

Wilson E. O. 2006. *The Creation: An appeal to save life on Earth*. New York, London: W.W. Norton & Company. 168 p.

Reviewed by Zack Lustgarten, March 2009

The Creation, written by two-time Pulitzer Prize winning author and renowned Harvard biologist, E. O. Wilson, is an appeal to Christian leaders to help protect biodiversity and the natural world. The book is written in the form of a letter to a Southern Baptist Pastor. Wilson is writing the letter not to separate the line between religion and science, but to bridge the two, and ask for the pastor's help and cooperation to solve a great problem and save the Creation, which is living nature. He argues that for too long our leaders, including those of the great religions, have stood by passively and watched as we have ruined our environment. As a result, there has been a sharp decline in the living world as civilizations have risen. He says that if we continue to obliterate nature then we too shall fail. "The fate of the Creation is the fate of humanity."

The current issues facing the creation are numerous indeed, but Wilson says that our alteration of lands, emissions of toxic pollutants and gases, and humanization of the Earth causing mass extinctions of species are some of the worst offenses to date. However, nature is very resilient and is patiently waiting for the time we change our minds and start giving back, instead of destroying it. It is in our best interests to not overly harm other life forms on Earth because undiscovered valuables to humanity like new sources of medicines, crops, timber, fibers, soil restoring vegetation, petroleum substitutes, among others may be lost forever.

Even the smallest microorganisms play a role in our lives and if they are lost, so too are beneficial possibilities for humanity. He says that humans need the natural world to survive. The natural world, however, does not need the human race. If we were to leave tomorrow, Wilson says that is unlikely that a single insect would go extinct.

“Blinded by ignorance and self-absorption, humanity is destroying the creation. There is still time to assume the stewardship of the natural world that we owe to future human generations.” If we do not act now, Wilson pleads it may be too late. “Only nature can serve as the planetary ark.” The more we destroy the creation, then the less chance for survival we have. “The sixth mass extinction has begun and we have done it all on our own, God’s will is not to blame.”

Although on different sides of the table on many issues E.O. Wilson stresses that the pastor and himself are both men of ethics and share the same altruistic characteristics. He says we should “forget the differences” and meet on common ground and obligate ourselves to conserving *The Creation* for humanity.

This book is very well written and is a powerful piece of literature. E. O. Wilson is obviously a very well respected and accomplished individual and this book is a great example of why he deserves that praise. Unlike other books I have read of this genre, Wilson displays the ability to tackle the issue of biodiversity loss and the environmental destruction in a personal way. He strays away from the common preaching tones of liberal environmentalists and confronts our fate head on in a

well-mannered and unoffending voice. This book is highly recommended for anyone who is concerned with our natural world and the fate of our planet.