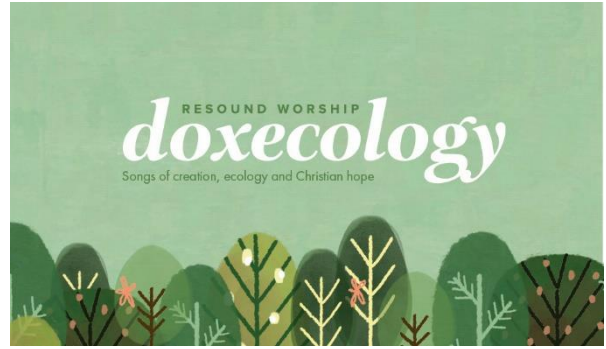


Creationtide 2023

DOXECOLOGY 2: The Cry of Creation



Read Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel is a prophet who warns about the impending incursions of the Babylonians, and that Israel will be carried away into exile. He takes his message to the streets with acts of guerrilla theatre. His message is not a happy one. And though the immediate threat is the Babylonians, the doom that Ezekiel foretells is often ecological.

- Look back at Ezekiel 20:47, 26:19. How does Ezekiel see the connections between destruction coming to people and that coming to the earth?
- Why does God ask Ezekiel if the bones can live? And what do you make of Ezekiel's answer?
- God could speak over the bones, but he gets Ezekiel to do it. Why might that be?
- What aspects of the environmental crisis most concerns you? To take one example, how do you think God feels about us dropping litter all over his world? What effects does the way we manage our waste have on others (people, habitats and animals)?
- What ecological sins do we need confess, and what 'broken ways' do we need to turn from as we repent?
- Despite the message of doom, there is hope in Ezekiel. How can we bring resurrection to the environment? What practical actions could you take in the coming week?

Respond with prayer.

End by listening to the song opposite, available on the [Resound Worship](https://www.resoundworship.com/) website.

If the fields are parched
and the trees are felled
will the rocks cry aloud on their own?
If the birds are starved
and the beasts are killed
will the bones in the dust lift a song?

*Have mercy, Lord,
have mercy, Lord.
Forgive our broken ways.
Have mercy, Lord,
have mercy, Lord.
Renew the world you made*

As the oceans rise
and the wells run dry
do we care if disaster is near?
If our children starve
will they cry to God?
Will they curse us for closing our ears?

Still a day will come
when the Lord returns
and the earth will be perfect again
No more greed or war,
no more tooth and claw,
for the wolf and the lamb will be friends.

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Further reading:

[IPCC Synthesis Report 2023](#) – link includes headline statements and a presentation.

Hannah Malcolm (ed) *Words for a Dying World: Stories of Grief and Courage from the Global Church*, SCM, 2020