

# Religion and the environment

This blog is intended for the discussion of the major different religions of the world and how they contribute to environmental degradation.



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# Introduction

Hello! My name is John Bixler and I am a senior environmental science student at FSU. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience in REL1300 this spring.

When it came time to decide what to do my project on, I decided to do it on something that directly relates back to my major.

My blog is on religion and how it related back to the environment, and I use one main verse (Genesis 1:26) and the foundation for my discussion.

I have placed my 5 blog posts in descending order, and some of the post's have pictures on the following page.

Enjoy!

## Blog post 5

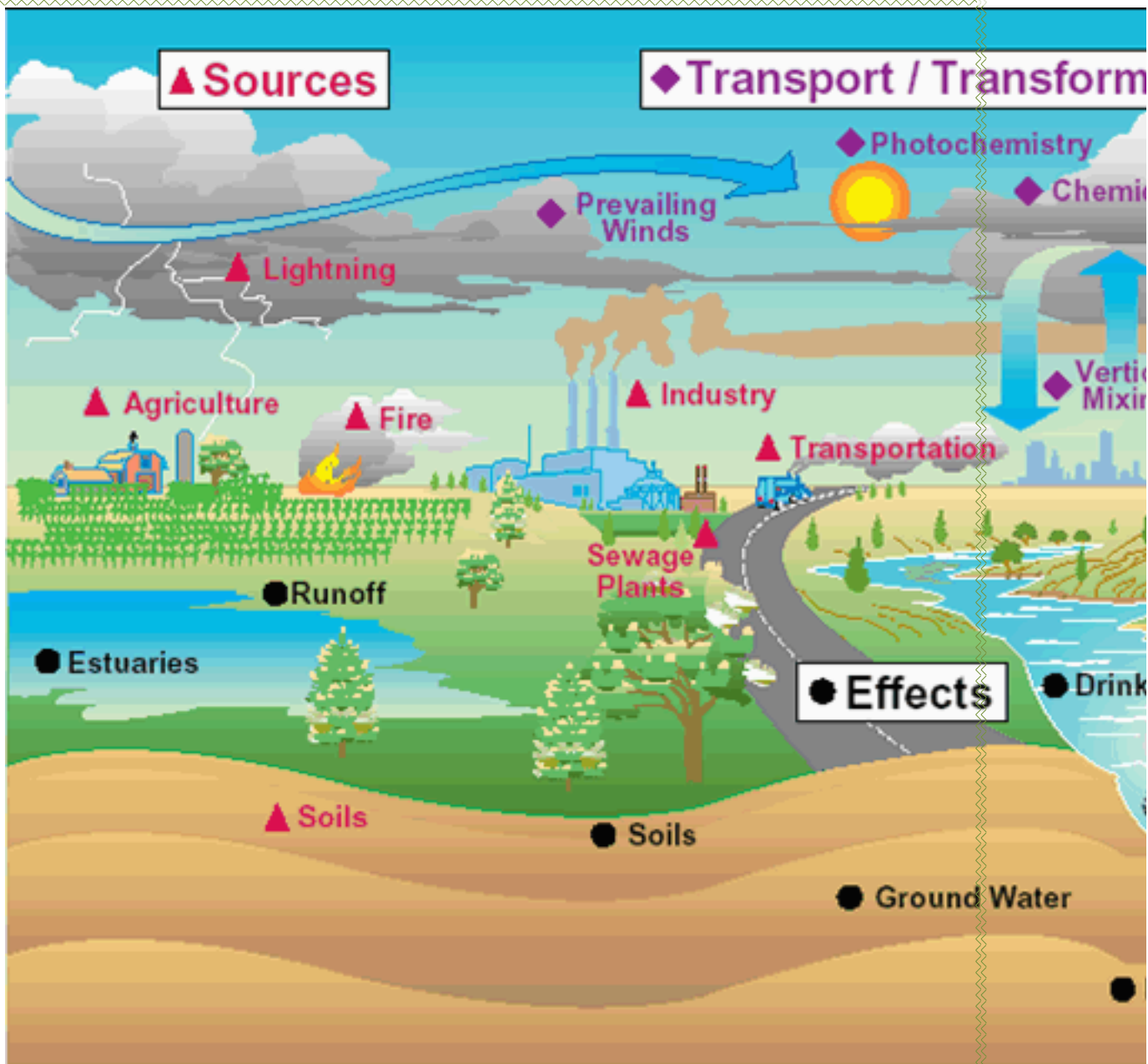
### Everyday interactions

Hi Bloggers!

This will be my final post for my blog, religion and the environment.

I have previously discussed some of the ideology involving Genesis 1:26, domination, dominion, and likeness. My question this week, is with regard to your religion, what have you experienced in your past that you can relate to the environment, in terms of religion? Some things that may come to mind are the views of your church on environmental degradation, and the actual practices you have seen in the every day that affect the environment, and are specific to different religion groups.

Being as I am an Environmental Science student, it is easy for me to come up with ways that mankind affects the environment. For this post, I want you to think outside the box. For example, the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and global warming is agriculture. The chemical process that takes place as the plants grow is what produces the bad gasses. This contributes to over half of the harmful gas emissions. Perhaps, there may be a certain religious group that traditionally consumes one of the more harmful crops at a higher rate than the other? Perhaps, there is one group that you may think of that strictly consumes a certain few crops that are significantly less harmful than that of another? This is just one small example, and once again I would like to emphasize that I would like you to think outside the box here. There are many ways we as humans hurt the environment and my question is what have you seen that has done so.



## Blog post 4

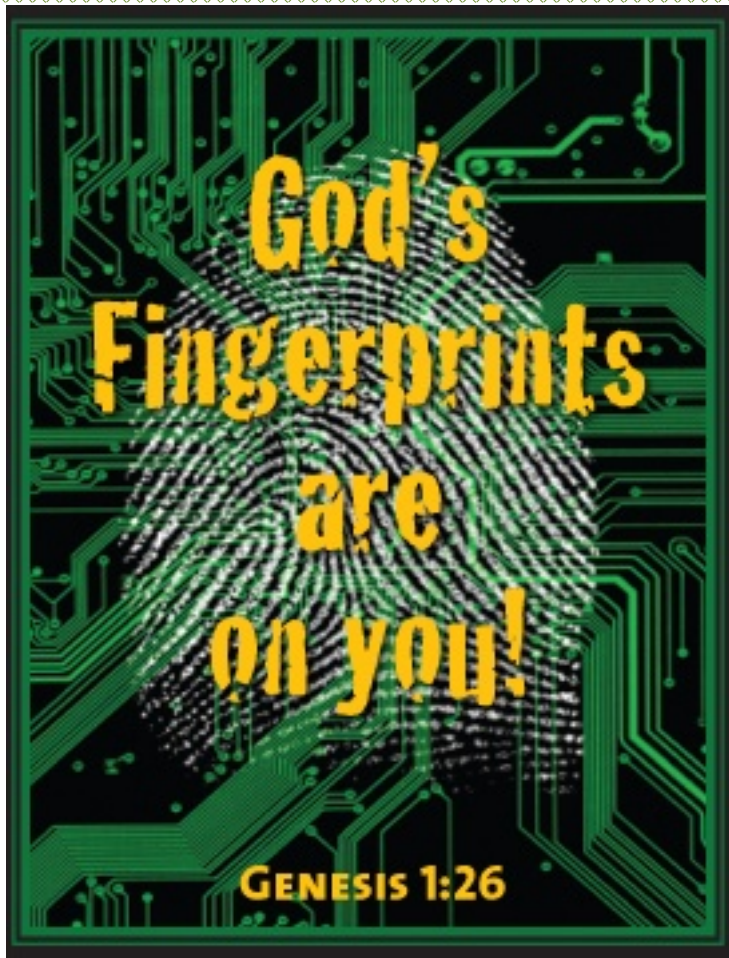
### Likeness and dominion

Hi Bloggers!

On this weeks blog post, I would like to touch down on Likeness. In 1:26, Likeness, it is claimed that man is not only created in the spiritual image of God, but also made in the physical image of God. We consider here that there may be a reason that we have the body and mind that is “best suited for divine fellowship.” Some of the features we share with Gods image that he himself will one day assume are upright posture, upward-gazing countenance, facial expressions varying from emotional feelings, brain and tongue designed for articulate symbolic speech. The reason that all of these traits are significant is because literally none of them are shared by any other animal or living being.

So, when we correlate this post back to the post’s I made previously, we can consider the question between dominion and domination with regard to the fact that we have physical evidence that God has made humans the divine being. We can now factor in that God built us to his “perfect” standards and therefor we must have the intention to dominate for the greater good, because our intervention is essential to the well being of the big picture. Just to clarify, according to the Literature, “man was to care for the earth and its creatures, developing and utilizing earths resources, and not to despoil and deplete from them for selfish pleasure.” My question for this blog post is do you think that since we are a spitting image of what god portrayed as the “devine being,” do you believe we have the right to dominate all living things and earth itself?

<http://www.icr.org/bible/Genesis/1/26-28>



## Blog post 3

### Dominion Vs. Domination

Hi bloggers!

For my 3rd post about Religion and the Environment, I would like to compare and contrast the differences between dominion and domination. We have previously observed the Genesis Verse about mankind holding all authority over earth. In this weeks post I would like to compare and contrast 2 different points of view.

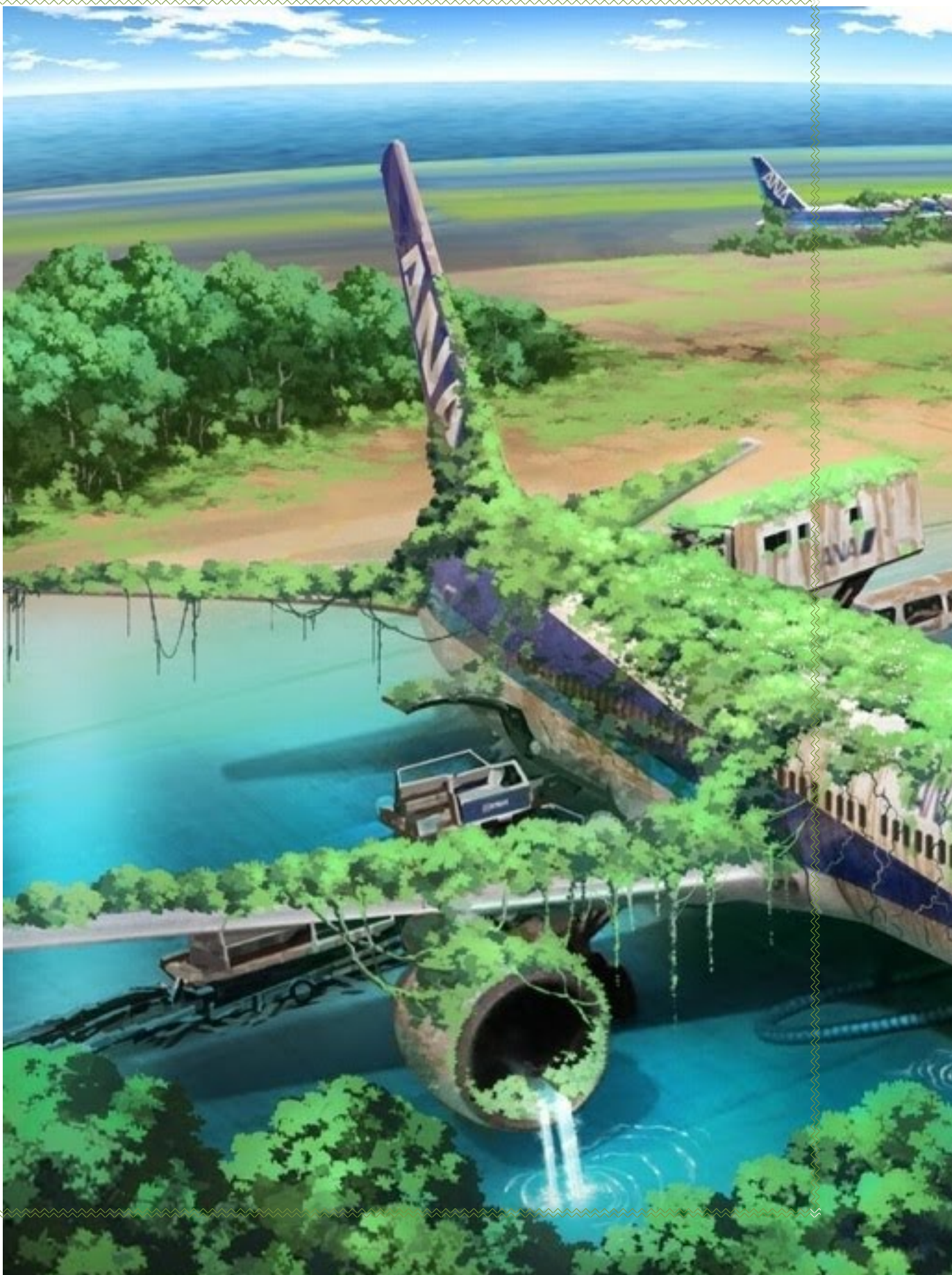
The first is the idea of dominion is to have the right to control or hold authority over something. Dominion does not necessarily mean that control or authority is exerted, whereas Domination is the opposite. Domination is where the authority is used, and control is expressed.

My question for this post is simple. Consistent with the Genesis, Mankind has all authority over earth. Do you as a member of modern society believe that we should exercise this authority? How could you reflect on the past and give an example of how authority of mankind was used and it ended well for the environment? Also, please provide a counter example of how domination and authority was used by man kind and it was ultimately harmful for the environment.

There may be many ways to look at this question, but my primary focus is the environment, and how it is affected by the actions we take. These actions I am referring to are the kind that generally cause harm to the environment in order to benefit mankind. Do you think that innovation and progression as a society is worth harming the environment for? Could you provide an example of how mankind has used its power and hurt the environment in the past?

I have attached a picture called "A world without humans." It is digital art and it shows what the aftermath would look like at an airport if mankind ceased to exist. It is a big eye opener as to the trail we would leave behind and serves as a testament to the aftermath of our "dominance."







## Blog post 2

### Degradation: Church Vs State

Hi Bloggers!

I would like to propose a new idea, and question about Environmental Degradation and how it relates to Religion. Being a college student, who is majoring in Environmental Studies, I have really come to believe that everything we do in our everyday lives is connected in some way, or another, to the environment.

In my initial post, I gave a Bible Verse Genesis 1:26 – a verse claiming Man-kind to be dominant to everything else on earth, and even over Earth itself. My claim is that although I am a Christian and follow Christ, we as a human race must respect our Earth and Preserve it to the Best of our ability. So, I feel that it needs to be priority to observe any behaviors that are bad for the environment for what they actually are, scientifically, and trust our scientific laws when there is evidence that we are hurting the environment. Each Religious group has different ways of life, all of which play a factor in degradation. Some of the main differences in degradation contribution from different groups are Agriculture, waste management, and transportation.

## Blog post 1

### Genesis 1:26

Hello Bloggers!

I would like to open the floor to input on my first blog topic – christianity and the environment. I have attached a bible verse, Genesis 1:26, which basically says that mankind had the right to be dominant of every other living being on earth. With regard to modern day degradation issues, how does everyone feel about this point of view?

#### Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.