



ENVIRONMENT

CREATION CARE: A Biblical Theology of the Natural World by Douglas J. Moo and Jonathan A. Moo. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2018. 256 pages, index. Paperback; \$24.99. ISBN: 9780310293743.

This book is part of the Biblical Theology for Life series, which addresses contemporary issues by answering the question, "What does the Bible have to say about that?" Other publications in this series include books with titles such as *The Mission of God's People*, which addresses God's overarching mission for the world, *Christians in an Age of Wealth*, which answers questions about the place and purpose of wealth in a Christian's life, and *Known by God*, which explores the nature of personal identity. Contributors to this series "seek to straddle both the world of the text and the world in which we live." Each book strives to mine the Bible for theology that addresses a particular topic while also contextualizing this theology in ways that allow the Bible to transform contemporary Christian life.

Each volume in this series has the same basic structure. The first section of each book is entitled "Queuing the Questions." In this section, authors introduce the questions they seek to address. In the second section, "Arriving at Answers," authors develop the biblical theology of their topic by focusing their attention on specific biblical texts. In the concluding "Reflecting on Relevance" section, authors discuss specific ways in which this theology impacts contemporary situations, thus challenging readers to consider how they might live it out in the world today. As stated in the series preface, the hope of the authors is to provide informed insights of evangelical biblical scholarship that will "increasingly become enfolded in the sermons and discussions that transpire each week in places of worship, in living rooms where Bible studies gather, and in classrooms around the world."

The first two chapters of *Creation Care* ask and then seek to answer three questions: What is our topic? Why write a book addressing this topic? And how can we go about seeking answers from the Bible? The authors answer the first question by explaining their choice of the word "creation" rather than "nature" or "environment." Speaking of creation care rather than environmentalism or nurture of nature provides the foundation for addressing the topic from a Christian worldview. The authors then discuss two reasons for addressing this topic. The first focuses on the challenge of getting Christians on board with creation care, since for many in Christian circles this topic is very much a peripheral issue. The second is to

challenge the claim that Christian anthropocentrism is largely to blame for the environmental challenges we face around the world today. The entire second chapter is devoted to the last question and surveys various methods of biblical interpretation. The authors examine three external factors that may influence one's biblical theology of creation care: historical and systematic theology, our contemporary culture, and scientific research. They warn against coming to scripture with an agenda and argue instead for allowing the text to speak for itself.

The "Arriving at Answers" portion of the book is by far the longest, encompassing chapters three through nine. The authors first acknowledge that teachings about the created world are widespread in the Old Testament, but relatively sparse in the New Testament. They admit that this is a problem because most of the preaching and teaching in churches today is from the New Testament and most believers spend far more time reading the New rather than the Old Testament. Since both authors are New Testament scholars, they address this situation by devoting as much space to creation care from the New Testament as they do from the Old Testament. They examine passages of scripture from the epistles in depth and devote one entire chapter to "Jesus and Creation." The last two chapters in this section of the book discuss various aspects of the "new creation." The authors argue convincingly that God's redemptive plan encompasses the whole of reality and that a "transformation" model best summarizes the varied teachings of the Bible about the future of creation. (The passage in 2 Peter 3, which appears to teach a "replacement" model of creation's future, is examined in depth.) While thoroughly covering creation care passages from the New Testament, most, if not all, of the pertinent passages from the Old Testament are also addressed. The result is a genuine "biblical theology of the natural world" that provides a survey of the topic from the entire biblical canon.

The last four chapters contain the "Reflecting on Relevance" portion of the book. One chapter, entitled "Creation in Crisis," presents an overview of the environmental problems that are threatening the health of planet earth. These include the loss of biodiversity, destruction of the world's forests, overhunting, overfishing, the degradation and loss of topsoil, the projected scarcity of freshwater, concerns about our industrial food system, and the ramifications of climate change. The other three chapters propose ways in which Christians should respond. These responses are organized around the acronym "AWAKE" which includes the following: being *Attentive* to the community of creation around us; *Walking* more and considering how, where, and how much we travel;

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becoming *Activists* for God's kingdom on earth; rejecting our culture's way of *Konsumerism*; and *Eating* joyfully, thankfully, reverently, and ethically. (Consumerism is misspelled intentionally with the hope that readers will be more likely to remember it.) The authors suggest a number of specific ways in which Christians can become AWAKE, better stewards of God's creation, although they admit that they have provided only "a mere outline of possibilities and suggestions to get readers started." They support their assertions by revisiting their discussion of Genesis, where the "ruling" mandate of Genesis 1 is qualified by the "serving" mandate of Genesis 2. As God's vice-regents, humans must "imitate the nature of God's own rule of the world, which has been powerfully displayed in the servanthood of the incarnate Son of God."

As stated by Richard Bauckham on the very first page, "this book deserves to become the standard work of its kind." The father and son team of Douglas and Jonathan Moo have written a comprehensive introduction to a biblical theology of creation care that is well organized, accessible, and applicable for a wide spectrum of Christian readers. An extensive scripture index is included at the end of the book, along with an author and a subject index. Although there is no bibliography, the book is replete with footnotes that include references to a variety of pertinent books and articles. Anyone who wants to delve more deeply into this topic will find the references in the footnotes most helpful. The authors provide numerous thought-provoking quotations from a variety of sources in the sidebars of many pages, and each chapter concludes with a series of relevant discussion questions, making this book a good choice for adult discipleship classes or study groups. All of these components make this book a welcome addition to the body of literature that addresses the topic of creation care from a biblical perspective.

Reviewed by J. David Holland, Department of Biology, University of Illinois at Springfield, Springfield, IL 62703.



THE RADIUM GIRLS: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, 2017. 496 pages. Hardcover; \$26.99. ISBN: 9781492649359.

In the years preceding WWI, the Radium Girls, teens and young women in their early twenties, gratefully took a job with the United States Radium Corporation (USRC) where they painted watch and instrument dials with radium-containing paint. The exceedingly fine work required precision brushes and the young

women were taught to "lip point" their brushes to aid this fine work. Lip pointing was a technique in which the dial painters placed their brushes into their mouths to make the brush tip pointed for the fine work, then dipped the brush into the radioactive paint, painted a number on a dial, and then repeated the process. "Lip, dip, paint," repeat. The USRC assured the dial painters that the paint was not harmful. In fact, in the earliest years following the Curies' discovery of radium, it was believed to have health benefits. Radium was an ingredient in tonics, cosmetics, and more. They could not have been more wrong!

Every time the dial painters pointed their brushes with their lips, they ingested radium. Radium dust rained down on the employees, covering their hair, clothes, and skin. They carried the dust home to their families and walked it out of the plant and onto the sidewalks of their communities with their shoes.

It did not take long for the dial painters to show signs of radium poisoning. Their teeth fell out, their jawbones fractured, and, shockingly, pieces of mandible came out into their mouths. The wounds that were left when they lost their teeth failed to heal. They developed severe anemia, limps, and sarcomas. Doctors and dentists were befuddled. Slowly, doctors, dentists, and the dial painters derived a conclusion. The paint was poisoning them. USRC's behavior in response to the dial painters' illnesses was unforgivable. Through investigation and litigation, as told in this riveting work of nonfiction, it became clear that USRC knew, early on, that radium was making the dial painters sick. In spite of this, USRC actively worked to hide the danger from their employees. USRC began innocently ignorant of the danger of radium, evolved to willful ignorance, and then quickly to an active and malicious cover-up.

The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore paints the story of USRC's indefensible actions and failure to act on behalf of their employees. Moore shares the personal stories of several of the dial painters and their suffering due to radium poisoning through their letters, diaries, testimonies, and interviews with living relatives. She recounts the extensive legal battles that ensued to compensate the dial painters (and their families) for the suffering and loss of life they experienced because of their exposure to radium.

The book includes enough of the science of radium and radiation so the average reader can understand why radium causes the kinds of damage the dial painters experienced, but it is not primarily a science book. It covers the evidence, trials, and appeal hear-