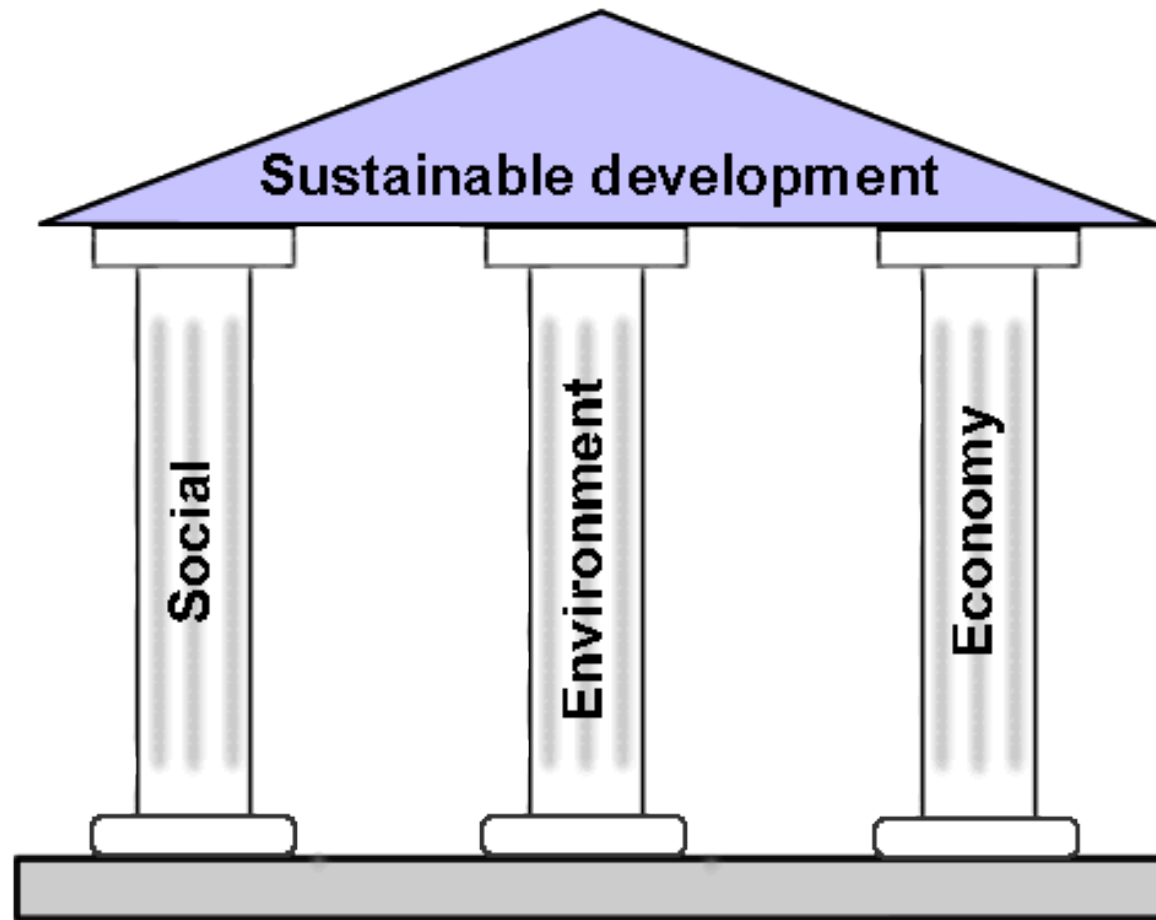


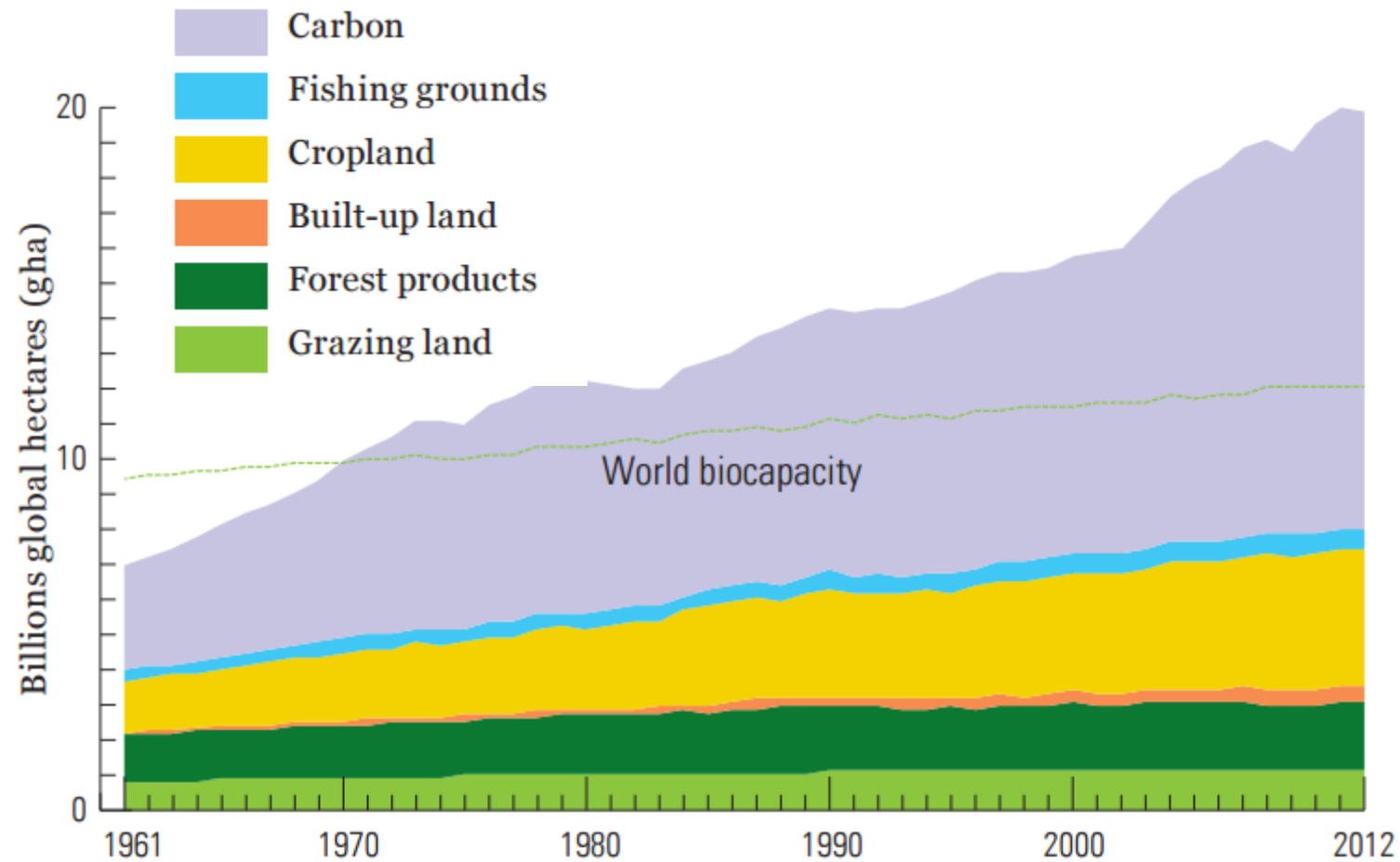
# **The Big Picture**

**God's mission from  
beginning to end**

# Broken home: unsustainable world



# Broken home: economic instability

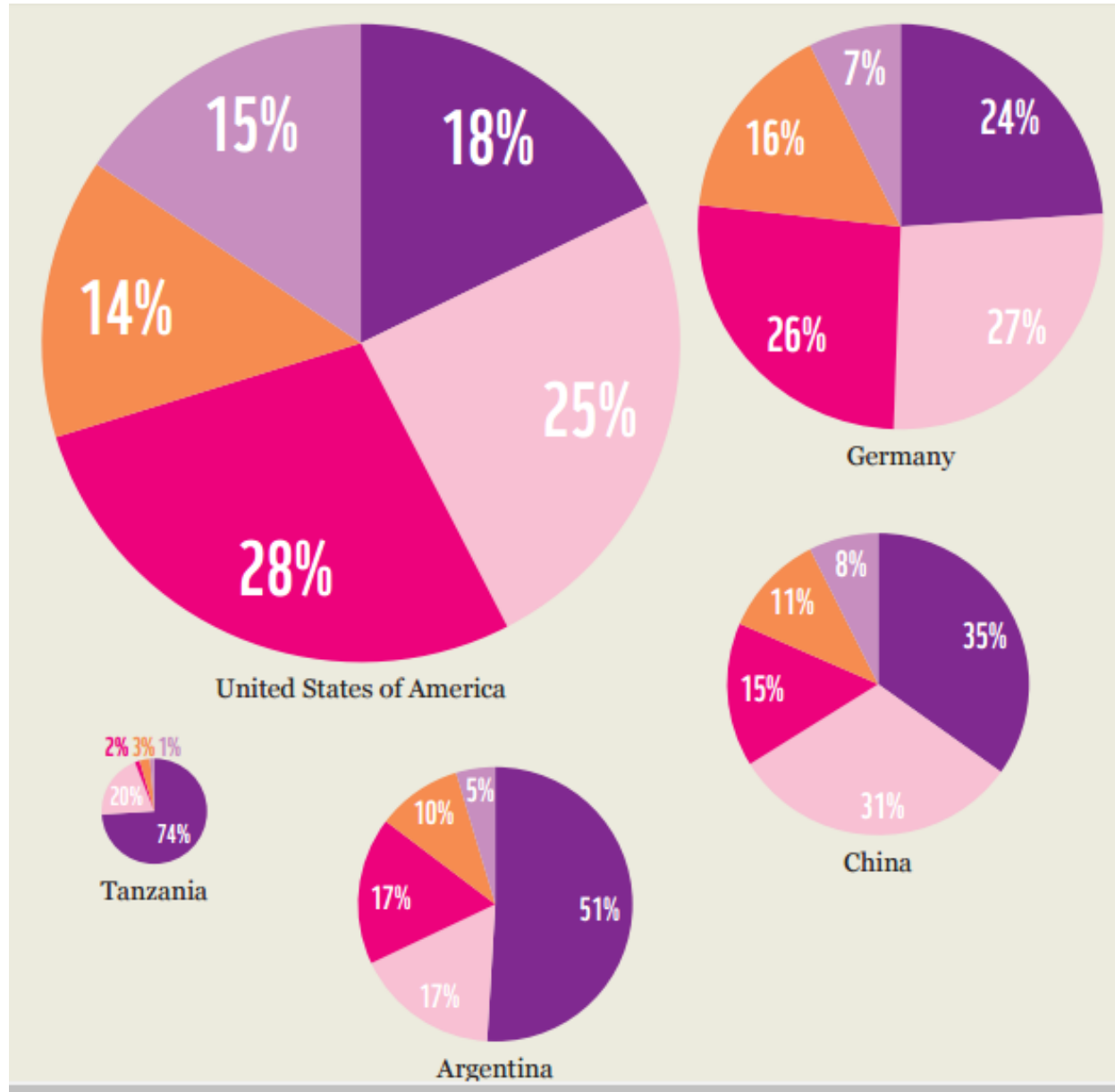


# Broken home: economic instability

“Our enormously productive economy demands that we make consumption our way of life, that we convert the buying and use of goods into rituals, that we seek our spiritual satisfaction, our ego satisfaction, in consumption – we need things consumed, burned up and discarded at an ever increasing rate.”

Victor Lebow (Retailing Analyst 1955 )

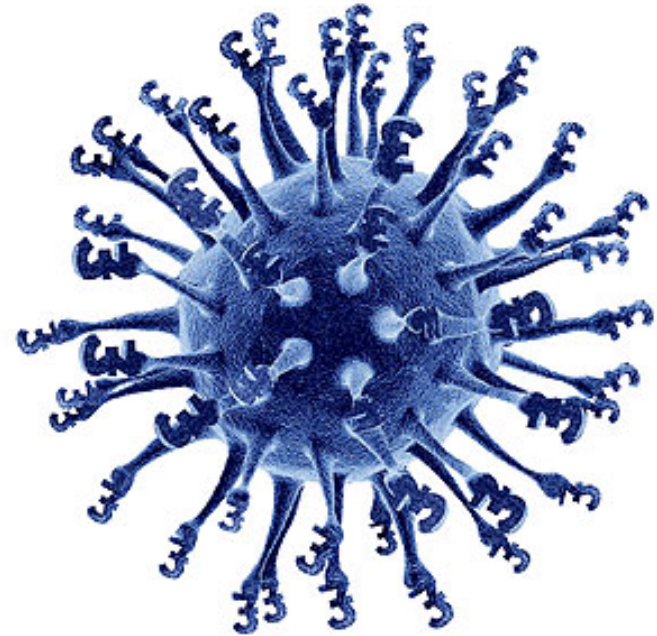
# Broken home: uneven consumption



# Broken home: social dysfunction

"Standard of living has increased dramatically and happiness has increased not at all, and in some cases has diminished slightly ... There is a lot of evidence that being richer... isn't making us happier"

Professor Daniel Kahneman  
University of Princeton



The 'affluenza virus'

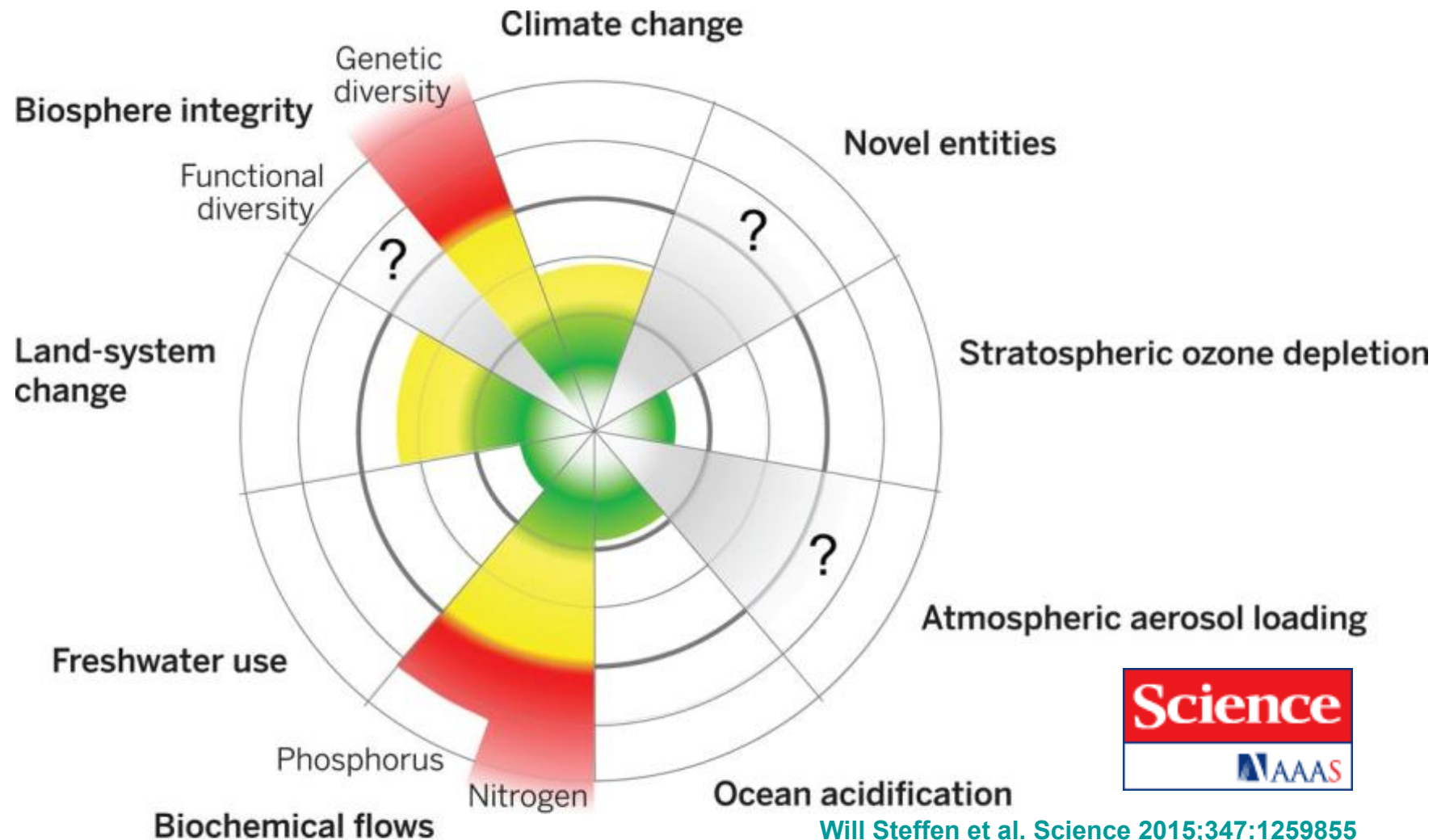


# Broken home: social inequality

world's richest 20% consume 16x poorest 20%



# Broken home: planetary boundaries

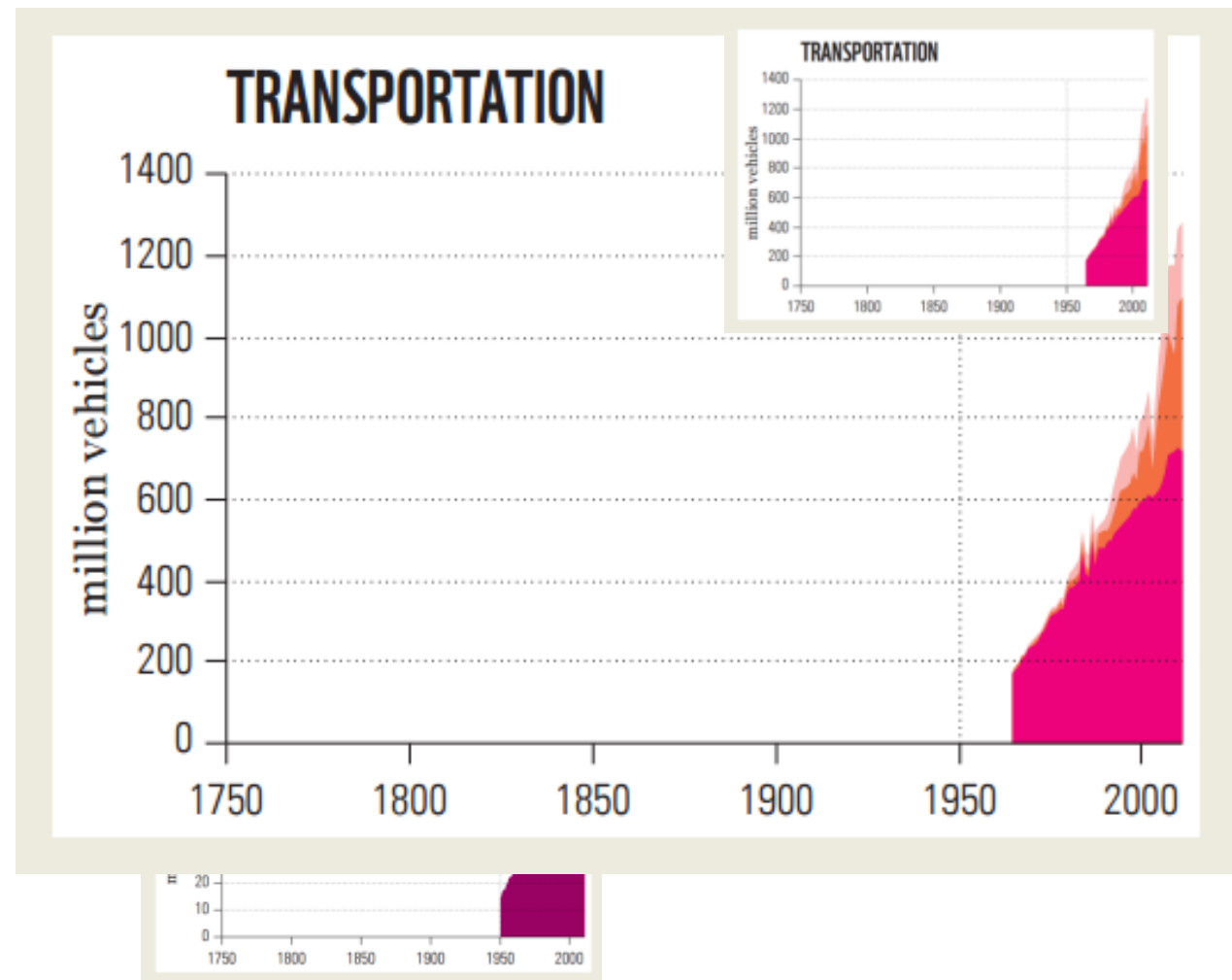
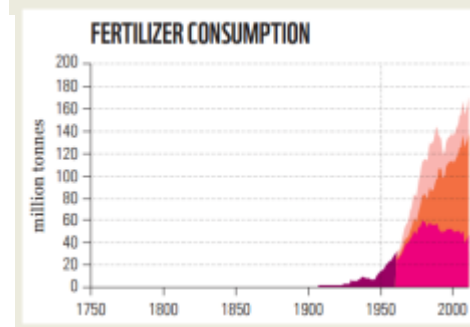
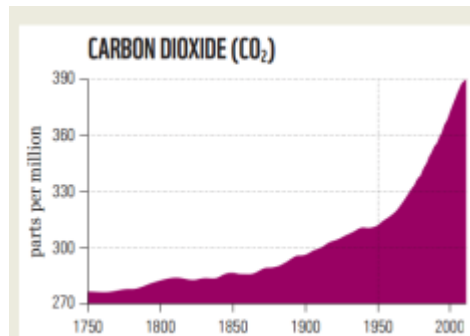
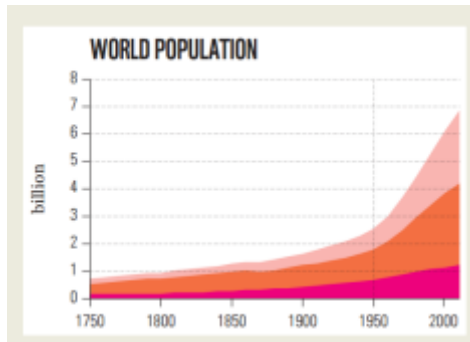


■ Beyond zone of uncertainty (high risk)  
■ In zone of uncertainty (increasing risk)

■ Below boundary (safe)  
■ Boundary not yet quantified

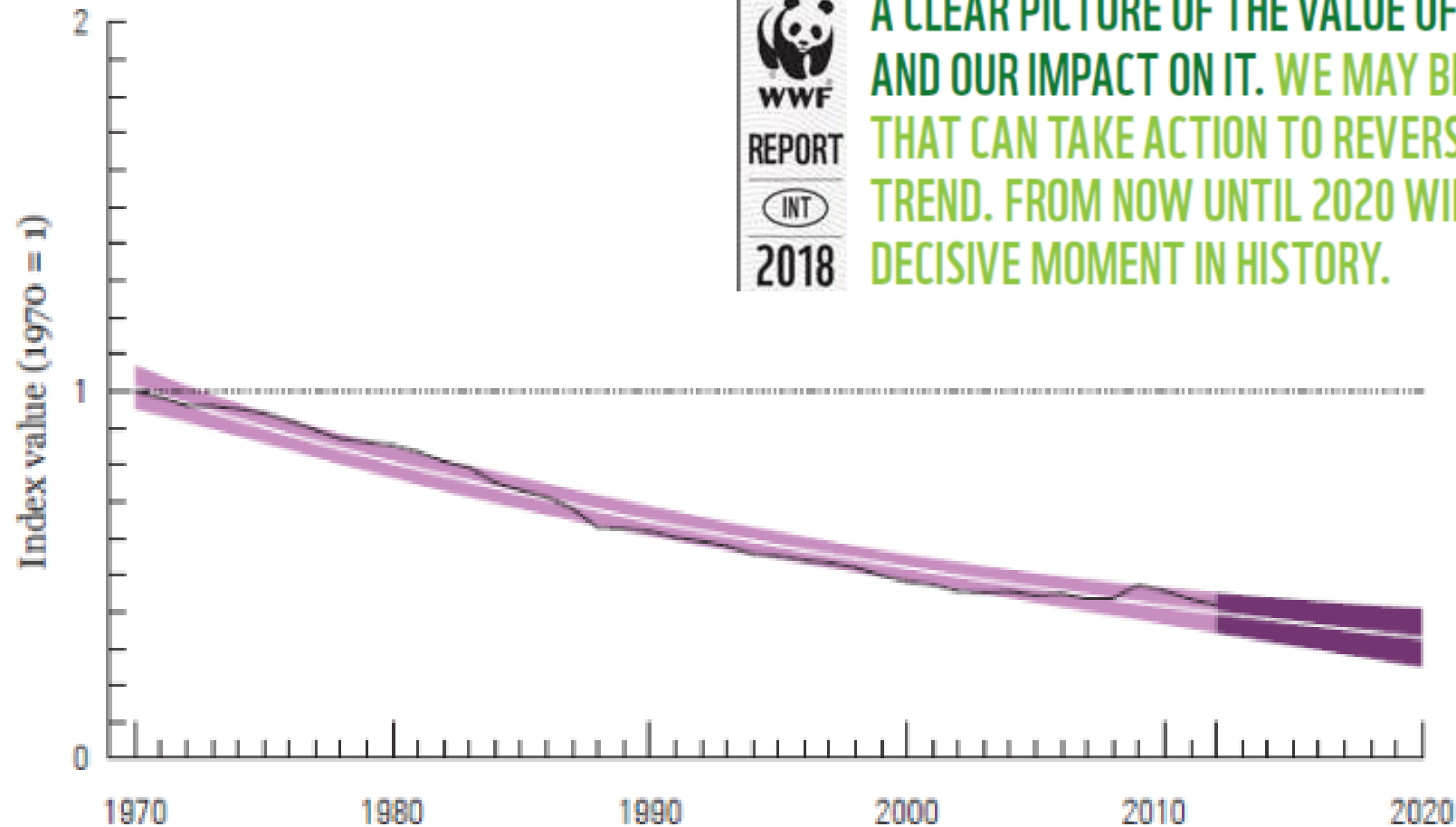


# Broken home: exponential impact





# Biodiversity loss



WE ARE THE FIRST GENERATION THAT HAS  
A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE VALUE OF NATURE  
AND OUR IMPACT ON IT. WE MAY BE THE LAST  
THAT CAN TAKE ACTION TO REVERSE THIS  
TREND. FROM NOW UNTIL 2020 WILL BE A  
DECISIVE MOMENT IN HISTORY.

60% decline in wildlife populations 1970-2016  
67% decline projected by 2020

# One in four species are at risk of extinction

Species assessed by the IUCN Red List



Amphibians

**40%**



Conifers

**34%**



Reef corals

**33%**



Sharks and rays

**31%**



Selected crustaceans\*

**27%**



Mammals

**25%**



Birds

**14%**

\*Assessed species include lobsters, freshwater crabs, freshwater crayfishes and freshwater shrimps

Source: IUCN Red List of Threatened Species

BBC



Should  
we care?



# Christians & the Environment



Insidious? (New Age / Gaia)

Irrelevant? (only souls matter)

Incidental? (a hobby for some)

Integral? (essential to the Gospel)



# The Bible from beginning to end



Creation



Fall



Israel



Jesus



New Creation

# Act 1 : A Blessed Creation



# 1.A Blessed Creation



✓ Father, Son and Spirit all co-Creators

“Through him all things were made”

John 1.3

✓ God sees creation as very good

“God saw that it was good” Genesis 1

✓ Matter reveals God ... but is not God!

“through what has been made”

Romans 1.20

✓ The earth is God’s, not ours!

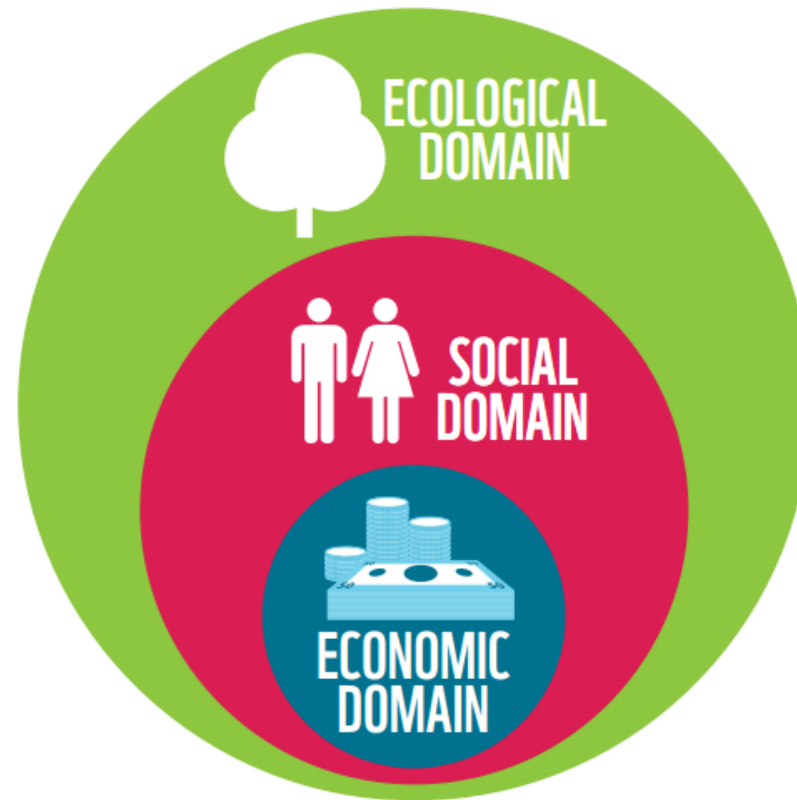
“The earth is the Lord’s” Psalm 24.1-2

# 1.A Blessed Creation

Finding our place within creation's community

Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:15

Psalms 104:10-31; Job 38:25-30 & 39:1-30

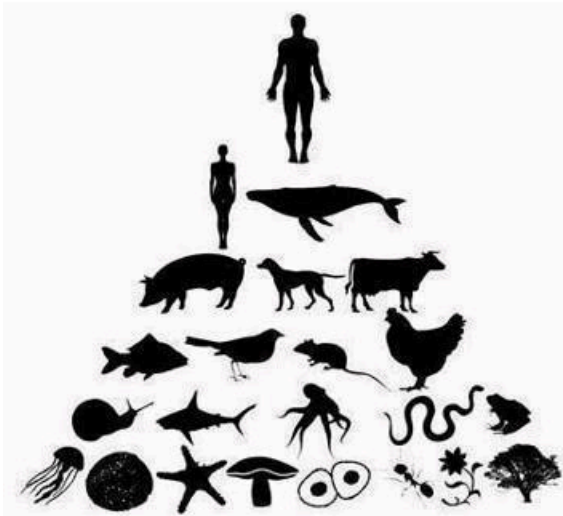




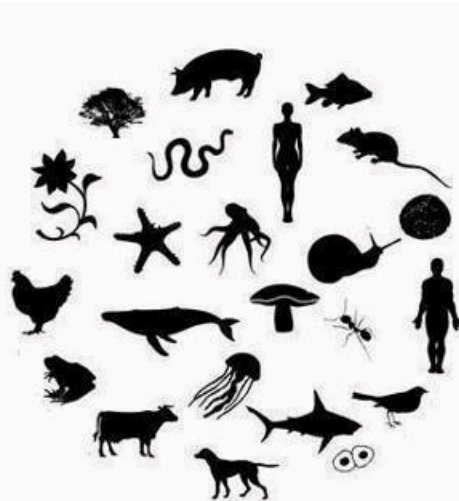
# 1.A Blessed Creation

It's God's world, not ours!

EGO



ECO



THEO





# Act 2 : A Fallen World





## 2. A Fallen World



✓ Broken relationships, between God, humanity and creation

“Cursed is the ground because of you”

Genesis 3.17

✓ The environmental results of sin

The land ‘suffers’ (Jer. 12.4),

‘mourns’ (Hosea 4.1-3), ‘vomits’ (Lev.

18.25-28)

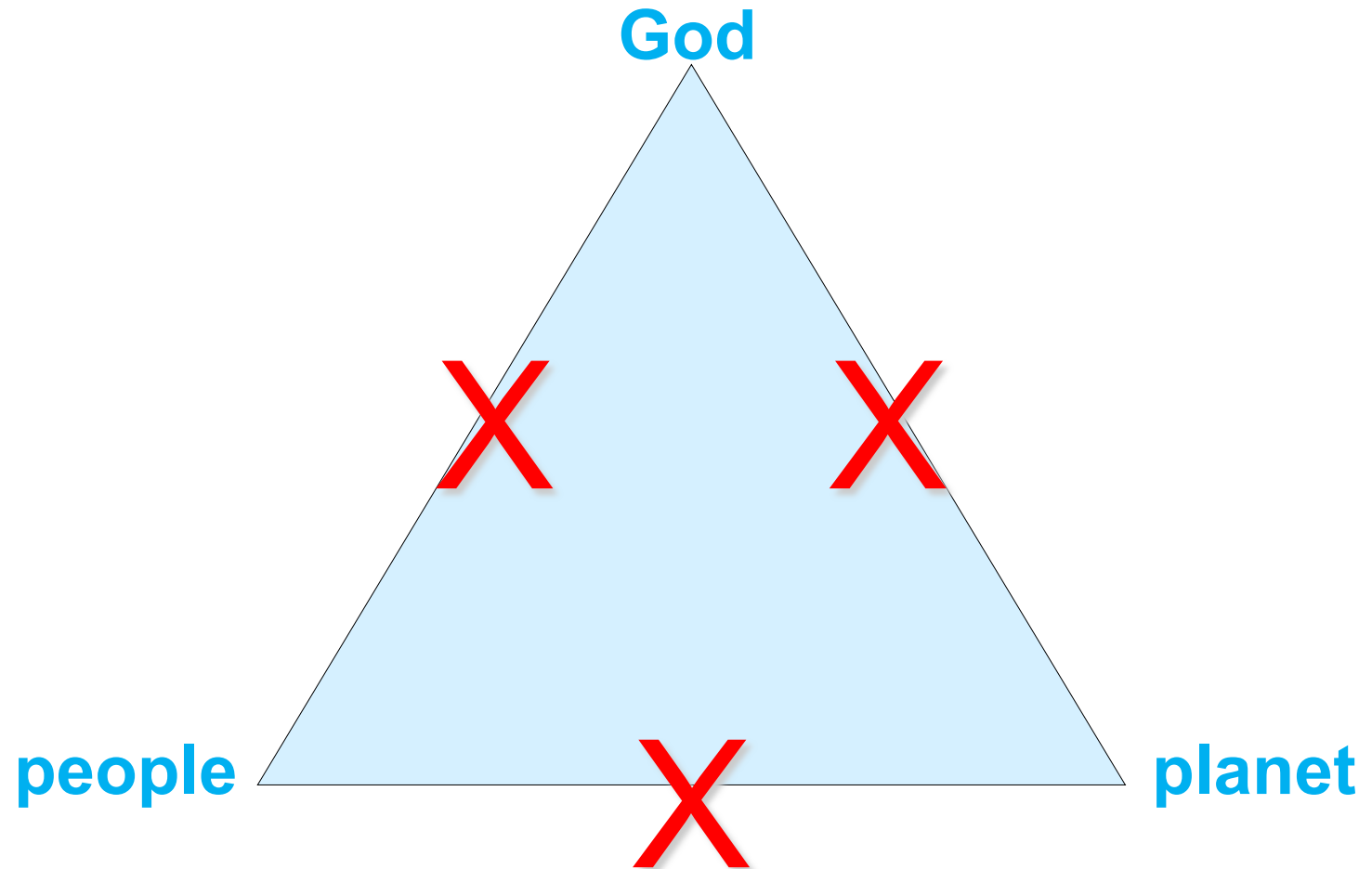
✓ God’s judgement on ecological sin

“The time has come for destroying those who destroy the earth.” Revelation 11.18

✓ Hope beyond judgment

God’s covenant with creation: Genesis 9

## 2. A Fallen World: broken relationships



## 2. A Fallen World: judgment and hope



- “to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth”  
Genesis 7.3
- “My covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind.”  
9.15



# Act 3 : Israel - the Land of Promise



### 3. The Land of Promise



- ✓ God continues to sustain all things  
“All things look to you to give them their food at the proper time” Psalm 104.27
- ✓ Israel: called apart to model God’s purposes in the land of promise  
Leviticus 25; Deuteronomy 22.6; 1 Kings 21; Sabbath; Jubilee
- ✓ The land as a spiritual barometer  
“I will heal your land” 2 Chronicles 7.14
- ✓ The importance of putting down roots  
Jeremiah 29.4-7



### 3. The Land of Promise: earth as home





# Act 4 : Jesus Saviour of the World



# 4. Jesus Saviour of the World

Colossians 1.15-20

- **The Source of Creation**

v.16 “By him all things were created.”

- **The Sustainer of Creation**

v.17 “In him all things hold together.”

- **The Saviour of Creation**

v.20 He is the one through whom God is pleased  
“to reconcile to himself all things, whether things  
on earth or things in heaven, by making peace  
through his blood shed on the cross.”

## 4. Jesus Saviour of the World



- ✓ His birth

“Peace on earth” Luke 2.14

- ✓ His life

“He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters” Luke 8.22-25

- ✓ His death

“all things” reconciled to God through the cross” Colossians 1.19-20

- ✓ His resurrection

The first-fruits of a new creation

- ✓ His future glory

“all things in heaven and earth under one head, even Christ” Eph. 1.9-10



# Act 5 : New Creation



## 5. New Creation: hope beyond judgment



- **Hosea 2:18-23** “a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, the birds in the sky and the creatures that move along the ground.”
- **Isaiah 11:6-9** “for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea”
- **Isaiah 65:17-25** “wolf and lamb ... lion and ox ... they will neither harm nor destroy ...”

## 5. New Creation: hope beyond judgment

- Fire & destruction? (2 Peter 3)
  - refiner's fire (Malachi 3.2)
  - Noah – creation cleansed
  - discontinuity and continuity
  - stoichea* = elemental forces
  - heurethēsetai* = laid bare
- A new heaven & new earth?
  - 'neos' and 'kainos'
  - radical renewal after judgment





## 5. New Creation: hope beyond judgment

“Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything ...” [Acts 3:21](#)

“He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’”  
[Revelation 21:5](#)

“the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”  
[Romans 8:21](#)



## 5. New Creation: hope beyond judgment

“God will redeem the whole universe; Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of that new life, the fresh grass growing through the concrete of corruption and decay in the old world.”

Rt. Rev. Tom Wright

“Surprised by Hope” p.134



# How big is your Jesus?

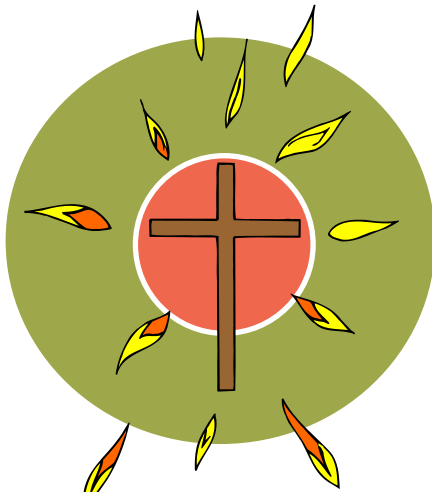
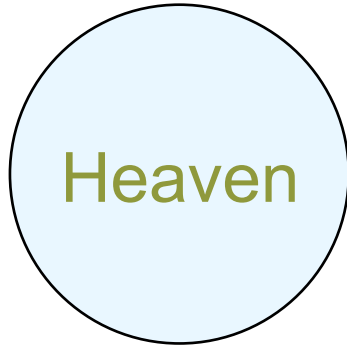


My Jesus,  
my Saviour

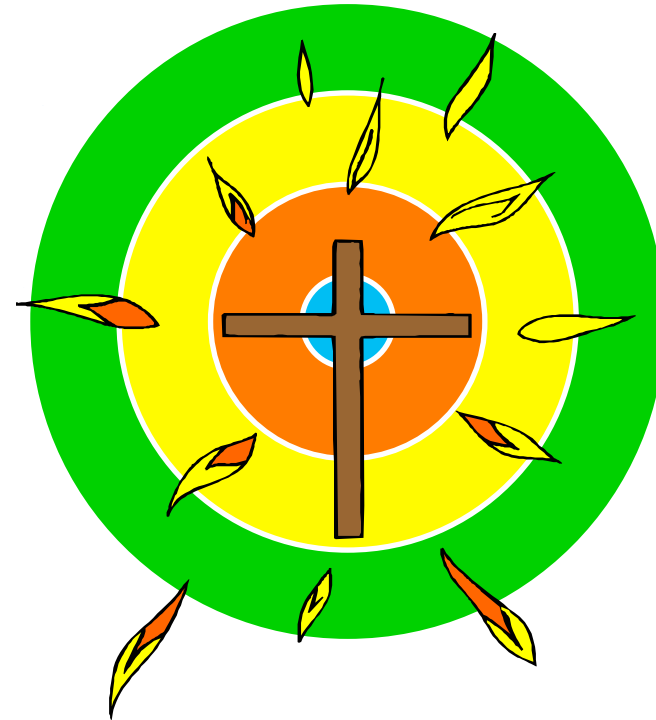


He's got the whole  
world in His hands

# How big is your Jesus?



**Dualist Gospel**

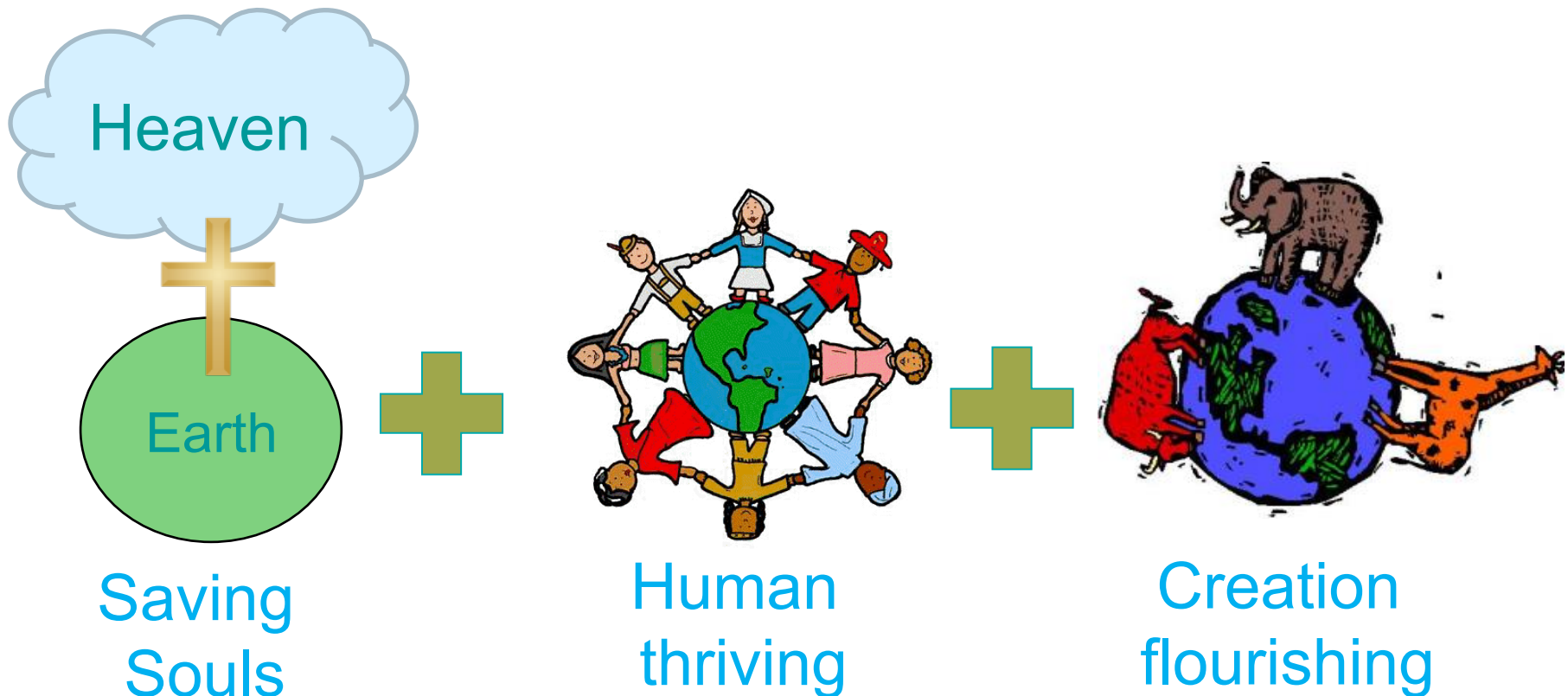


**Kingdom Gospel**



# How big is your Jesus?

Our Mission must reflect Jesus' Mission













A Rocha is an international Christian conservation organization, inspired by God's love.





# creationcare



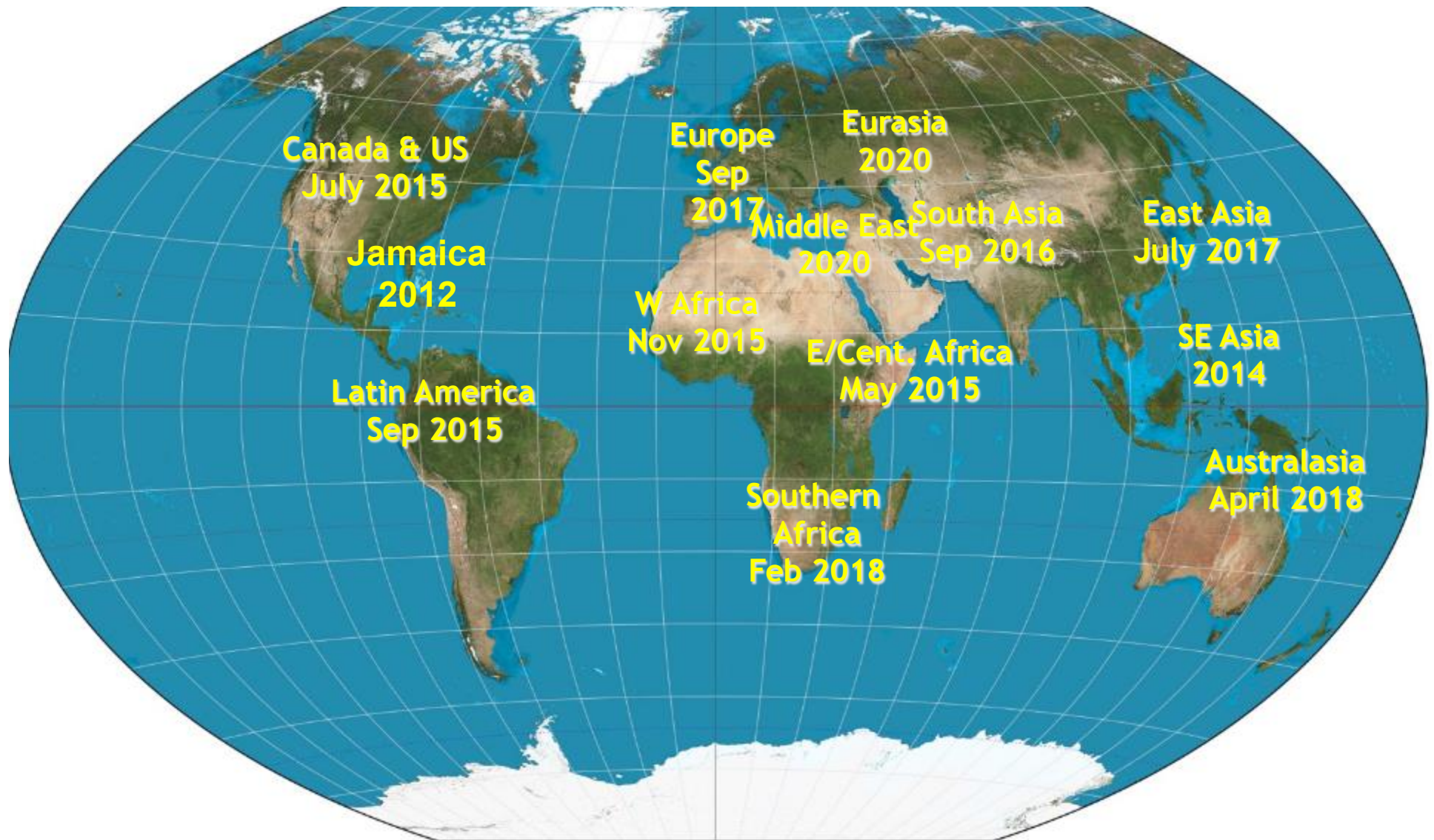
**renew  
our  
world**  
CAMPAIGN



**SEASON OF  
CREATION**

**ECO**  **CHURCH**  
AN A ROCHA UK PROJECT

# Lausanne/WEA Creation Care Network





A pair of hands is shown holding a small, realistic globe of the Earth. The hands are positioned at the bottom and sides of the globe, with fingers gently gripping it. The globe shows the Americas, with green landmasses and blue oceans, and is set against a dark, starry background. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, yellow font.

**A vision for God's kingdom  
on earth as in heaven**

**The earth will be filled with the  
knowledge of the glory of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.  
Habakkuk 2:14**