
COMPASSION UPON THE EARTH: OUR COMMON HOME

A PROCLAMATION FROM THE SAINTS AND STEWARDS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

WE, THE SAINTS of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, solemnly proclaim the inherent sacredness of planet Earth, our common home. Earth is the First Temple (Job 38:4-7), filled with the Presence of God (D&C 88:4-13), and is central to the Creator’s plan for the eternal destiny of His children.

IN THE BEGINNING, God created the Earth. For six eternal days, laboring as an artist at an easel, God spoke wild wisdom to matter unorganized. The Breath of Life was whispered into the heart of Creation and the Earth responded with abundant living diversity (Genesis 2:7). All living creatures upon the face of the Earth were created to fulfill the measure of their creation and are entitled to have joy therein. Earth is our caring Mother, the common home of all living, and we are called to be Her compassionate caretakers.

THE HARMONIOUS UNION between humans and the Earth is ordained of God. Eden’s Garden was not complete without humanity and neither humanity without the Garden. Adam and Eve, our first earthly parents, were created to experience its beauty, taste its fullness, and cultivate its abundance. Indeed, in the day God placed humans on the created Earth, God declared the union “very good” (Genesis 1:31).

WE DECLARE the environmental systems that enable Earth to continually yield fruitful abundance are divinely appointed and sacred beyond measure. We also affirm the sanctity of all life, large or small, and their importance to God’s eternal plan.

HUMANITY has a divinely decreed responsibility to guard against the excessive use and exploitation of the Earth’s abundance. Our dominion is as Stewards: guardians of a sacred planet that belongs to God and is home to all of His children. Because we all de-

pend on the Earth to live, carefully fostering its health and abundance enables us to better care for God’s children.

IN THESE, THE LAST DAYS, the Earth cries, “wo, wo is me, the mother of men; I am pained, I am weary . . . when shall I rest, and be cleansed from the filthiness which is gone forth out of me?” (Moses 7:48). Humanity has waned in fulfilling our sacred stewardship at the moment in history our impact upon the Earth is greatest. Environmental degradation is globally rampant. This degradation disproportionately impacts and multiplies the suffering of the sick and poor. And the excessive consumption of Earth’s resources prevents us from adequately caring for those most vulnerable in our communities. As well, our children, grandchildren, and future generations are entitled to lives of joy in a world that can sustain them. Protection of the Earth and its residents is our divinely appointed obligation (D&C 104:13-18). For those living beings whom we have treated unjustly, we ask forgiveness.

AS LATTER-DAY SAINTS, we believe the Earth shall be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory—becoming even the Celestial Kingdom (D&C 88:25-26). We declare our role and responsibility in bringing to pass this renewal and replenishment of the Earth in partnership with Deity. To make holy restitution, we must do all within our power to heal what we have wounded—that most sacred relationship between humanity and the Earth.

WE CALL UPON all of humanity to promote those measures designed to mitigate the effects of climate change and strengthen the capacity of the Earth to sustain life. We challenge all Saints to reclaim the divine mantle of Steward over this sacred Creation called Earth and extend compassion to our common home.

This proclamation was written by a group Latter-day Saints, distilled from the standard works, and is a reflection of core doctrines and principles. It is not an official declaration from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints nor should it be taken as such.
