

March 1, 2020

Because of Sin

Genesis 3:8-24

A recent study at the University of Arizona claims the world may lose one third “of all its plant and animal species” in 50 years. Researchers “analyzed 538 plant and animal species from around the world. . . . The researchers expect that the animals likely to face the worst rates of extinction are those that live in the tropics.” Cristian Román-Palacios, one of the researchers, said, “This is a big problem, because the majority of plant and animal species occur in the tropics.” The study’s conclusion reads: “The response of species to climate change is of increasingly urgent importance.”

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Centers for Environmental Information, January 2020 “was the hottest January in the 141 years of climate record-keeping history.” Researcher John J. Wiens said, “If humans cause larger temperature increases, we could lose more than a third of even half of all animal and plant species, based on our results.”¹

The student book author writes, “Because of their sin . . . the humans ‘saw clearly’ (verse 7). They had a deeper comprehension of the world around them.”² According to Genesis, the sin of eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil opened the humans’ eyes. For the first time, they could comprehend nakedness and felt shame and fear in front of God. They comprehended what they had done, and they saw the world differently.

Whether or not you agree with the idea of climate change, everyone can understand an individual human being’s impact upon the world around them, from pollution to planting more trees. Ecosystems teach us the relationship between all living things. For example, humans breathe out carbon dioxide, which plants take in, and plants emit oxygen, which humans depend on. All living creatures in our world depend on humankind’s deeper comprehension of the world around them.

Adult Bible Studies **Current Events Supplement**

1. Describe a time when you gained a deeper comprehension of the world around you.
2. How does devastation of any type in one part of the world affect the rest of the world?
3. How can your local faith community have a positive impact on the relationship between all living creatures in our world?

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¹From "Climate Change May Eradicate ⅓ of Animal and Plant Species in 50 Years, Study Suggests," by Li Cohen, CBS News ([cbsnews.com/news/climate-change-may-eradicate-one-third-of-animal-and-plant-species-in-50-years/](https://www.cbsnews.com/news/climate-change-may-eradicate-one-third-of-animal-and-plant-species-in-50-years/)).

²From *Adult Bible Studies*, Spring 2020, by Randy Cross (Cokesbury, 2019); page 11.