The importance of Christian Bible-Old Testament in the way we built our relationship with other environmental components

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The need of species survival as an argument and a motivation to implement a sustainable development strategy in urban areas cannot be easily sustained because it collides with a range of expectations associated with high "quality of life" standards.
The concept of "quality" is very **relative** and **relational**

the "degree" and the minimum "quantity"

with which the **full satisfaction** is achieved

to a product or function.

**is determined by the culture of an era**
In an urban area what is the meaning of

Quality of life?

Well being?

Happiness?
various collision routes

between

the "sustainability of the natural environment"

and

the "life quality" expectations of citizens

(!especially in the cities!)
The "life quality" expectations of each citizen are constructed upon a **miscellany of records/memories** proceeding from the community and prevailing culture.

These external signs are gradually memorised by the individual and are assimilated in doses (according to the individual personality).
CULTURE
COMUNITY

LIFE STYLE

Individual Behaviour

FAMILY

Psycho Social & Economic Environment

SPIRIT

BODY

MIND

Health System

Human Biology

Biogeophysical Support

Employment

ENVIRONMENT MODIFIED BY MAN

ALr; Water; Soil; Climate Fauna; Flora;
Although, in many cases….

the characteristics of the individual personality predominate over

influence of behavioural patterns
life-style
type of economic and psycho-social environment

citizens are not totally immune to them.
The multiple dimensions of wellbeing

(Carney 1998 modified)
Let’s look at the importance of Christian principles….
Let’s look at the Old Bible....

*First, God created the natural environment and, then, Man.*

(Holy Bible)
(i) "... In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. The earth was empty and tells. The darkness covered the abyss, and the spirit of God moved on the surface of water. ... God called the days light and dark night ... "

(ii) "... God said: "Let the land produce green, with grass seed, trees that give fruit on earth, according to their species, and containing seeds. "

(iii) "... God said:" Let the land produce living creatures according to their species, pets, reptiles and savage animals, according to their species. "

(iv) "... God, then said:" Let us make the man in our image, our likeness, to dominate the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock and over all the reptiles that creep on the earth. ...(..).. God said to them: "Grow and multiply you, and fill the earth. Dominate on fish of the sea, the birds of the heavens and on all animals that move on earth."
(v) "... God, seeing all his work, found it was very good…"

(vi) "... The Lord God made the earth full of flowering species of trees all very pleasant to look and producing tasty fruit to eat …"

(vii) "... So, I will start a huge flood that will eliminate under heaven any animal with a breath of life…”

(viii) "... The sun stands on the earth when Lot entered into Çoar. So the Lord make fall from heaven on Sodom and Gomorrah sulphur and fire rain, sent by the Lord. This destroyed these cities, across the plains and all the inhabitants of cities and the vegetation of the earth…”

(ix) "... Lord says: to make you know that I am the Lord, I will hurt the waters of the river with a rod and they will become in blood. The fish of the river will die, the waters of the river will be polluted, and the Egyptians will be reluctant to drink the river water…”
(x) "... The people then began to mutter against Moses, saying: " What should we drink?". Moses cried to the Lord. The Lord showed him a tree. He threw it to the water and it has become drinking water ... "

(xi) "... The Lord said to Moses: " I will send a rain of bread from the sky. The people will come daily to collect the needed amount in order to believe by the evidence and see whether they should or not obey to my orders..."
First, God created the natural environment and, then, Man.

(Holy Bible)

Man was created by God and was provided with power to dominate upon "... the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, on domestic animals and reptiles of all ..."

This power over the natural environment is not, however, absolute.

God always exercises control over this relationship deciding the quantity, the diversity and the quality of natural resources offering a reward or punishment
GOD

MEN

GOOD

Reward

Evil

Punishment

Tools to implement a penalty

ECOSSISTEM

AIR/CLIMATE

Heavy rain, flood, dryness, lightning, lightning, sulphur rain

WATER

Valleys of ancient rivers completely dry, contamination of water with frogs, blood and other pests, etc.

SOIL

Skeletal soils, sandy, rocky, dry and infertile

LECOSSISTEM

THICKNESS

Regularity distributed rainfall, mild temperatures, seasonal climate differentiation

Clear and pure water flowing through the rocks in the desert, rivers unpolluted with floristic and faunistic biodiversity

Thick soil, with fertile suitable for diversified agricultural practices, etc.

MEN

Longevity, health, fertility, joy, etc.

Death, disease, famine, infertility, pain, etc.
In Biblical stories, are common the examples in which God uses the extreme events of nature, using them as instruments of reward or punishment for behaviour and attitudes of stakeholders.

Man is rewarded with better health, greater longevity, fertility and joy when practicing the good.

Sicken, suffer, go hungry and die when acting evil.

The divine authority, and severe punisher, do not impose their sentences directly on the individuals targeted.

Implement them indirectly through a variety of scenarios that he will create.

To praise the good, God offers to men: light, pleasant tree in sight, tasty fruits, grasses, pets, reptiles and savage animals, drinking water, rain in its time, etc.

To punish evil, God plagues men with: flood, rain of sulphur and fire, thunder, lightning, snow, hail, frost, plagues of flies and poisonous locusts etc.
The conceptual architecture of the organization of the Planet and all the retroactivity mechanisms in the Judaic-Christian thinking based on the *absolute power of God*

*He*

provides opportunities for "welfare" and "quality of life" to humans (according to their ethical/moral procedures)
The ecosystem’ components (air, water and soil), are no more than mere instruments of implementation of punishment inflicted by a higher authority- God -to Man (according to their behaviour)

The ecosystem is understood as a set of elements and we are outside it

The vital interrelationships in this theoretical framework is between God and Man.

All other components of the ecosystem react under the influence of exclusive arbitrary will of God.
According to Christian thought, it is difficult to relate the environmental impacts (positive and negative) with the types of human attitudes and actions taken.

The intensity and the proportion of evil (natural disaster) or the good (equilibrium and biodiversity) is not in any way related with the severity or the success of human action, carried out on any natural resources.

It has been easy for those who grew up in this frame of reference believing in the inevitability of the "suffering".
People learned to "accept" natural disasters
(droughts, floods, air pollution, soil contamination, etc.)

All penalties that happen, unexpectedly are not
dependent on the type of relationship we have with the other elements of the ecosystem

they depend on the way we relate, morally/ethically, to God.

alienation of Man relatively to the other components of the ecosystem??
Nowadays...

it is possible to explain
the contamination of river’s waters of rivers
the global warming
the climate change caused by urbanization
the acid rain
etc..

without need to claim for the divine arguments of evil and good

But....

1. it is very difficult to implement successful preventive or mitigation measures

2. it is very difficult to fully understand some of the ecosystem’s reaction
1. It is very difficult to implement successful preventive or mitigation measures.
2. It is very difficult to fully understand some of the ecosystem’s reaction because we still have an excessive anthropocentric view of the ecosystem due also to our Judaic Christian education?