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God's word goes green in new bible

"The Green Bible" is Earth-friendly, with some passages printed in green

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God's word goes green in new, Earth-friendly bible

Spirituality and sustainability are finally wed, at least on the page. "The Green Bible," available on Oct. 7, renders God's word in green. Those verses about the Earth and its inhabitants are printed in green-colored, Earth-friendly soy-based ink. On partly recycled paper. Inside a cover that did not result in the death of a running stream.

"The Earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it," reads Psalm 24. Anyone reading "The Green Bible" (HarperOne, \$29.95, 1,312 pages) will be reminded of that point over and over.

The Bible refers to the Earth more than 1,000 times, almost twice as often as it mentions heaven (490 times) or love (530), says Mark Tauber, publisher of "The Green Bible." Many Jews and Christians already regard concern for creation as central to their spirituality. Now, those who are curious can see for themselves what green believers are talking about.

"The Green Bible is inspired by traditional red-letter editions, where the words of Jesus appear in color. It features the New Revised Standard Version translation, a foreword by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and 15 essays by writers who include Pope John Paul II, farmer-poet Wendell Berry and Brian McLaren, a leader of the emerging church movement.

It's too early to know if green prophets will beget green profits for this version of the Bible. But in an age when sustainability is almost sacred, God, apparently, is green, too. -- Nancy Haught

GREEN FEATURES 1. Cardboard wrapper is 10 percent post-consumer recycled content 2. Printed with soy-based ink 3. Biblically thin pages are 10 percent recycled paper 4. 100 percent cotton/linen cover is made by factories that clean the water and air that the manufacturing process pollutes

OTHER FEATURES Passages on the Earth and its inhabitants are printed in green

A Resource Guide of almost 100 practical suggestions for green living, in case the Bible isn't enough; nine pages of organizations and Web sites The Green Bible Trail Guide, a study plan built around six environmental themes 19-page Green Subject Index Concordance listing key biblical words to help find a specific verse

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