

Day 2 :: Feb. 2

I've heard again and again from people who have used Immerse that reading this way draws out new insights. As someone who has studied the bible for a long time, and this part of the bible more than most, I was skeptical. But God never ceases to amaze me, and I'm seeing so much I've never thought of before as I read! Like in today's reading, this question arose: did God make the world for humans, or did He make humans for the world?

We read that He created trees with fruit that was delicious, which would not even be relevant if it weren't created for people to eat. So even though it is later that God puts Adam in the garden, He's already created food for him to eat. This seems to argue that the world was created as a place for people to live and get to know God.

On the other hand, God directly says that He has charged humankind with the care of the earth. That pretty directly says that we were created in part as caretakers for God's new creation.

Does it matter? Yes, I think it does. Many live today like the world was created as our own personal property, claiming we have the right to do with it whatever we want. If we want to burn the rain forests, there is no higher obligation than caring for our own stuff. If we want to pollute our oceans, roadways, and fields, that is our right – IF the world was made for our pleasure.

But if we were made, even in part, for tending, caring for, and stewarding this world on which we live, a world created by and belonging to God, then we have a moral obligation to tend it, care for it, and steward it well. If this is the answer, then pollution is negligence on our part. Strip mining, forest burning, and anything else that harms creation is not our right – it is sin, a dereliction of our duty as God's stewards.

While I've thought a lot about what we often call Creation Care (how I drive, bag my groceries, and landscape my yard are all part of my theology of Creation), I have never thought of it in these terms before. Thank you, Immerse. You're bearing fruit in my life already!