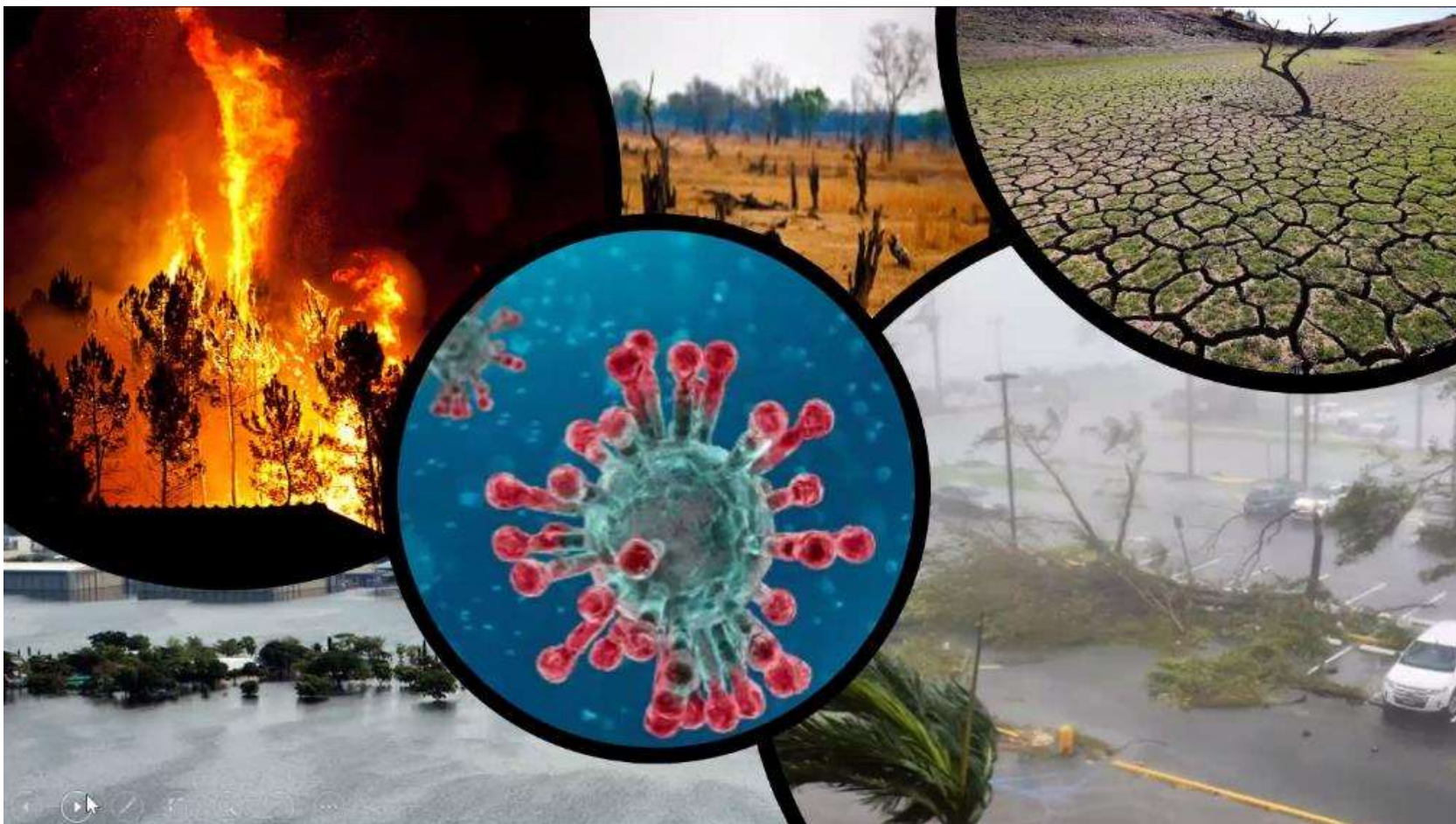


A satellite image of the Earth from space, showing the Western Hemisphere. The Earth's surface is covered in a network of deep, brown, jagged cracks that resemble a shattered globe, symbolizing environmental damage or climate change. The background is a solid black space.

# **a Christian approach to anthropogenic Climate Change**

# COVID, Climate crisis, biodiversity loss





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09 SEP 2020 | PRESS RELEASE | CLIMATE CHANGE

# United in Science report: Climate change has not stopped for COVID19



# Climate Change

## Antarctica

Antarctic temperature rises above 20C for first time on record

Brazil's Amazon rainforest suffers worst fires in a decade

Climate change 'cause of most under-reported humanitarian crises'

Report says few headlines sparked by food crises that ravaged Madagascar, Ethiopia and Haiti



# The Bible and the Climate

## 1. Surely the Bible says nothing about climate change?

The bible doesn't directly address:  
abortion, AIDS, euthanasia, nuclear energy



But theological and ethical principles still apply

# The Bible and the Climate

## 2. Surely humans can't change the global climate?



Francis Bacon

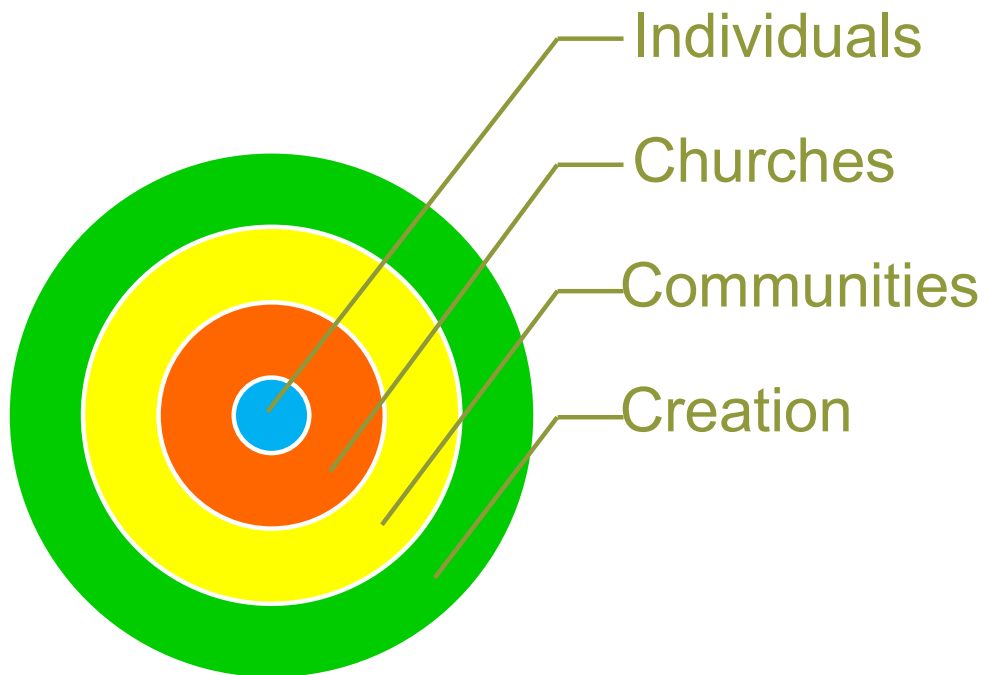


René Descartes

The land 'suffers' (Jeremiah 12.4)  
The land 'mourns' (Hosea 4.1-3)  
The earth 'vomits' (Leviticus 18.25-28)  
Creation 'groans' (Romans 8.19-22)

# The Bible and the Climate

## 3. Isn't the Gospel about saving souls?



- Shalom = restored relationships
- “The good news of the Kingdom of God.”
- “The Kingdom of God is creation healed.”

# The Bible and the Climate

## 4. Isn't the earth doomed to destruction anyway?

‘Kainos’ not ‘neos’ = renewed not replaced!

“Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything ...” [Acts 3:21](#)

“He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’” [Revelation 21:5](#)

“the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.” [Romans 8:21](#)



# The Bible and the Climate

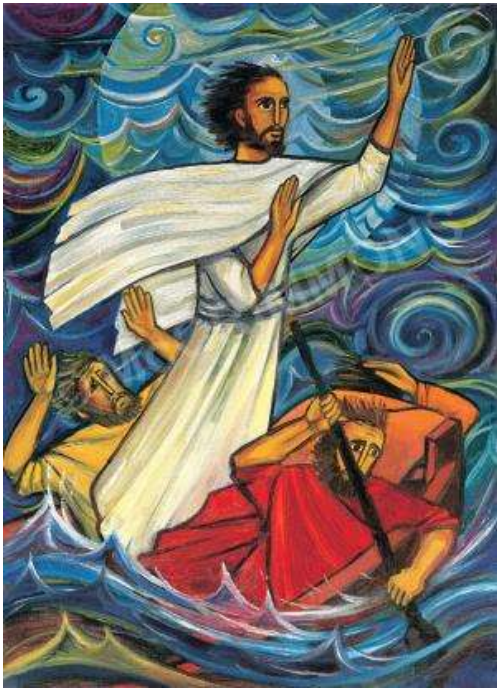
## 5. Isn't tackling climate change God's job not ours?



- God's plan, but human agency
- God's purpose: bigger than ours
- God's covenant: all living things

# Towards a Theology of Climate Change

## 1. Theology of Creation



- creation is 'all very good'  
Genesis 1:31
- creation is God's  
Psalm 24:1
- creation is in need of redemption  
Romans 8:19-21
- Jesus is creation's saviour & hope  
Colossians 1:15-20

# Towards a Theology of Climate Change

## 2. Theological anthropology



- ✓ Humanity is part of creation  
“made from the dust of the earth” Genesis 2.7
- ✓ Humanity is called apart within creation  
“made in the image of God” Genesis 1.28  
“tend and keep” / “serve and preserve” Gen. 2.15

# Towards a Theology of Climate Change

## 3. Theology of justice

“Tackling poverty, disease, war, injustice, economic inequality, natural disasters, biodiversity loss without tackling climate change, is like trying to mop up a flood with a bucket full of holes. Climate Change exacerbates all the other problems.”

Dr. Katharine Hayhoe



# Towards a Theology of Climate Change

## 4. Practical & pastoral theology

### Joseph, Food Security & Climate Refugees

Genesis 41:16 “I cannot do it, but God will give the answer”

We can't save the planet on our own!

41:26 “This food should be held in reserve”

Living within limits

41:57 “All the countries came to Egypt  
to buy grain”

Think global. Act local ...

welcome the stranger & refugee.



# Towards a Theology of Climate Change

## 5. Theology of hope

“God will redeem the whole universe; Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of that new life, the fresh grass growing through the concrete of corruption and decay in the old world.”

N. T. Wright

“Surprised by Hope” p.134

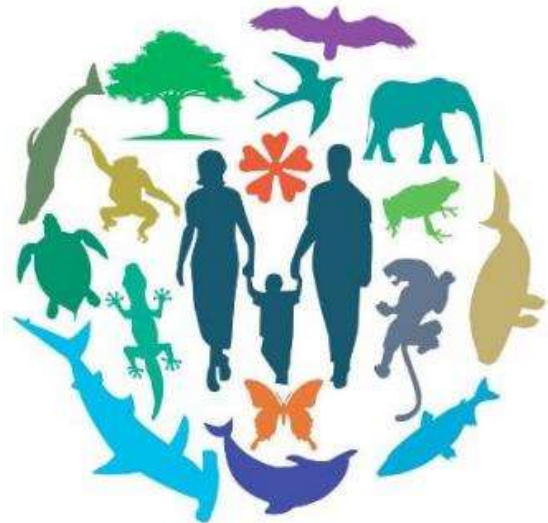


# Towards a Theology of Climate Change

## 5. Theology of hope



Shalom



Kingdom  
of God

# Towards a Theology of Climate Change

## Principles

1. Theology of creation
2. Theological anthropology
3. Theology of justice
4. Practical / pastoral theology
5. Theology of hope

## Ethics

- Wonder & restraint
- Humility & service
- Neighbour-care
- Integral response
- Joyful action

A landscape photograph showing a sunset over rolling hills. In the foreground on the left, a bare, dark tree stands against the colorful sky. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon where the sun is setting. The hills below are covered in green vegetation, and the overall scene is peaceful and contemplative.

*“Your kingdom come,  
Your will be done, on  
earth as it is in heaven.”*