

# Table of Contents

Acknowledgments

Introduction

## Book of Genesis

Chapter 1, verse 1: Caring for Creation	3
1:3: Sustainability and Spiritual Awareness	4
1:5: Previous and Current Extinction Events	4
1:9: Water and Dry Land	4
1:11–12: Edible Trees	5
1:22: God Blesses Fish and Birds	5
1:26: On Eating Animals	6
1:28: Will Humans Rule, or Animals?	7
1:29: A Plant-Based Diet for People	8
1:30: Vegan Crocodiles	9
1:31: Creation Was “Very Good”	9
2:5: Praying for Creation	10
2:8: Re-Creating Paradise	10
2:15: The Stewardship Paradigm	11
2:17: Forbidden Fruit and Self Control	13
2:19: Learning from Animals	13
3:6: Holy Eating	14
3:11: All Creations Are Connected	15
3:17: Eating the Forbidden Fruit	16
3:18: Edible Weeds	16
3:19: Connected to the Earth	17
4:9: Taking Responsibility for Others	17
4:13: From Farmer to Refugee	18
6:16: The Ark and Green Building	19



6:18: Population and Restraint	20
6:19: Noah as Earth Steward	21
6:21: Caring for Creatures	23
7:23: Plastic, Fish, and People	23
8:6: Saving the Raven	24
9:13: Rainbows and Responsibility	24
9:20: Floods and Fairtrade	26
11:1–3: Lording over Nature	26
11:4: The Limits of Technology	27
11:6: Diversity Sustains Life	28
12:1: Palace on Fire	30
12:10: Famine in Genesis	30
13:6: Sustainable Coexistence	31
13:10: The Dead Sea Is Dying	32
13:17: Hiking the Land	33
14:10: Stuck in Crude Oil	33
14:22–23: Abraham and Self-Satisfaction	35
15:5: Finding God Outdoors	35
15:13–14: The Cure before the Sickness	36
18:4: Resilience of Trees	37
18:7: Veal Then and Now	37
19:24: Sodom and Acid Rain	38
19:24: Morality and Ecology	39
19:25: Abraham and the Burning Kiln	40
21:33: Sustainable Peace	41
23:4: Sarah and Sustainable Burial	42
23:13: Relationship with Earth	43
23:17–18: Sarah and Trees	44
24:14: Rebecca's Kindness to Camels	45
24:63: Praying in the Fields	46
25:23: Sustainable Luxuries	47
25:27: The Conflict of Jacob and Esau	48
25:28: Love of Meat	49
25:30: Holy Eating	50
25:34: Fast and Slow Food	52



26:12, 15: Isaac and Water Mapping	53
26:20: Water Wars	54
27:6–9: Hunters and Farmers	55
27:28: Doing All We Can	56
28:11: Sleeping Alone in Nature	57
28:13: Connecting with the Earth	58
28:20: Jacob's Simplicity	59
28:21: Jacob as Spiritual Activist	59
31:10–13: Jacob's Spiritual and Material Dreams	60
31:18: Large Herds of Livestock	61
32:24: Small Vessels	62
33:9–11: Being Content with What We Have	64
33:12–14: How Fast We Move	65
33:18: Building Infrastructure	66
37:2: Shepherd Consciousness	68
37:12: Nature and Violence	70
37:14: Nature and Our Work	71
37:25: From Silk Route to Air Freight	72
40:7: Considering Others	73
40:11, 17: Wine and Bread	74
41:1: On the Nile River	76
41:4: The Song of the Land	77
41:8: Foreseeing Future Challenges	79
41:20, 24: Cows and Crops	79
41:41: Feeding All the People	80
41:48: Local Food	81
41:50: Joseph and Family Planning	81
43:11: Song of the Trees	82
45:6: To Plow or Not to Plow	83
45:20: Jacob, Pharaoh, and Reuse	84
46:32–34; 47:1: Shepherds and Farmers	85
47:17: Replacing Animals with Plants	86
47:18: Joseph's Foresight and Restraint	87
47:19: Let Us Not Perish	88
49:4: The Miracle of Water	89



49:9: Lions as Sustainable Predators	90
49:11: Holy Food	90
49:17: Snakes and Seeds	93
49:19: Tribes and Local Trade	93
49:24–25: God the Shepherd	94
49:27: The Blessing of Wolves	94

### Book of Exodus

1:7–9: Soaring Population	99
1:11: Ecological Liberation	100
2:3: Bitumen: Biblical and Modern	101
2:16: Precious Groundwater	101
3:1: Shepherds Become National Leaders	102
3:2: Renewable Divine Fire	103
3:2: Holy Land	104
4:3–9: Water, Staff, Snake, and Leprosy	104
6:6: Hard Labor and Work's Yoke	106
7:5: The Plagues and Nature	106
7:17: Gratitude to Nature	107
7:18: Waking Up in Time	108
7:27: Frogs – Earth's Early Warning System	109
8:2: Frogs, Pests, and Song	110
8:7: Species on the Move	111
8:23: Praying Outdoors	111
9:8: Soot, Sky, and Skin	112
9:14: The Earth Is the Lord's	112
9:17: Arrogance and Humility	114
9:27: Admitting Guilt before It's Too Late	115
9:29: Nature and Civilization	115
9:31–32: Crop Diversity	116
10:3: Poverty and Pollution	117
10:4–5: Locust Swarms Then and Now	118
10:7: Taking Good Advice	118
12:2: Taking Notice in Our Time	119
12:2: Appreciating Nature's Beauty	120
12:15: Change for a Week	121



12:37: The Issue of Our Generation	122
14:21: Splitting the Sea and Storm Surge	123
14:31: Wonders of Creation	124
15:22: Appreciating Water	125
15:25: Making Bitter Waters Sweet	126
15:27: Palm Trees and Solar Energy	128
16:12: Eating Flesh	129
16:18: Manna and Portion Size	130
16:19: Manna and Food Security	130
16:21: Manna and Food Waste	131
16:26: Feeding the Birds	132
16:31: Raw vs. Ultra-Processed Foods	133
17:1: Camping and Family Strength	133
18:21: Corruption and Conservation	135
18:22: Local Decision-Making	135
19:2: New Beginnings in the Desert	136
20:13: Spiritual Eating	137
20:14: Love of God and Material Desire	138
20:20: Prioritizing What's Most Important	140
21:24–25: Valuing Eyes, and Nature	141
21:28: An Animal Bill of Rights	142
21:33: Respecting Public Space	142
22:4: Shepherds and Farmers in Conflict	143
22:24: Swapping Debts for Nature	143
22:28–29: The Soul of an Animal	144
22:30: Forbidden Milk	145
23:4–5: Helping Animals in Distress	145
23:12: A Sabbath for Animals	146
24:7: The Tragedy of the Commons	147
25:3: A Holy Balance	149
25:4: God in Nature	149
25:5: The Narwhal and the Tabernacle	150
25:10: Sustainable Forestry for the Tabernacle	150
25:11: Humble Inside	152
27:20: The 2,000-Year-Old Olive Tree	153



28:15: Nature as Our Judge	153
28:22: All That Is Gold Does Not Glitter	155
28:31: Nature's Power to Inspire	157
29:29: Sustainable Clothing	158
30:12: Wealth – for What Purpose?	160
32:14: Striving to Do Better	161
32:32: The Matter Depends on Me	162
33:3: Grazing and Sustainability	163
33:7: Sleeping Close to Nature	164
34:3: Leadership and Tough Love	165
34:7: Legacies That Last Generations	165
35:2: The Sabbath and Ecology	166
35:3: The Fire Inside	168
35:22–24: Loving Is Giving	169
35:25: Working with Our Hands	169
37:17–21: The Centrality of Creation	170
38:8: Copper and Coronavirus	171
38:21: God Is in the Details	173
38:21: Ecological Audits	175
39:43: Everything Has Its Place	175
Biographical Details	177
Glossary	183
Notes	185
Index	223
About the Co-editors and Lead Contributors	231