

Definitions: Define the following terms in the context of environmental studies.

Universalist

Relativist

Nihilist

Utilitarian

Short Essay: *“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.’”* -- Genesis 1:28 (King James Version)

The words, “have dominion over,” are a translation of the Hebrew verb “rdh,” which, according to James Limburg, Professor Emeritus at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, carries the connotation of royal leadership, and when used elsewhere in the Old Testament, typically involves ruling with humane treatment of one’s subjects.

First, describe Lynn White, Jr.’s reasoning for placing the blame for our current ecological crisis on the Judeo-Christian tradition. Second, given what you have read in class, how do you think Lynn White, Jr. would respond to Limburg’s interpretation of the original biblical text given above? Use precise examples from your readings to support your claims whenever possible.