Check List

A scorecard on how creation is faring in the Age of Humans By David Radcliff

[Reader at center; responder off to the side with clipboard.]

<u>Reader</u> In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night.

And God said, 'Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning.

[second person (Responder) moves toward reader]

<u>Reader</u> And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

<u>Responder</u> Sea levels: rising. Check. Soils: eroding faster than being replaced. Check. Streams and oceans: polluted by plastics, petroleum, and farm run-off. Check.

<u>Reader</u> (annoyed, but proceeds) Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

<u>Responder</u> Tropical forests: half gone. Check. Climate change: destroying millions of acres of trees each year. Check. Invasive species—like kudzu—on the march. Check.

Reader Excuse me—but do you mind telling just what you're doing??

<u>Responder</u> Oh—just taking an inventory of how well we're managing what God put here.

Reader I must say it's a bit bothersome.

Responder | I agree—we're making quite a mess of everything.

Reader Whatever—could we just focus on the Bible for a moment?

Responder I'm all for it.

<u>Reader</u> And God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.' So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. God saw that it was good.

I suppose you have something to say?

<u>Responder</u> As a matter of fact... (rapidly) Songbird populations down 80-90 percent. Check. Oceans so acidic from excess CO2 that shellfish can't form shells (that's gotta be embarrassing). Check. Elephants, rhinos, tigers, orangutans—disappearing fast. Check.

<u>Reader</u> Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind, in the image of God they were created, male and female.

So, what about this one?

Responder Human population: 7 billion and counting. Continued growth predicted. Check.

Reader Finally—a success story!

<u>Responder</u> I suppose...unless you're one of those other creatures...

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