



### 3. Getting Genesis Wrong

**Barbara Rossing**

Copenhagen Climate Summit 2009 (COP15) - demonstrations to urge governments to agree on climate action

Biodiversity - all species are interconnected; creation is ongoing and continuing

Human beings, with our over consumption, are now the drivers of catastrophic extinction

Two creation stories - Genesis 1 ("dominion over") and Genesis 2 ("steward or oversee-ee")

**Michael Dowd**

We are our world - what we do to our world, we do to our larger self

**Catherine Keller**

God is calling forth a creative universe

We are responsible for our creations

**Philip Clayton**

Quotes Nancy Howell:

"The world is an interconnected web of life that is better understood by referring to its complex relationships than by describing the individual components in an isolated fashion."

**Keller**

Everything in its interdependence of all life is the "very good" part of the Genesis creation story

**Matthew Fox**

Ecological agenda is the moral agenda of the future of our species

**Keller**

We are called to use our God-given gifts in ways that echo the sense of the loving beauty that draws us forth in the beginning

**Clayton**

Stewards of creation

**Dowd**

Thomas Berry

**Keller**

Genesis account of creation of the human

We are called to be creative - take initiative, work to co-evolve

Dominion = responsibility

Quotes Bill McKibben:

"We're running Genesis backwards"

**Fox**

"We're the first species in four billion years on this planet that can choose not to go extinct. ...of course, we haven't made that choice yet." (Quoting a scientist at Stanford)

It is religion's task to get us to make the choice

Need to calm the reptilian brain (meditation [and religion] can do that)

**Keller**

Biblical vision is one of God who calls forth, and leaves the work up to us (God is not controlling)

**Clayton**

People: called to be a farmer, to tend

Science - balanced ecosystems

If there is one word to describe evolution, it is symbiosis ("living together")

What if we took an ecosystem's way of thinking and went back to Genesis?

**Keller**

Mistook dominion for domination

**Dowd**

It's not all about you

Legacies are about the contributions we make to the world

We were made for the world

**Clayton**

Quoting Jan Phillips (Syracuse Cultural Workers):

"No matter what our attempts to inform, it is our ability to inspire that will turn the tides."

People are programmed for short-term gain

We are called to self-empty - for the sake of our neighbour

*Closing*

"Coming to Our Senses" (Bruce Sanguin)

*Pastor Tyler's notes on the session*  
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