

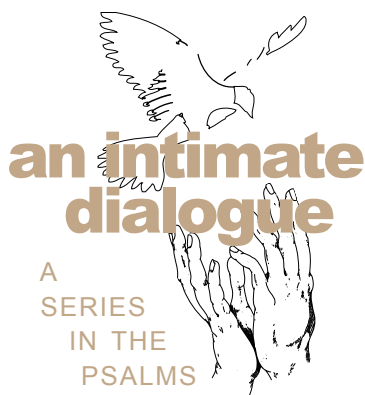
This is ~~My~~ World *my* Father's



For the choir director. A Psalm of David. A Song.

There will be silence before You, and praise
in Zion, O God,
And to You the vow will be performed.
O You who hear prayer,
To You all men come.
Iniquities prevail against me;
As for our transgressions, You forgive them.
How blessed is the one whom You choose
and bring near to You
To dwell in Your courts.
We will be satisfied with the goodness of
Your house,
Your holy temple.

continued...



WHEN I WAS A YOUNG LAD the commonly used term was "conservation." It focused on practical ideas like crop rotation, contour tillage, and the planting of trees and grasses to minimize soil erosion. Later this commonsense practice evolved into a more detailed and sophisticated system of "ecology." Now these two relatively benign concepts have morphed into a rabid "environmentalism"—a protectionism of everything "natural," with a concomitant loathing of any and all human impacts upon the "pristine" environment, which, of course, has brought us to its most fanatical and ridiculous incarnation: the cult of man-made global warming.

James Lovelock, in his 1979 book *Gaia*, writes, "...the biosphere is a self-regulating entity with the capacity to keep our planet healthy by controlling the chemical and physical environment." Others

have described the [Gaia hypothesis] as the idea that Earth itself acts like a single organism.

Lovelock believes, for example, that Gaia is at work to keep the oxygen content of the atmosphere high and within the range that all oxygen-breathing animals require. Lovelock believes that life regulates the surface temperature of Earth, too.

Brig Klyce, at
<http://www.panspermia.org/gaia>

Some have taken this imaginative philosophy even further, to a form of neopaganism in which the physical globe on which we live is literally worshipped as a "mother goddess."

Many Neopagans actively worship Gaia. Beliefs regarding Gaia vary, ranging from the common Wiccan belief that Gaia is the Earth (or in some cases the spiritual embodiment of the earth, or the Goddess

of the Earth), to the broader Neopagan belief that Gaia is the goddess of all creation, a Mother Goddess from which all other gods spring. Gaia is sometimes thought to embody the planets and the Earth, and sometimes thought to embody the entire universe.

Wikipedia

As the Bible teacher Chuck Swindoll might say, there is a Greek term for all this: *hog-wash*.

credit due

Even the most casual student of God's word understands that this world is not the supreme mother goddess, but is the creation of the one God Almighty, who is supreme over everything that exists. He not only calls the shots in and on this globe, but He has placed it all here for man to manage and use.

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:26-28

First, as Creator and Lord of all, our God is worthy of our worship and praise.

O God, I stand in silent reverence before Your throne, my heart sings quiet praise. Whatever I have promised You, I will do. And when I do speak, You graciously understand my hymn of praise and need. This is why all flesh comes to You. There are times when my sin overpowers me; I cannot prevail against it. It wins. But when I come to You—as do all men—You forgive my transgressions. I did not choose You, but in Your grace You selected me and drew me to You. You accepted me into Your family, and blessed me with more than I could ever deserve. More than that, You have given me the honor of worshipping You in Your temple.

from his hand

God answers our prayers and our worship with the tangible majesty of His extraordinary deeds. Some of His works we casually refer to as "nature," while others we call "acts of God"—even "miracles." But whatever we call them, they *all* are from His hand.

When we pray to You, O God, you answer with the righteous strength of Your hand. Because of Your awesome power and deliverance, we take refuge in You—everyone to the very limits of the land, and to every distant shore. By Your might, O Lord, You stood up the mountains, and when the seas pile up and roar, Your word hushes their destructive force. In the same way, O God, You hush the noise of the nations. Even those who live as far away as possible quake with reverent fear at the evidence of Your might. To the east, where morning begins, and to the west, where evening ends, there is unbridled joy.

the river

Does the mother goddess Gaia send the rain that feeds the earth's inhabitants? No, the psalmist assures us that God is the source: The river is God's river, and

He prepares the grain and the soil.

He waters the crops.

He sends the soft showers.

He causes everything to grow.

You attend to our needs here on earth by opening the source of our life-giving showers—Your overflowing, heavenly river. With it You increase our annual yield—our grain stands tall! You soften with rain the sharp ridges we have cut into the soil, and thus you feed us by Your blessings. You have encompassed our entire year with good things from Your hand. And the tracks You have left behind are filled to overflowing with abundance. The pleasant openness of the land, where cattle have made their home, as well as the surrounding hills—all exult in Your bounty. You have dressed the meadows with plump sheep, and the valleys with grain. Your world, O God, shouts Your name, O indeed, it sings Your praise.

By awesome deeds You answer us in righteousness, O God of our salvation, You who are the trust of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest sea; Who establishes the mountains by His strength, Being girded with might; Who stills the roaring of the seas, The roaring of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples. They who dwell in the ends of the earth stand in awe of Your signs; You make the dawn and the sunset shout for joy.

You visit the earth and cause it to overflow; You greatly enrich it; The stream of God is full of water; You prepare their grain, for thus You prepare the earth. You water its furrows abundantly, You settle its ridges, You soften it with showers, You bless its growth. You have crowned the year with Your bounty, And Your paths drip with fatness. The pastures of the wilderness drip, And the hills gird themselves with rejoicing. The meadows are clothed with flocks And the valleys are covered with grain; They shout for joy, yes, they sing.

Psalms 65:1-13