

## Chapter 2 The Gospel of Creation

In the second chapter, the Pope focuses on showing how our faith convictions should motivate us to care for nature and our brothers and sisters and that this responsibility is an essential part of our faith. He spends considerable time reviewing biblical accounts of creation and our relationships with “God, with our neighbor and with the earth itself.” He reminds us that we are not God and the interpretation that man has “dominion” over the earth is an incorrect interpretation of the bible. Rather, biblical text “implies a relationship of mutual responsibility between human beings and nature.”

He builds on the concept of mutual responsibility to discuss the harmony of creation and everything within the universe. He reflects on the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas who states “creatures exist only in dependence on each other to complete each other, in the service of each other.”

The Pope concludes the chapter by discussing how Jesus lived in harmony with creation and how he tried to teach his disciples that all creatures are important to God. He states “The Lord was able to invite others to be attentive to the beauty that there is in the world because he himself was in constant touch with nature, lending it an attention full of fondness and wonder.”