

Theology and the Climate Emergency

Richard Baker



Why?

We have a gospel to proclaim,
Good news for all throughout the earth.

How?





Truth

“I am the way and the truth and the life”

John 14:6 , NRSV

Truth

For if we wilfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.

Justice & Love

... and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice
and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God.

Justice & Love

For the wrongdoer will be paid back for whatever wrong has been done, and there is no partiality.



Justice & Love

A child shall not suffer for the iniquity of a parent.

Justice & Love

He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.”

Luke 10:27&28 quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18, NRSV

Goodness & Sufficiency

And God saw that the light was good ...

and God saw that it was good ...

and God saw that it was good ...

and God saw that it was good ...

and God saw that it was good ...

and God saw that it was good ...

and God saw that it was very good ...

Goodness & Sufficiency

All I have needed thy hand hath provided

Thomas Chisholm, Singing the Faith 51 inspired by Lamentations 3:22-24

How we relate to God

The earth dries up and withers,
the world languishes and withers;
the heavens languish together with the earth.

The earth lies polluted under its inhabitants;
for they have transgressed laws,
violated the statutes,
broken the everlasting covenant.



How we relate to God

My God, my God why have you forsaken me?

Mark 15:34 and Psalm 22:1, NRSV

Repentance and transformation

I warn you: do not continue to live like the heathen, whose thoughts are worthless and whose minds are in the dark ... get rid of your old self ... your hearts and minds must be made completely new, and you must put on the new self, which is created in God's likeness and reveals itself in the true life that is upright and holy.

Prophecy and protest

Many peoples shall come and say,
‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.’

Prophecy and protest

For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age. So put on God's armor now! Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks; and after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground.

Mission

“You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14&16, NRSV





Hope

What is the Good News
for a world affected by climate change?

Hope

The long view

Our ultimate destination

The day of renewal

The God who suffers with us

God has given us the tools

We will repent

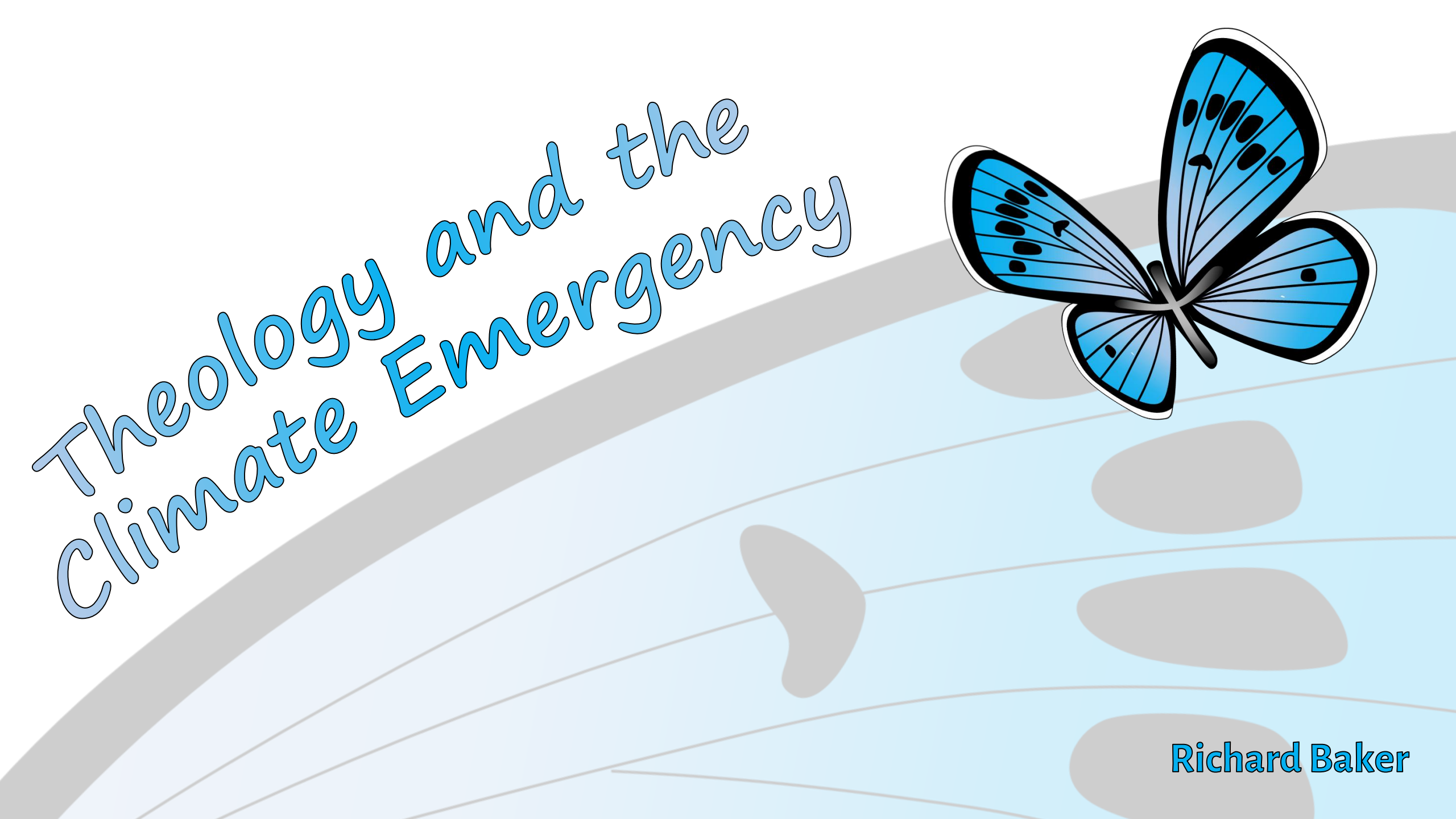
A love which cannot be broken



Hope

What is the Good News
for a world affected by climate change?

What is your answer?
Which Bible passages support it?



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