

The Environment: Climate Change, The Bible, and What on Earth We're Here For

God's Blue Planet

Dave Gobbett: Seminar 1

MAKE THE MOST OF THIS SEMINAR

This seminar is the first in a series of four. You can watch the seminars on your own or with your church, small group, or friends. The questions/reflections below may help you discuss and work through how to apply what you've learnt to your own life. Start the video and then pause it when suggested to look at the question(s).

WATCH THE VIDEO:

[Seminar 1:
https://tinyurl.com/5cmkd5ej](https://tinyurl.com/5cmkd5ej)



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to @KeswickConvention on YouTube and search for Dave Gobbett

SEMINAR OUTLINE

The planet is warming, biodiversity is plummeting, plastic pollutes our oceans, soil quality is deteriorating. With all the language of climate crisis, how on earth should Christians respond to everything environmental? While some of us feel drawn to panic, others react more passively. Aren't other issues - 'gospel issues' - more important? What would a prudent, whole-Bible response look like to one of the hottest topics around?

QUESTIONS

Watch the video and pause it at 4:43 minutes.

1. What questions/concerns arise when you consider the environment from a Christian perspective?

Restart video at 4:43 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/5n9yj8hw>) and watch until 33:25 minutes.

2. Share examples of the panicked and passive responses you have witnessed to climate change.

Restart video at 33:25 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/3zztm4s6>) and watch until 40:31 minutes.

3. What kind of actions would a person taking a prudent response to climate change take?
4. What would you say to:
 - An older Christian who is ambivalent about caring for the environment because God is going to renew the cosmos.
 - A young person who is anxious that not enough is being done about climate change to avert a global disaster.
 - A church leader who is concerned that caring about the environment could take too much time and resources away from real evangelism.

Restart video at 40:31 minutes (<https://youtu.be/RjHb2nvt8ak?t=2431>) and watch until the end.

5. What are some of the tell-tale signs we are worshipping created things - animals, oceans, forests - rather than the Creator?
6. How does God teach us about himself through creation? Think specifically about what the Bible says about:
 - Stars
 - Sea
 - Donkeys
 - Eagles

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REFLECTION/PRAYER

- Think about your own reaction to climate change - is it panicked, passive or prudent? What attitudes/actions do you need to change in light of the fact that this is God's world?
- Discuss and pray together about how your care for the environment - as individuals and a church - could lead to gospel opportunities.
- This week go for a forest walk, gaze at the stars, or skim a stone in the ocean. Open your eyes to God's glory and meditate on Psalms 19:1 and 24:1. Delight in the truth that this is God's world which he is holding in the palm of his hand.
- If you would like to learn more about the issues raised in this seminar read Dave's book, 'The Environment'.

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Kings and Queens of Narnia

Dave Gobbett: Seminar 2

MAKE THE MOST OF THIS SEMINAR

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WATCH THE VIDEO:

[Seminar 2:](https://tinyurl.com/ycx64568)
<https://tinyurl.com/ycx64568>



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to @KeswickConvention on YouTube and search for Dave Gobbett

SEMINAR OUTLINE

'Narnia was never right except when a Son of Adam was king . . . It's not men's country, but it's a country for a man to be king of.' Trufflehunter the Badger was describing the stewardship of C.S. Lewis's magical world, but he couldn't have put our responsibility over Planet Earth any better. Created by God, the world has been entrusted to human beings to steward wisely and responsibly. But how?

QUESTIONS

Watch the video and pause it at 13:21 minutes.

'We are at a unique stage in our history. Never before have we had such an awareness of what we are doing to the planet and never before have we had the power to do something about that. Surely, we have a responsibility to care for our blue planet. The future of humanity, and indeed all life on earth, now depends on us' (**David Attenborough**).

1. How do you respond to David Attenborough's statement?

Restart video at 17:34 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/pwvfc5k>) and watch until 42:57 minutes.

2. What does Psalm 8 teach us about:

- God's rule over creation
- Our rule over creation

3. What does being a faithful steward of God's creation look like:

- In your home
- In your workplace
- In your local community

4. How would you respond to a Christian who said, 'With all the abuse of the planet by governments and big business, my contribution as a steward is so small it is meaningless'?

Restart video at 42:57 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/3fepnzut>) and watch until the end.

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Kings and Queens of Narnia

Dave Gobbett: Seminar 2

QUESTIONS CONT.

5. What does Leviticus 25:1-17 teach us about:
 - The character of God
 - Stewarding creation well
 6. What difference does it make to remember we - as individuals and as churches - are stewards, not owners of creation?
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REFLECTION/PRAYER

- This week meditate on Psalm 139. Thank God for his knowledge, love and care for you and pray that you will bear his image well in the world.
- Together with a friend, pray that you would use technology wisely to bring fruitfulness to the parts of creation God has specifically entrusted to you.
- Is there a local project your small group or church could get involved with as a practical demonstration of your calling to steward God's world?
- If you would like to think more about these issues read, 'The God of All Things' by Andrew Wilson or 'From the Garden to the City' by John Dyer.

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The Groans of Creation

Dave Gobbett: Seminar 3

MAKE THE MOST OF THIS SEMINAR

This seminar is the third in a series of four. You can watch the seminars on your own or with your church, small group, or friends. The questions/reflections below may help you discuss and work through how to apply what you've learnt to your own life. Start the video and then pause it when suggested to look at the question(s).

WATCH THE VIDEO:

[Seminar 3:
https://tinyurl.com/y9d4amd2](https://tinyurl.com/y9d4amd2)



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to @KeswickConvention on YouTube and search for Dave Gobbett

SEMINAR OUTLINE

Christians shouldn't be surprised at the connection between human agency and physical brokenness, both of people and planet. The curse of sin affects everyone and everything. How does this tragic reality impact our expectations and responsibilities as stewards of God's creation? What does it look like to groan with creation for the redemption we long for?

QUESTIONS

Watch the video and pause it at 10:01 minutes.

1. In what specific areas is 'bondage to decay' demonstrated in the creation today?

Restart video at 10:01 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/yjckj9yk>) and watch until 32:35 minutes.

2. How does Romans 8:19-22 explain:
 - The present state of creation
 - The future hope of creation
3. How would you answer a young person who said: 'It's not fair! My generation is having to deal with a climate crisis because of the failures of our parents!'

Restart video at 32:35 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/5x53yc8u>) and watch until the end.

4. Share practical examples of how we can adapt and respond to the state of the planet rather than trying to save it.
5. Think about the way Jesus spoke about and engaged with creation. What can we learn from him?
6. How does the doctrine of sin protect us from a panicked and passive response to the environment?

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The Groans of Creation

Dave Gobbett: Seminar 3

REFLECTION/PRAYER

- Pray together that more and more we would share God's heart for his world, that we would lament the ruin of creation (Jeremiah 9:10) and our love for God would be seen by our love for all he has made.
- This week meditate on Colossians 1:15-20. Thank God that you can sleep well tonight because it is Christ's job to sustain the planet, not yours. He alone is overturning the curse and reconciling all things to himself.
- If you would like to know more about how you and your church can care for the environment have a look at the A Rocha website (www.arocha.org.uk).

The Environment: Climate Change, The Bible, and What on Earth We're Here For

The Divine Repair

Dave Gobbett: Seminar 4

MAKE THE MOST OF THIS SEMINAR

This seminar is the final one in a series of four. You can watch the seminars on your own or with your church, small group, or friends. The questions/reflections below may help you discuss and work through how to apply what you've learnt to your own life. Start the video and then pause it when suggested to look at the question(s).

WATCH THE VIDEO:

Seminar 4:
<https://tinyurl.com/4s35x68t>



To watch the video, scan the QR code or go to @KeswickConvention on YouTube and search for Dave Gobbett

SEMINAR OUTLINE

'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?

QUESTIONS

Watch the video and pause it at 5:16 minutes.

1. Is this world our home? What does the Bible say?

Restart video at 5:16 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/2k6ny8ke>) and watch until 36:25 minutes.

2. What does Jesus' resurrection body teach us about what the new creation will be like? Look at John 20:27 and 21:13.
3. Why does it matter that the new creation will be a renewed creation rather than brand new?
4. What do Genesis 8:21-22, 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and 2 Peter 3:3-10 have to say to those who fear the annihilation of the planet?

Restart video at 36:25 minutes (<https://tinyurl.com/5n8fec7y>) and watch until the end.

5. Discuss the extent to which the following factors motivate you to care for the environment:
 - You are making a difference to the planet.
 - You are accountable to God for your stewardship of his world.
 - Your actions can facilitate gospel conversations and show love for your neighbour.
6. What one big 'take home' have you learnt from these seminars? What are you going to do about it?

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The Divine Repair

Dave Gobbett: Seminar 4

REFLECTION/PRAYER

- This week meditate on 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11. Praise God for the return of Christ and the renewal he will bring. Pray these truths would impact how you live now and spur you on in your discipleship. As Paul urged, 'encourage one another with these words' (4:18).
- Do A Rocha's EcoChurch survey. Discuss the results and your action plan together.
- Take a personal inventory of how you are impacting the environment. Think about your shopping habits, the food you buy, your travel, and how well you are doing with the 3Rs - reduce, reuse, and recycle.
- If you would like to explore these issues further read, 'Not Home Yet' by Ian K. Smith or 'Creation Care' by Douglas and Jonathan Moo.