

Ten Different Portraits of Creation in Scripture *and Our Human Roles*

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Portrait #1 Creation as God's Good and Ordered Place - Genesis 1 and Psalm 8

Humans are the royal images of the divine creator called to have dominion as God would rule – a challenge to rule justly.

Portrait #2 Creation as God's Garden and Temple – Genesis 2 and Psalm 24

Humans are those called “to serve (till) and to keep” God's garden.

Portrait #3 Creation as a Reflection of God's Wise Design – Proverbs 8

Humans are those called to use reason and the power of observation to seek answers to our problems. Humans are those who seek to live our lives in accordance with the cosmic wisdom of God by which God ordered the universe.

Portrait #4 Creation as God's Intricate Web – Psalm 104 and Job 38-41

Humans are just one creature among many, one part of God's vast family.

Portrait #5 Creation as Sign of God's Victory over Chaos – Psalm 74

Humans are those who believe in the promise, despite all evidence to the contrary.

Portrait #6 Creation as an Instrument of God's Judgment – Genesis 6-9; Exodus 14; Amos 4:13; 5:8-11; 9:5-7

Humans are those who take heed to God's judgment and act on the warning.

Portrait #7 Creation as God's Witness to Human Injustice – Deuteronomy 30:19-20; Jeremiah 4:23-28

Humans are those who hear the cries of creation as a witness to our sins, calling us to active repentance.

Portrait #8 Creation as God's Covenantal Seal and Promise – Genesis 8:21-22; Hosea 2; Jeremiah 31:35-36; Revelation 21:1; Isaiah 11:6-9; Ezekiel 47

Humans are prisoners of hope.

Portrait #9 Creation as Singer of Lament – Romans 8:20-22

Humans are those who lament not just for, but also with creation.

Portrait #10 Creation as Singer of Praise - Psalms 148

Humans join all of creation in singing the praises of God.