

Just Creation: Shalom for our Common Home

William P. Brown, PhD,

April 9 and 10, 2021, on Zoom



On April 9 and 10, 2021, **William P. Brown, PhD**, presented two virtual lectures entitled ***Just Creation: Shalom for our Common Home***. These lectures were co-sponsored by **Earthkeepers of Heartland Presbytery**, the **Environmental Action Committee of Village Church**, and the **Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition of KC**.

Below are links to the recordings of both lectures:

Lecture 1: <https://youtu.be/jh1keNvicgE>

Lecture 2: <https://youtu.be/qUz6otq2HSU>

During Lecture 1, when Dr. Brown introduced himself wearing a bow tie, he described himself as “**Bill Brown the Bible Guy**,” similar to but different than “**Bill Nye the Science Guy**.”

Nye’s quote: “**I didn't mind explaining photosynthesis to you when you were 12, but you're adults now. This is an actual crisis—got it? By the end of this century, if temperatures keep rising, the average temperature on Earth could go up another 4 to 8 degrees. What I'm saying is, the planet's on #@!& fire!**”

Brown’s quote: “**I didn’t mind teaching you about the Trinity in Sunday School when you were in Confirmation class, but you are adults now. This is an actual crisis! The world is burning up from rising greenhouse gases AND unrelenting racism, from exercising supremacy over communities of color and the larger biotic community, beginning with the land. God is coming to establish justice FOR the earth!**”

Dr. Brown focused on ways that Creation and Justice intersect and intertwine in the Old Testament. To explain Creation Care as an extension of Social justice, he used the terms **Shalom Justice** and **Creation Justice**.



When he discussed humans being created in God’s image, instead of reflecting light like a mirror, he suggested humans refract God’s light like a prism, projecting the many colors of the rainbow.

During Lecture 2, Dr. Brown lamented the 6th mass extinction of species. He showed a quote by James Cone (the Father of Black Liberation Theology), who said “**The fight for justice cannot be segregated but must be integrated with the fight for life in all its forms.**” He showed a slide depicting 6 charismatic megafaunas—endangered and destined for extinction by 2050.

To address the God-given freedom of creatures to flourish, he played a video of the hymn ***All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir*** sung by The Kings Barbers:

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hclsgoGuXLg>

Lyrics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SuoRhZxhQQ>

Copies of Dr. Brown’s PowerPoint slides are available upon request.

Keep the Faith & the Earth,
Jerry Rees

