

Genesis 1:26-31 **26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. 28 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. 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. 30 And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. 31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.**

In the first part of our study, we found that these scriptures (along with Genesis 1:1) revealed:

- God is the plural (*Elohim*) Trinity.
- God was at the beginning which means he was before the beginning.
- God is the creator of all things and all things were created very good.
- Man was created as the male sex from the dust of the ground in God's image.
- Man was created as the female sex from the rib of the male in God's image.
- Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God.
- Man was created by God as the two sexes: male and female.
- Gender is not biblically true.
- All mankind are descendants of the first male and first female, Adam and Eve.
- Adam and Eve were married and as one flesh.
- All mankind are of one blood and therefore one genetic lineage.
- Race is not biblically true.
- The fall into sin marred the image-bearing capability of man and brought division among males, females, tongues, tribes, and nations.
- Jesus Christ redeemed man from the fall into sin, restored man's ability to bear God's image, giving man the ability to be unified rather than divided.

Dominion:

Given that God, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Ghost/Spirit, has redeemed and restored God's elect children, enabling them to bear the unmarred image of God in their daily lives, what is it that God would have his image-bearers to do? We will return to the beginning to answer that question, in-part.

26b And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: **and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.**

28e 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.**

Here, in the first chapter of the first book of the scriptures, before the fall into sin, God tells man to "have dominion".

Dominion here is a verb meaning “to tread down, subjugate, to crumble off, prevail against, reign, (bear, make to) rule (over), take”.

Psalms 8:4-8 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. 6 **Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands;** thou hast put all things under his feet: 7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; 8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.

Dominion here is a verb meaning “to rule, governor, reign, (bear, cause to, have) rule, have power.

To “have dominion” is to actively rule over someone or something. This is different than the noun “dominion”, but the two are tied to one another, for God has dominion over all dominions.

Daniel 4:34b And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed **the most High**, and I praised and honoured **him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion**, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

All dominions are subject to the dominion of God’s kingdom.

Daniel 7:27 And the kingdom and **dominion**, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, **shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.**

Dominion here is a noun meaning “empire”.

What that means to us is though God has granted us the dominion of the earth and has commanded us to have dominion over all His creation (“the works of thy hands”), we remain under (subject to) God’s authority. Our dominion authority (a.k.a. right to rule) is valid only in the context of operating within God’s everlasting kingdom.

We also need to understand that the Genesis dominion mandate is applicable to all man because it was given to our first parents before the fall into sin. Sin did not remove the command to rule over our empires within God’s kingdom. It made it much more difficult to do according to God’s will. We “little g gods” desire to rule over our empires independently (according to our will) from the “big G God” and His kingdom (according to His will). It was not meant to be that way, but that is the way it has been for thousands of years and for thousands of years man has brought evil and tyranny into the world because of sin-tainted attempts at fulfilling the dominion mandate. It was built into who we are, but without the constraint of God’s authority, it results in disaster. We become usurpers. We will look at a remedy later, but for now let us return to our text.

28a 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.

Fruitful:

God’s command here is to the male and female, Adam and Eve, the complementary sexes which God considered “very good” along with all His creation on the sixth day.

The command is first to “be fruitful”. The meaning of the word is to produce (something), to grow, or to increase. Adam and Eve were not meant to hang out in the Garden of Eden, enjoying God’s creation, and not doing anything with it for eternity. The obvious and implied command here is to produce offspring from their marriage, which requires a male and female to accomplish.

Genesis 2:5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and **there was not a man to till the ground.**

Genesis 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden **to dress it and to keep it.**

Adam (particularly) and Eve (as Adam’s helpmeet) were to be gardeners. They were to till the ground, and grow something, to increase it and produce something from it. Seeds begat seeds and fruits begat fruits as they worked. Their produce was the fruits of their labors. We are still commanded to produce fruit from our labors within the empires we are given to rule.

28b 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.

Multiply:

The next command is “multiply”. The meaning of the word here is both to increase and to bring in abundantly. Again, the implied command to the married couple is to have multiple children, or we might say “children in abundance”. That is, multiple children who are God’s image-bearers, getting married and being fruitful and multiplying, and so forth. Consider Europe, where the Muslim birth rate exceeds the non-Muslim birth rate on an average of 1 child per mother (2.6 to 1.6 children). The non-Muslim birth rate does not reach the replacement rate of 2.1 per mother. If we want to change our culture, we need only look to married Christians and to tell them to fulfill this command from God. And multiplication does not only apply to family. God’s command is that we increase and bring in an abundance from our labors in the empires we are given to rule over.

28c 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.

Replenish:

The next command is “replenish”. The meaning of the word here is to fill. Being fruitful and multiplying leads to filling the dominion of the earth given to man. This and the prior commands carried over to man after the fall.

Genesis 9:1-2 **1** And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, **Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth.** **2** And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth, and upon all the fishes of the sea; into your hand are they delivered.

Noah and his sons are given the exact same commands within the context of their dominion: the earth. They were to rule, produce, increase, and fill the earth. We are to do the same.

28d 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.

Subdue:

The next and final command to man in these verses is “subdue”. The meaning of the word here is to conquer, subjugate, bring into subjection. We do not like this word much because in a sin-tainted world, that definition makes us think of slavery and tyranny. But God is not telling man to enslave or tyrannize his fellow men. He is telling man that he is to subdue the earth. This command is followed by the dominion mandate. It means to govern our dominion (the earth) within God’s creation (the heaven and the earth) in God’s everlasting kingdom while allowing our fellow men to do the same in the liberty God has granted unto them under His law. And this leads us back to dominion.

28 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.

How can we obey these commands and rule our empires according to God’s will while sin is in the world *and* in our lives?

Revelation 1:5-6 5 And from **Jesus Christ**, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that **loved us**, and **washed us from our sins** in his own blood, 6 And hath **made us kings and priests** unto God and his Father; to him be glory and **dominion** for ever and ever. Amen.

It is Jesus Christ who has restored our ability to rule as “kings and priests” over the earth which is part of His dominion.

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power** is given unto me **in heaven** and **in earth**.

Revelation 5:9-10 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for **thou wast slain**, and **hast redeemed us to God by thy blood** out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God **kings and priests:** and **we shall reign on the earth**.

(That is not only applicable to us some time in the future. It is applicable to us now.) It Jesus Christ who has authority (“power”) and He “made us kings and priests” now. In Him alone is the created order restored and can the dominion mandate be fulfilled by man. He has given His authority to us to carry on being fruitful, multiplying, replenishing, and subduing the earth until He returns. He has commanded us to do this within the constraints of His rule over His kingdom. We do this while discipling, baptizing, and teaching all men (“all nations”) to know and live according to His commands.

Proverbs 29:2 **When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice:** but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

According to the will of God the Father, under the authority of God the Son, by the working of God the Holy Ghost/Spirit, may we have a vision for ourselves, our families, and our congregations that leads us to work to restore the created order by having dominion as commanded.