





**“How many are your works, Lord!**

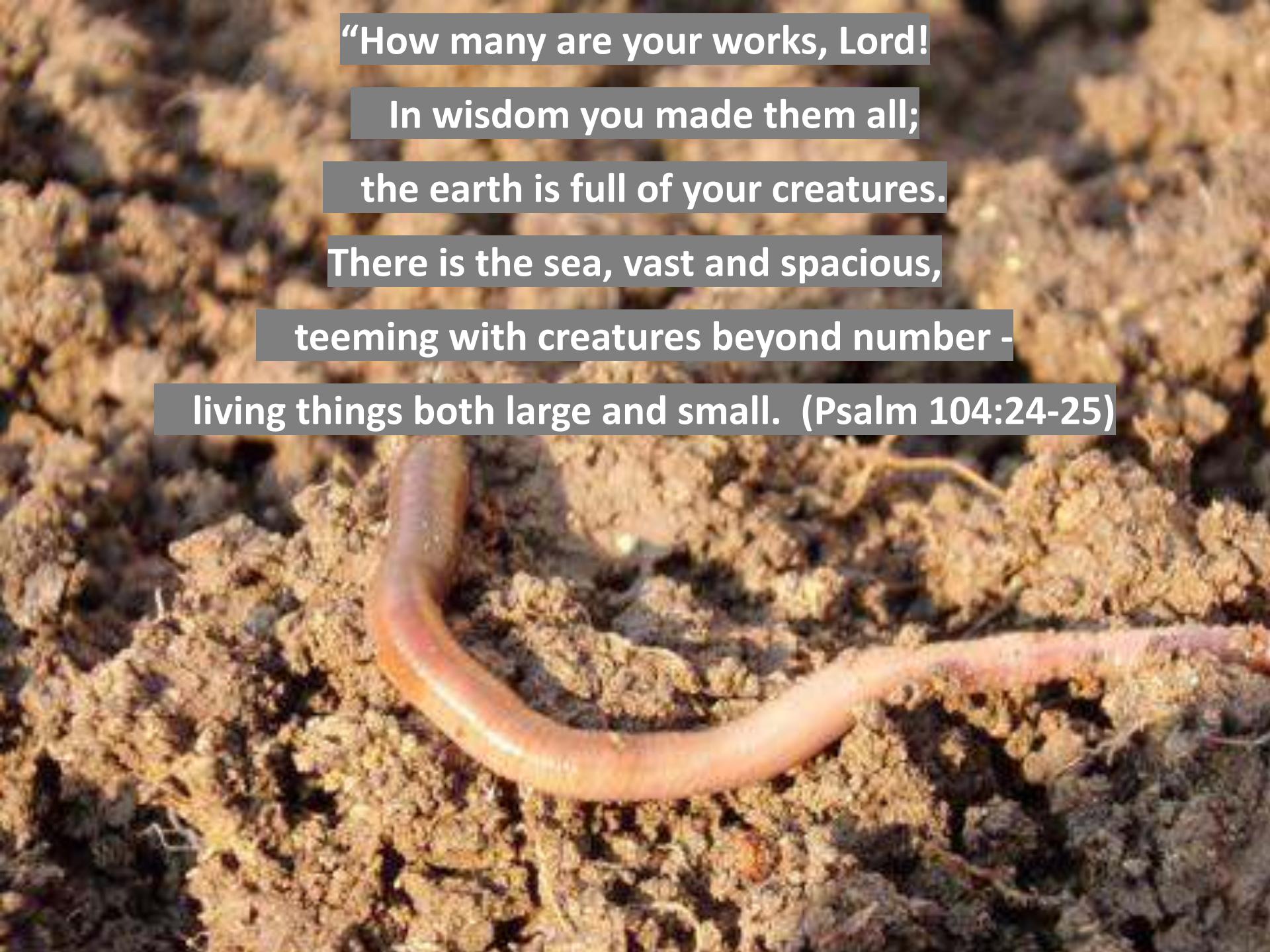
**In wisdom you made them all;**

**the earth is full of your creatures.**

**There is the sea, vast and spacious,**

**teeming with creatures beyond number -**

**living things both large and small. (Psalm 104:24-25)**

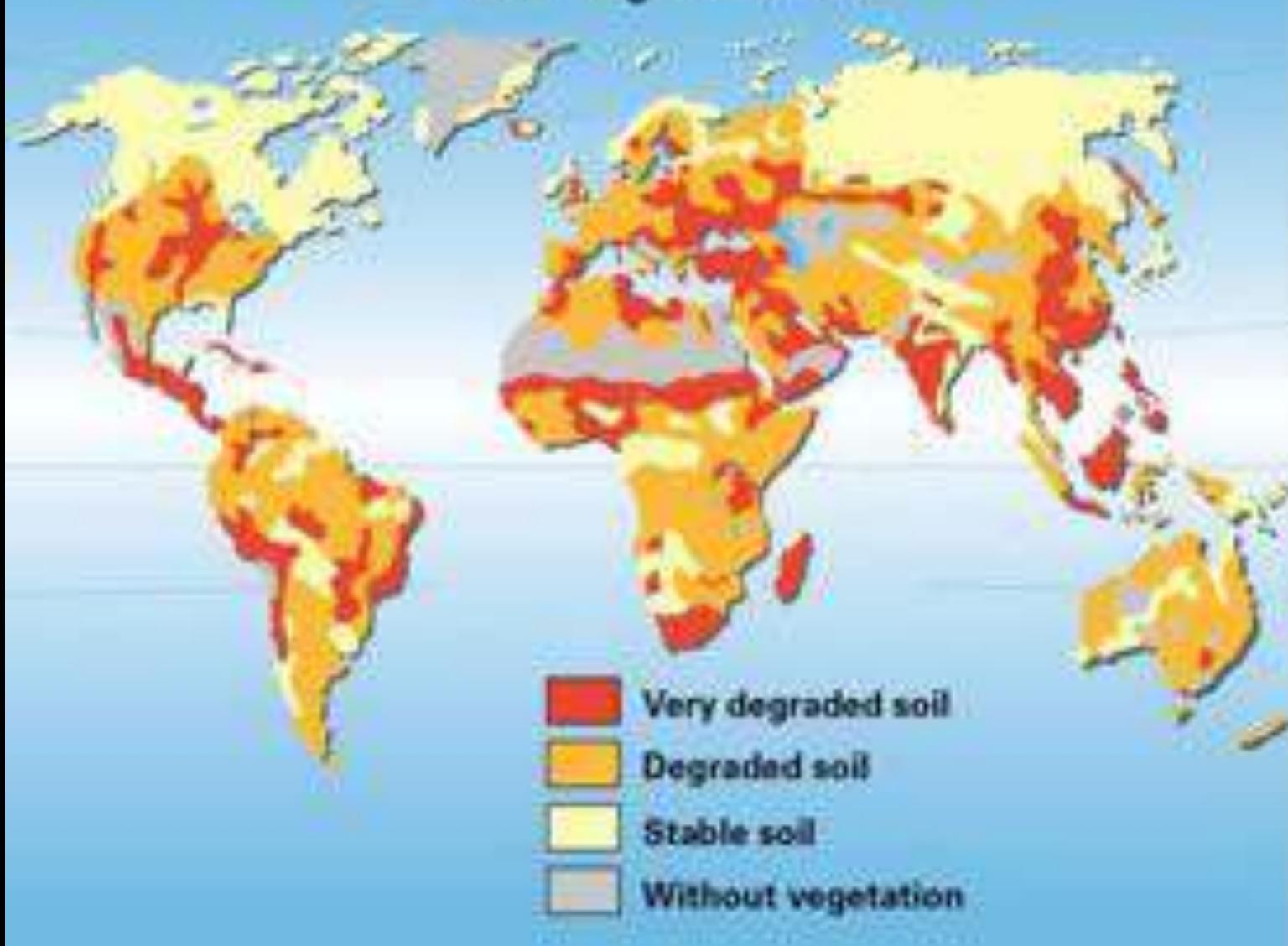


**“The soil is the great connector of lives, the source and destination  
of all ... Without proper care for it we can have no community,  
because without proper care for it we can have no life.”**

(Wendell Berry, *The Art of the Commonplace*).

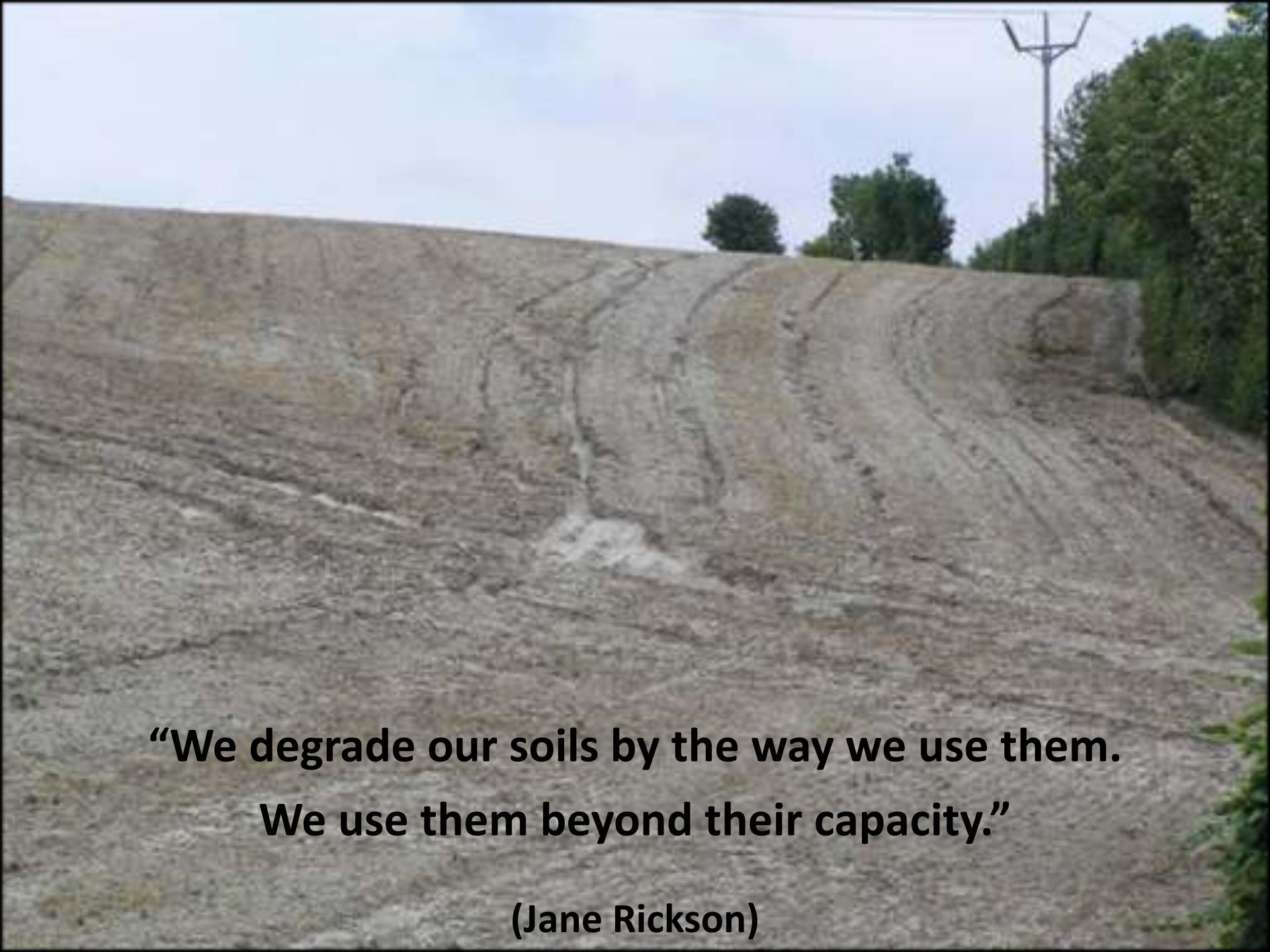


## Soil degradation



Graphic: Philippe Rekacewicz, UNEP/GRID-Arendal

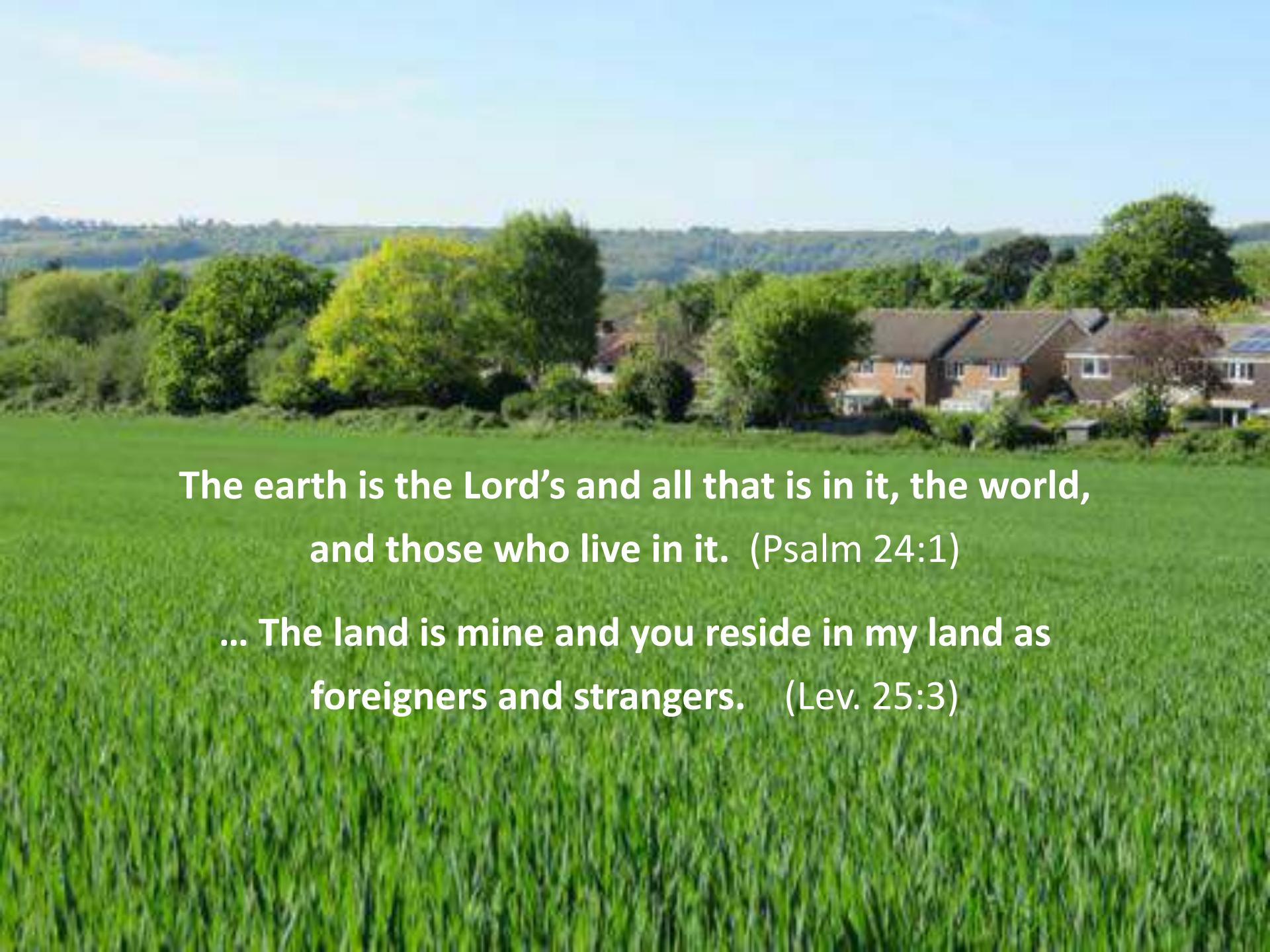
Source: <https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2012/04/12/why-soil-matters/>

A photograph of a steep, eroded hillside. The soil is light brown and appears dry and brittle, with deep, parallel gullies running down its length. In the upper right corner, there is a tall, grey metal utility pole with three cross-arms supporting wires. The sky is clear and blue.

**“We degrade our soils by the way we use them.  
We use them beyond their capacity.”**

**(Jane Rickson)**





**The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world,  
and those who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)**

**... The land is mine and you reside in my land as  
foreigners and strangers. (Lev. 25:3)**

# Faith and our climate crisis

2020 @ Bessels Green Baptist Church

The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a cultural and spiritual transformation. And we scientists don't know how to do that.

Gus Speth

# A VOCATIONAL PROBLEM?

**'Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your mind  
... Love your neighbour as yourself.'**

(Matt. 22)

**"Take care of the planet ... reflect God's loving  
rule and reign ... let the earth thrive and flourish  
and be fruitful."**

# Israel

A laboratory in which that vocation to love God, to love and care for each other and to nurture the planet is worked through.

Sabbath rest for the land and for the livestock – God cares for these things.

If you come on a bird's nest, in any tree or on the ground, with fledglings or eggs, with the mother sitting on the fledglings or on the eggs, you shall not take the mother with the young. Let the mother go, taking only the young for yourself, in order that it may go well with you and you may live long. (Deut. 22:6-7)

**Restraint & Sustainability**

**Discipleship in the minutia of everyday life**

**No sacred or secular - it all matters**



**Shopping as an act of discipleship**

LIVE LIFE ON THE VEG

16

We can use this box 16 times  
if you leave it out for us!

RIVERFORD  
ORGANIC FARMERS



## GUY'S NEWS

### Machines for People

#### GUY'S NEWS The courgette crisis

Last week I was interviewed by the local newspaper "Le Télé" for a report looking at what's been happening in our crops and harvesting in general, and granted about 100 words in their article.

I expect the term "harvest" will be "harvested" and in reference of a small catch, although not for any particular reason, it seems appropriate to make a comparison between mechanised labour and harvesting.

So when I think about mechanised harvesting, I'm not talking about tractors, I'm talking about people-powered labour.

We planted our first onions on our French farm last week, immediately covering them with low-level tunnels. As onions do really well in 18°C and even the rain with the other plastic sheet to maintain temperature, which goes to 4°C late night, so we lay these over the tunnels for some added insulation. All being well, the first onions will be out in late March six weeks ahead of the UK crop.

Our biggest worry is lack of water, after a drought that went into November, followed by a dry winter so far, our 12 acre irrigation is still only about 25% full. In previous winters, waterlogging has been the biggest problem, resulting in gilting and rotting root crops. Without water, in this climate, we might as well pack up; there should not be three months of rain left but rather than wait we have started pumping from small ponds in a desperate attempt to ensure water for our crops. Meanwhile, new affordable GPS technology has helped farmers make semi-permanent raised beds, with satellite-guided tractors always driving in the same tracks, the crop has now remains unharmed.

On my trip to the regional biotechnical show in Angers last week, I was impressed by the level of mechanisation and sophistication of many smaller producers, weeding and planting tools that should make work easier while being more people-centric and allowing greater autonomy for workers than the factory-hunter-powered machines that typically cover field workers like mine across the Euro. Small mechanisation, and the investment required, often intimidates farmers, often to the detriment of rotation, diversity and nature. In a world where farmers get less and co-operative to allow more than one enterprise to thrive on a farm without being owned and managed by the same person, we have no livestock dairy farmer who grows the clover leys making up 50% of our rotation, and generates income without us having to worry about milking cows.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 riverford.co.uk 0803 227227

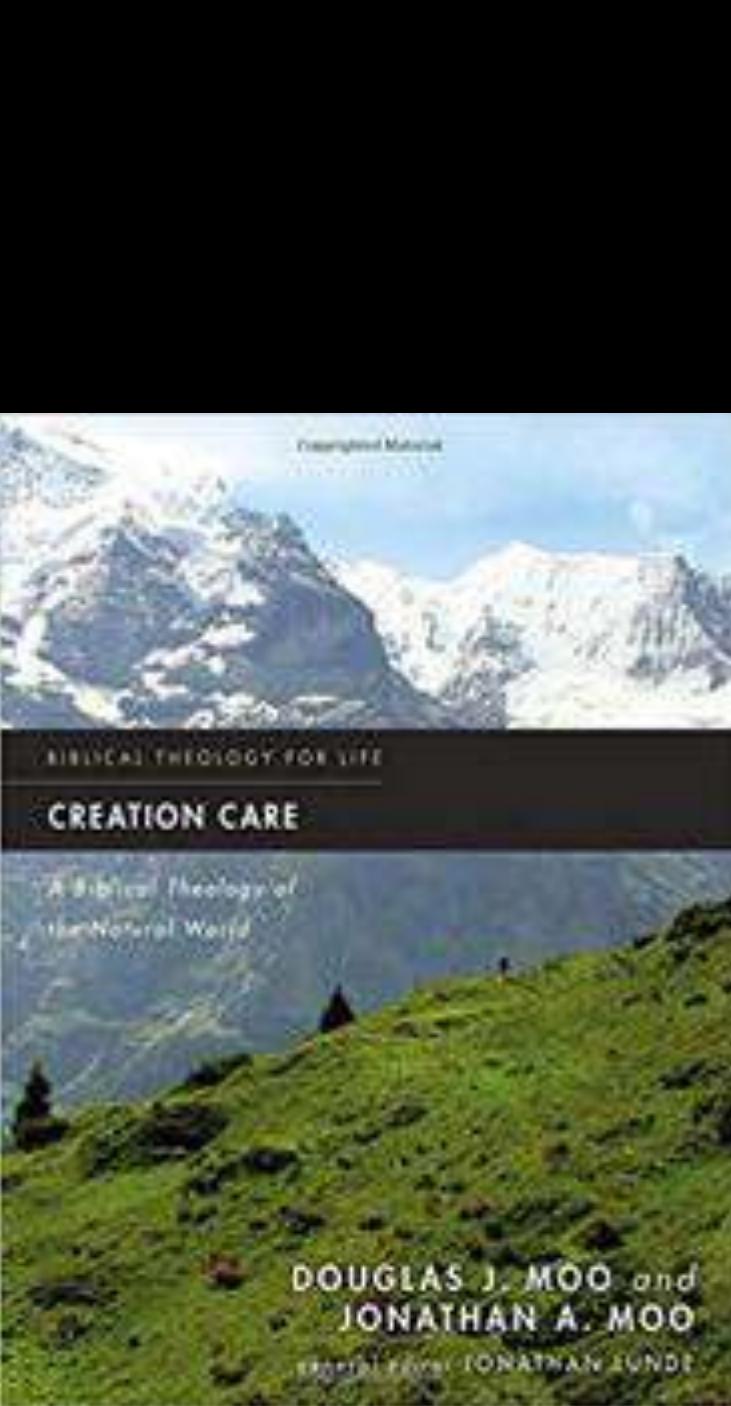
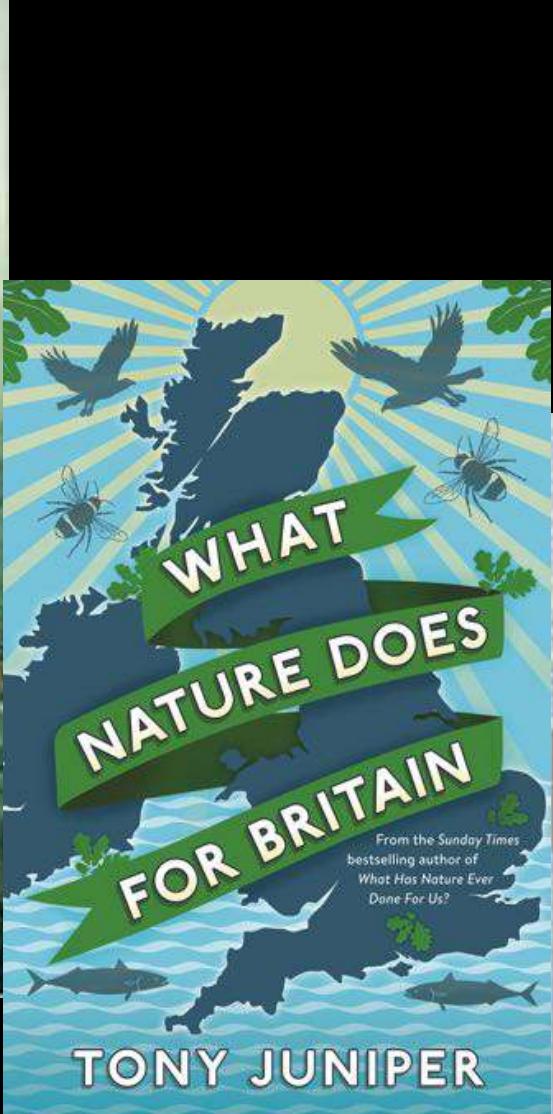
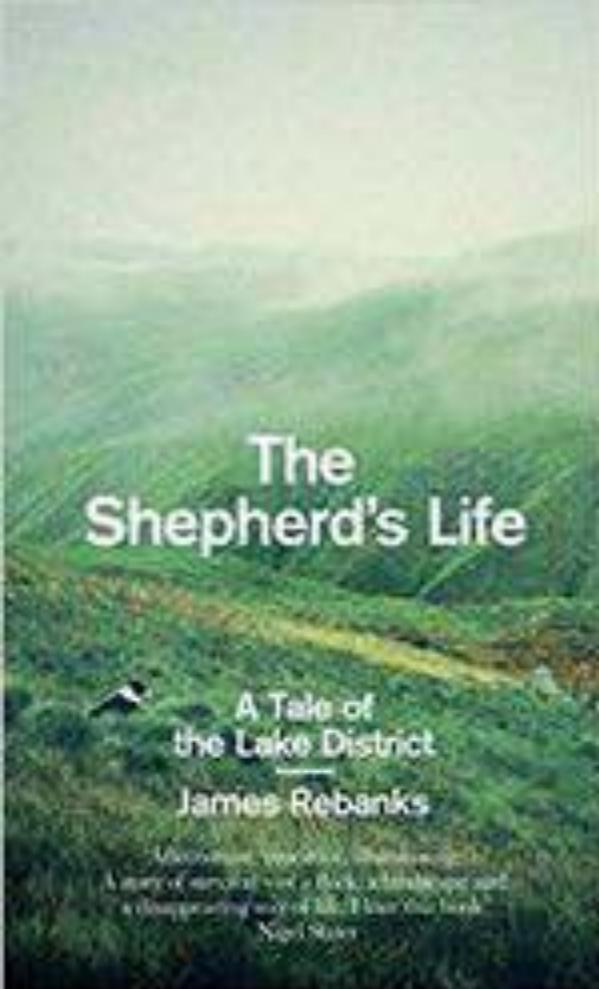


Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017

# Get Grounded

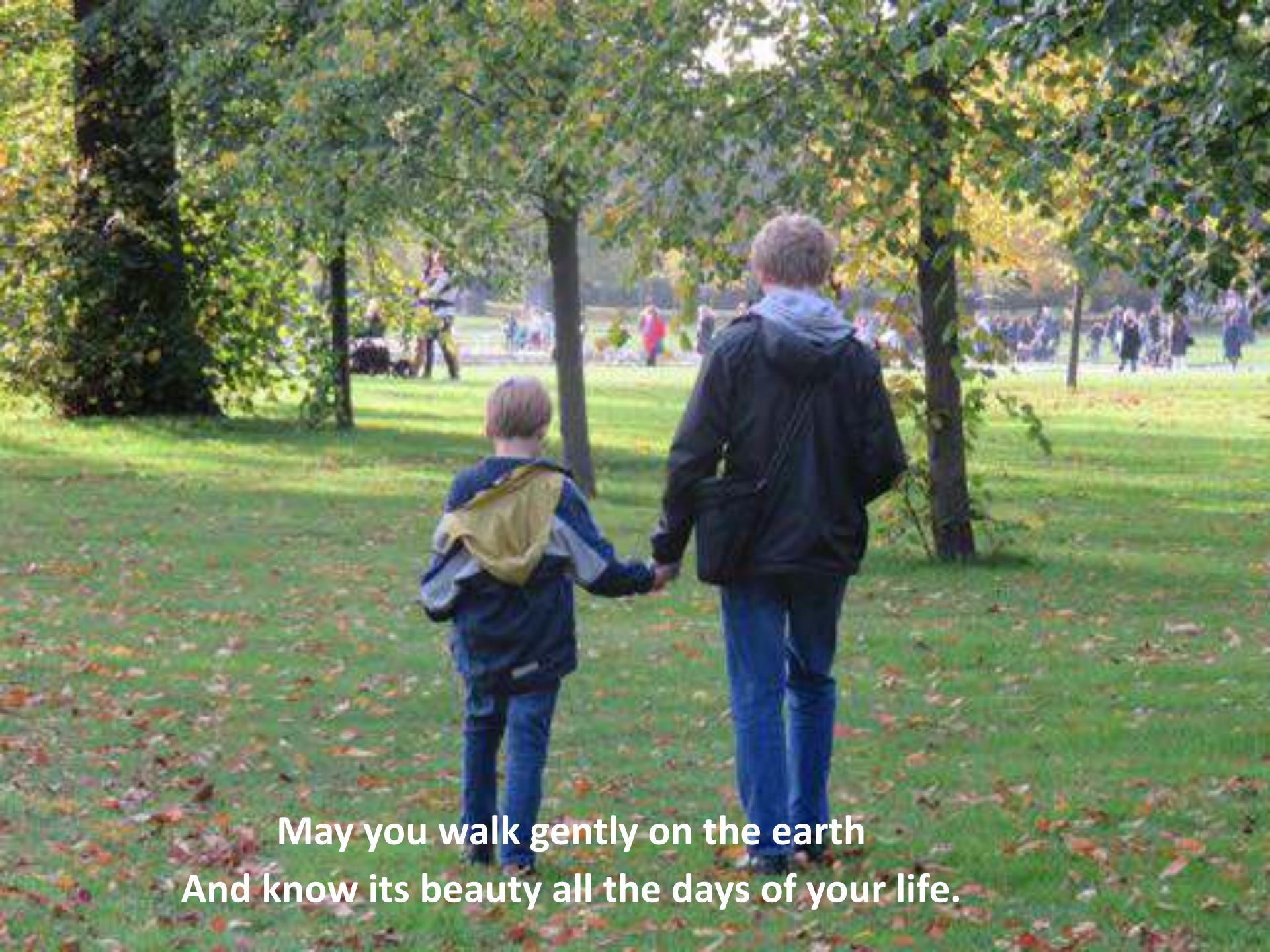


“Then the Lord God formed man (*adam*) from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. [Genesis 2:7]



**“May we recognise how deeply we are joined to the earth,  
the air, the sky.”**





May you walk gently on the earth  
And know its beauty all the days of your life.