

# THE ENVIRONMENT 4



CLIMATE CHANGE, THE BIBLE AND WHAT ON EARTH WE'RE HERE FOR

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## (4/4) THE DIVINE REPAIR SHOP

'A second Adam walked the earth, whose blameless life would break the curse.' Hallelujah for the coming of our embodied, then crucified, then risen, and one day returning Lord Jesus! Creation has a date booked in with its Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer, and on that glorious day, all will be made new. But how does that future date with destiny impact what we should be getting up to today?

*'Jesus's return to earth is the focus of the Christian's hope, and this return will not just be for a visit, to pick us up and take us home to heaven. He is coming to stay. The new Jerusalem will descend to earth, and we will be at home, with Jesus, on earth.'*  
Ian K. Smith, *Not Home Yet*.

➔ This is God's world ... entrusted to us ... damaged by sin ... **renewed by Christ** ←

### 🗨️ Discuss

➔ Is this world our *home*? Make the best case *for*, and the best case *against*. Extra points for Bible references.

## A. RENEWED BY CHRIST | RESTORATION



### The Divine Repair Shop

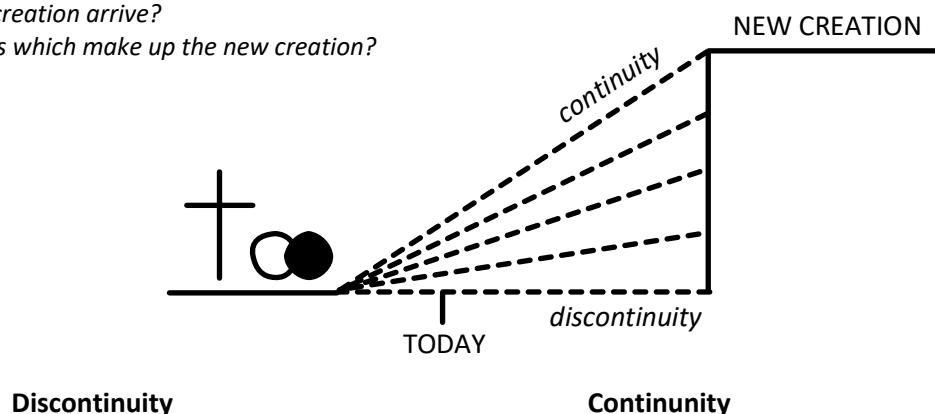
- Creation's longing for liberation (Rom 8:19-21)
- Creation's promise of procreation (Gen 1:28, 9:1-16)
- The return of Christ the king (1 Thess 4:13-5:11)
- The coming of the new creation (Isaiah 65:17-25, Rev 21:1-4)



### So what will the new creation be like?

By what process will the new creation arrive?

What will be the raw materials which make up the new creation?



- Hints from the bodily resurrection of Jesus (John 20:27, 21:13)
- Hints from language of transformation (Phil 3:20-21)
- Hints from nature (1 Cor 15:35-49)
- Hints from Peter's commentary on the Flood (2 Peter 3:3-10, 1 Cor 3:12-15)
- Hints that the best of this world may be there... (Rev 21:24-26 // Is 60:5-6)

## C. SO WHAT? 'NO ONE'S TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE'

- Accountability
- Witness & love for neighbour
- Timescales

### A Rocha: Living Lightly 24-1

#### **Believing, belonging, behaving**

**Action:** campaigning on behalf of the poor and voiceless, both human and non-human

**Church:** transforming our places of worship and the people who meet there: EcoChurch survey

**Food:** eating gratefully, ethically, locally, simply and joyfully

**Garden:** earthing our faith by working with creation in a hands on way

**House:** homes that are sustainable, energy efficient and community-building

**Money:** investing in God's kingdom through our spending saving & attitude

**Nature:** rediscovering our place through enjoying studying and caring for creation

**Seasonal:** relearning God's creation rhythms through festivals food and fun

**Shopping:** buying into values that last, rather than stuff that doesn't

**Travel:** questioning the need for speed and being responsible for impact

**Waste:** the '3Rs' reduce, reuse, recycle ... plus the fourth refuse it in the first place!

**Work:** sharing our sustainable, stewardship values in the workplace



Why not complete the **Carbon Footprint Questionnaire**: <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/questionnaire?>

#### Discuss

→ What is the one big take home you have learned from attending these seminars?  
What are you going to do about it?

#### Further reading:

Dave Bookless, *Planetwise*

Stephen Emmott, *10 Billion*

Dave Gobbett, *The Environment*

D Moo & J Moo, *Creation Care*

Gordon Wilson, *A Different Shade of Green*

*The Riot and the Dance* documentaries

*The Lorax* movie

Hans Rosling, *Factfulness*



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