reminded of its creator. Thank you for the birds that are singing right now and the sounds of the lake water lapping at the shore.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root