

An aerial photograph of a river winding through a dense forest. The trees are in various stages of autumn, with some showing bright yellow and orange foliage, while others are still green. The river is dark and reflects the surrounding trees. The overall scene is a lush, natural landscape.

Stewardship

AI and the environment

Stewardship - what's the connection with AI?

- Setting the scene: what are the environmental impacts of our digital lives and AI?
- What does the Bible say that can guide our response?
An introduction to "creation care" theology
- What can this mean for discipleship in the digital age?



Behind the scenes of our digital lives



Christian Braga/Greenpeace

B B C

Reg

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sport](#) [Business](#) [Technology](#) [Health](#) [Culture](#) [Arts](#) [Travel](#) [Earth](#) [Audio](#) [Video](#) [Live](#)

More than 200 killed in mine collapse in DR Congo

1 February 2026

[Share](#)

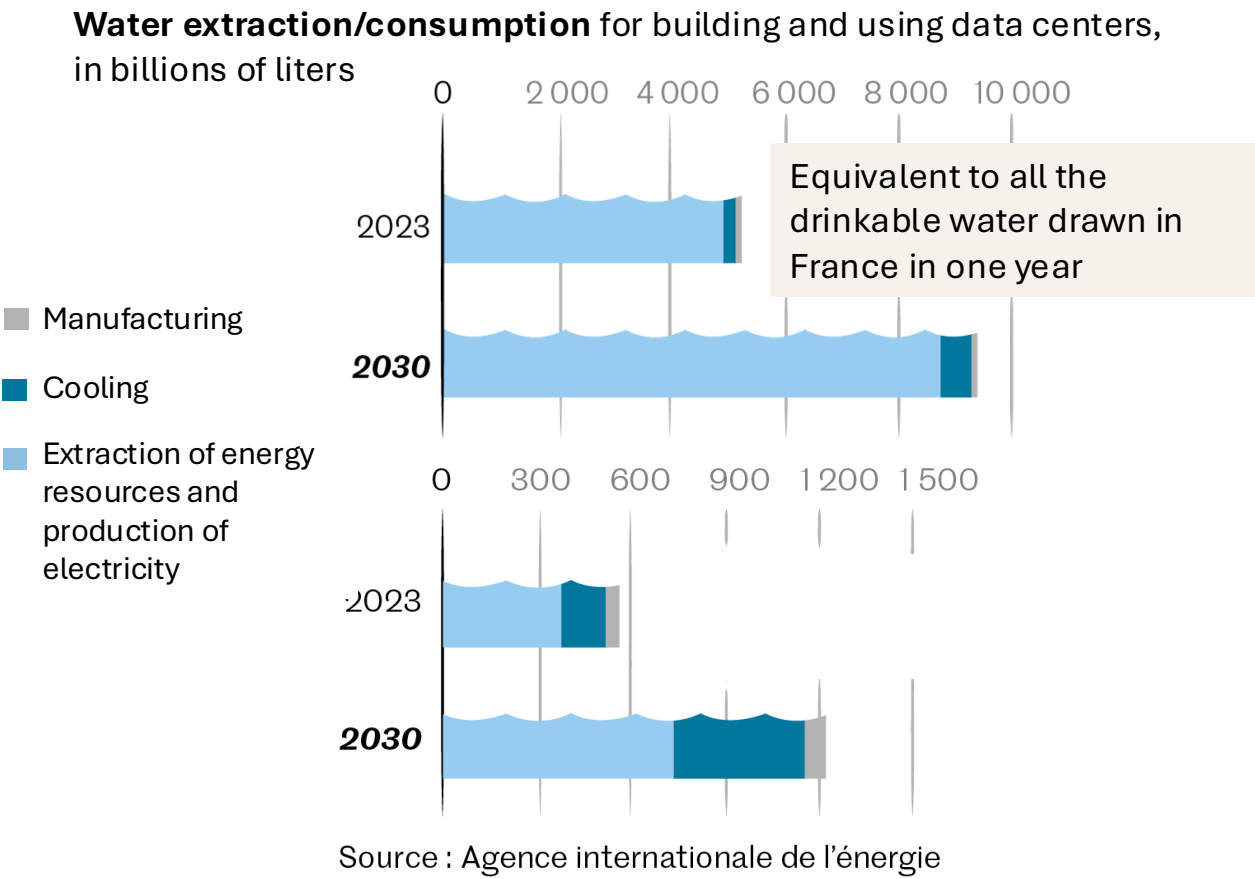
[Save](#)

[Add as preferred on Google](#)

Paul Njie



Behind the scenes of our digital lives



Behind the scenes of our digital lives

By 2030, without major changes in current trends, **global electricity use by data centres could reach up to 1500 TWh per year.**

A 2.8-fold increase in 7 years

In 2025, 15% for AI

In 2030, at least 35% for AI



Widespread increase in generative AI



Widespread increase in the use of conventional AI



Increase in cryptocurrency consumption

The European context: different situations but a common trend in the data centre sector

Electricity use by data centres in Europe could **double** between 2023 and 2030 and **quadruple** between 2023 and 2035*.

*Rising from 97 TWh in 2023 to 200 TWh in 2030 and 369 TWh in 2035

In Ireland, data centres already account for **over 20 % of available electricity**, surpassing urban residential demand.



Source: The Shift Project

**Does the Bible have
anything to say?**



God's creation is good and reveals Him to us

- [Genesis 1:31](#) And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.
- [Genesis 9:8-10](#) Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth.
- [Exodus 20:8-10](#) “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.
- [Psalm 19:1](#) The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- [Psalm 104:31](#) May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works

God gave humans a special role to look after what He created

Genesis 1:26-30

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have **dominion/rule (*radah*)** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “**Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it (*kabash*), and have dominion/rule (*radah*)** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

Genesis 2:15

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden **to work/cultivate it (*abad*) and keep it/take care of (*shamar*)**.

What kind of ruler is man meant to be?

Philippians 2:4-11

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.** And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Mark 10:42-45

And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. **But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,** and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. **For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,** and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The earth belongs to God

Psalm 24:1-2 The earth is the **LORD's** and the fullness thereof,
the world and those who dwell therein,
for he has founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

Leviticus 25:23 “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, **for the land is mine.** For you are strangers and sojourners with me.



Does the New Testament have anything to say?

Romans 8:18-25

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

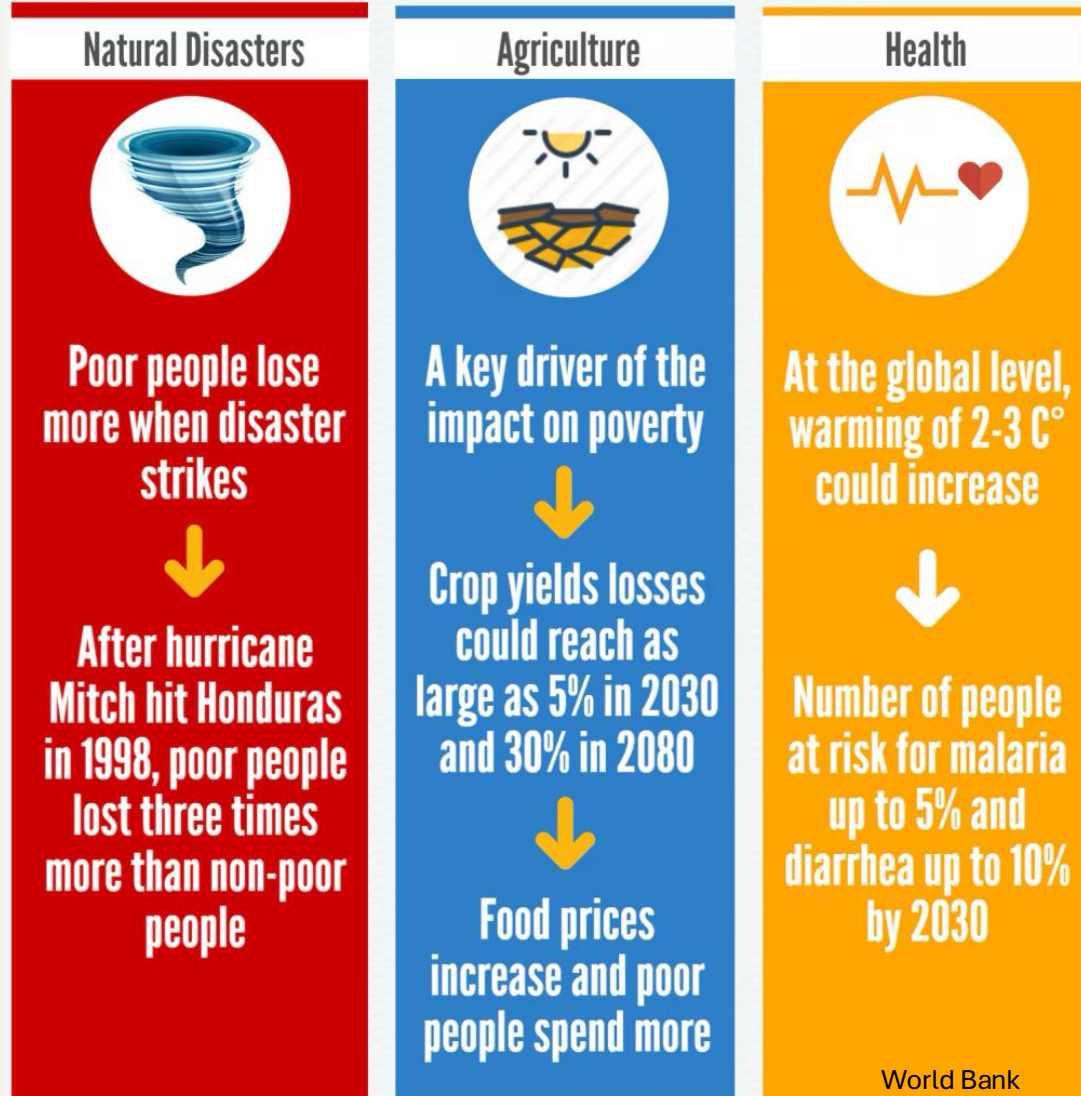
Does the New Testament have anything to say?

Colossians 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



Caring about the environment, loving your neighbor?



Amos and the prophets: do we heed the call for justice?

- **Amos 2:6-7** Thus says the LORD:
“For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment,
because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals—
those who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth and turn aside the way of the afflicted;
- **Amos 4:1** “Hear this word, you cows of Bashan, [...] who oppress the poor, who crush the needy [...].”
- **Amos 5:11-15** Therefore because you trample on^b the poor and you exact taxes of grain from him,
[...] For I know how many are your transgressions and how great are your sins— you who afflict the righteous,
who take a bribe, and turn aside the needy in the gate. [...] Hate evil, and love good, and establish justice in the
gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.
- **Amos 8:4-8** Hear this, you who trample on the needy and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, “When
will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we
may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances,
that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals
and sell the chaff of the wheat?”

The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: “Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who dwells in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?”

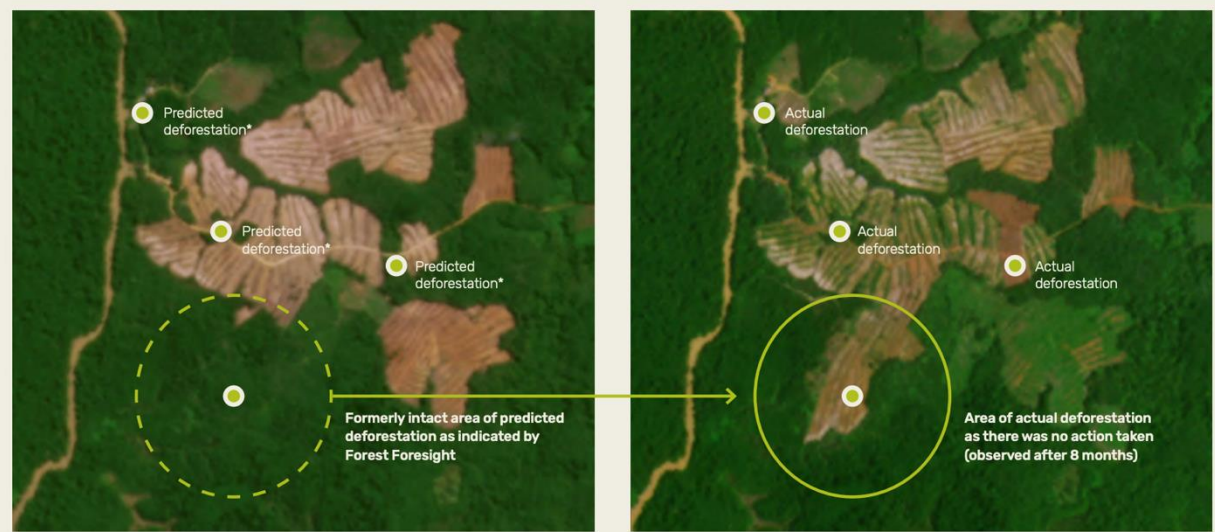
Bringing it full circle

- Creation was very good and God cares about it. Creation manifests God's splendor.
- Humans given role to look after the rest of creation
- The earth belongs to God – we are stewards
- We exercise this stewardship as image bearers, following Christ's example
- The rest of creation also awaits redemption but this doesn't mean we should ignore the present
- The destruction of the environment is symptomatic of human greed and pride
- Beyond caring because it's God's creation, we should also care to love our neighbor

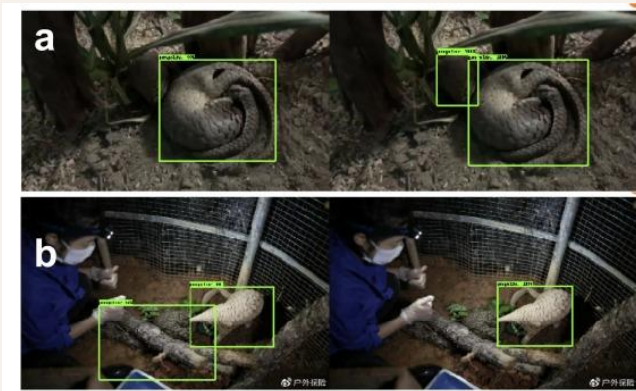
So what about AI?



Can AI be permissible and beneficial?



WWF



Interpol via AP; Cardoso et al. 2023



What might our individual responses be?

Denial
Despair
Resignation
Hope



What might our individual responses be?

Hope

Rom 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.



What might our collective response as a church be?

- The church can speak out against greed, pride, materialism and model “simpler living”
 - Avoid dismissing people’s eco-anxiety or denigrating people’s convictions
 - How might we make space for lamentation?
- We can also encourage connection to nature and all that God has created, including through worship, connecting outside of the digital space
- If we use AI tools, take some time to do the research on the tools we use

Some suggested resources

