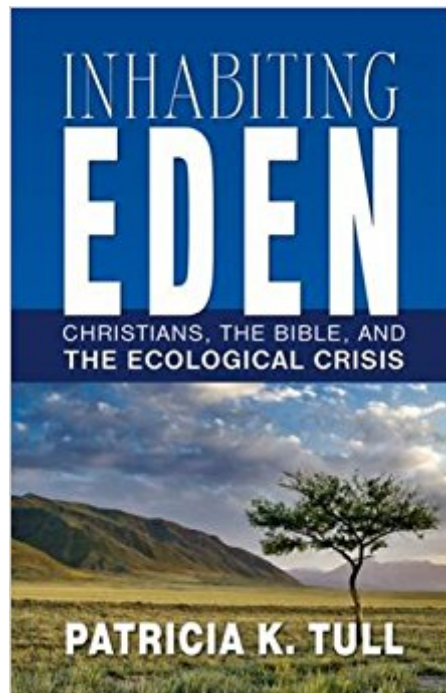




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# Inhabiting Eden: Christians, The Bible, And The Ecological Crisis



## Synopsis

In this thoughtful study, respected Old Testament scholar Patricia K. Tull explores the Scriptures for guidance on today's ecological crisis. Tull looks to the Bible for what it can tell us about our relationships, not just to the earth itself, but also to plant and animal life, to each other, to descendants who will inherit the planet from us, and to our Creator. She offers candid discussions on many current ecological problems that humans contribute to, such as the overuse of energy resources like gas and electricity, consumerism, food production systems--including land use and factory farming--and toxic waste. Each chapter concludes with discussion questions and a practical exercise, making it ideal for both group and individual study. This important book provides a biblical basis for thinking about our world differently and prompts us to consider changing our own actions. Visit [inhabitingeden.org](http://inhabitingeden.org) for links to additional resources and information.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In this fine work, the reader will encounter many helpful stories, questions, and suggestions from which to draw inspiration and encouragement. I believe that anyone interacting with this resource, whether Christians long dedicated to ecological justice or those just beginning to ask about the connections between faith and the environment, will go away with new ideas, rejuvenated spirit, and a willingness to try something new." —Rebecca Barnes, Associate for Environmental Ministries, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and author of *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth: How You and Your Church Can Make a Difference* Here's a book that is right on target. Patricia Tull finds that

rare balance between Bible study, personal reflection, ethical insight, and social commentary that will move readers to action. For those who think that the church should stay out of the politics of climate change and creation care, this book is the perfect gift."

•William P. Brown, William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament, Columbia Theological Seminary

"The Bible speaks in many ways about God's commitment to Creation, and our calling to be good stewards. Trisha Tull lifts up these Biblical voices with passion, humor, and real sensitivity, and helps us hear God's word in a new way."

•Fletcher Harper, Episcopal priest and Executive Director of GreenFaith

"We have all strayed far from the Garden, resulting in a world where there are no elms on Elm Street and no chestnuts on Chestnut Lane. But God is doing a new thing, stirring the call to care for creation in the hearts of people. Books like *Inhabiting Eden* give voice to this important movement, urging readers to live the life our creator God intended from the beginning. Highly recommended!"

•Matthew Sleeth, MD, Executive Director, Blessed Earth

"With a gentle touch and inviting prose, Patricia Tull shares Scripture's timely message for modern ecological challenges. Her words ring with hope that we may indeed recover Eden: a new and beautiful way of belonging rightly within the marvel of God's Creation."

•Kyle T. Kramer, organic farmer and author of *A Time to Plant: Life Lessons in Work, Prayer, and Dirt*

Patricia K. Tull is Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. She is the author or editor of several books, including *Esther and Ruth in the Interpretation Bible Studies* series and the 2001-02 Horizons Bible Study, *Esther's Feast: A Study of the Book of Esther*. An ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), she also writes a regular column on environmentalism for [WorkingPreacher.org](http://WorkingPreacher.org).

The author is an Old Testament scholar and she brings her considerable interpretative talents to the current climate crisis. For those of us who participate in the Jude's-Christian tradition, she provides solid biblical sources for explaining and dealing with the current situation. A great read!

Our eco theology study group studied this very thoroughly and loved the way it was written and the exercising at the end of each chapter. I highly recommend this to everyone who is looking for a way to broaden their faith and adopt the language to share their experience of creation.

For anyone even remotely interested in the environment who is also a Christian, this is an excellent

guide to how the Bible supports taking care of creation. Tull is very contemporary with her data and insights. The book arrived in very good condition and on time.

Great read and easy to use for a Sunday School discussion class.

This is an important book. It is an engaging and important book that can be enjoyed by a variety of people from the curious to the committed (regarding either the environment or the Bible!). Tull writes as a Biblical scholar (she is Professor Emerita of Old Testament at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary) and her thorough grounding in Biblical scholarship means that the book is not an environmental treatise scattered with occasional proof texts. Instead it is a thoughtful exploration about how the Bible understands the relationship between humans and the earth, letting the Bible converse with farmers, with science, and with contemporary culture. The result is a book that is perfect for Christians wondering about the environment; for environmentalists curious about a Biblical perspective; for adult study groups looking for an accessible book that will spark conversation about the Bible, the environment, and our obligations; and for individuals who are seeking guidance in shaping their own approaches to personal stewardship of the earth. It includes one of the best introductory explanations of climate change I have found. It is easy and delightful to read; both informing and inspiring for those who wish to learn about the environment, the Bible, and then consider how to personally respond. Implicit in the book is the assumption that faithful individuals will want to respond to important issues, and will want to be guided by both the Bible and science as they do.

Patricia Tull has artfully woven scripture and science into a very readable and reliable resource for those who care about faith and the stewardship of creation.

Bought it for a friend. It was too religious for me, so I didn't read much of it. Others may like it more. The environmental part of it is wise.

What a pleasure it was to discover that Patricia Tull has captured and articulated the urgent message for people of faith that it is our moral and social responsibility to care for creation before it is too late to matter. Dr. Tull unearths wisdom and metaphorical language from her considerable biblical scholarship to make the case that the scriptures have always taught an ethic of stewardship and care of creation. We simply have not listened. The beautiful earth is a special gift meant to be

cared for and shared by all its inhabitants in a just and appreciative manner. She advocates for a radical shift of our consciousness from arrogant exploitation of the earth to gratitude for its gifts; from exclusive self-interest to connectedness with all life forms; from idolatrous and delusional consumptive behavior to preservation and sharing. This shift of consciousness is not only necessary if we are to survive, but also reflects the loving, just, and sacrificial human community the Creator intends. This book is a good read, for several reasons. First, it is a concise statement of a complex religious and moral dilemma facing all of us. Second, the questions posed at the end of the chapters stimulate hard thinking. I would recommend it as a fine teaching tool for use in bible study and other small group venues. Third, Dr. Tull's poetic, imaginative descriptions of our assaults on the earth, as well as our remedial tasks in repairing it, are captivating. William Presnell Adjunct Instructor Doctor of Ministry Program Drew University Madison, N.J.

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