



## **Tending The Garden Sunday December 07, 2008**

The Genesis Commission  
Genesis chapters 1,2

**Genesis 1:28 "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion**

**Psalm 115:16**

**The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.**

### Initial Comments

Man was created in God's image and likeness.

*1, Man was designed to be creative.*

I am sure that God could see far beyond Adam just "tending the Garden" to discovering God's creation, and doing amazing things with what God had designed and created.

*2, Man was designed to work.*

Tending the Garden (dressing it and guarding it) was part of what Adam was commissioned to do.

**Genesis 2:15**

**Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend (till, cultivate) and keep (guard, protect) it.**

**Genesis 2:1-3**

**1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.**

**2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.**

**3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.**

*3, Eve was created to be a suitable help in the workplace*

This would include the mandate Adam received from God to tend the garden. Eve had a place in the garden. Do women have a role in the workplace? I definitely believe so. Women were designed by God to be alongside men in the mandate placed on the human race.

**Genesis 2:18**

**And the LORD God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."**

### **Gardening, in a Perfect World**

What would work have been in a perfect world – if Man had not fallen:

*1, Worship would have continued through the work day*

God's presence would have overshadowed Adam through out the day...Adam would have been in perfect communion with God all day...work and worship would not have been compartmentalized.

*2, Worship and work would both be unto God*

Work would not be a chore but a heavenly assignment, a ministry unto God.

Every one would be working and doing their work as unto the Lord



**Colossians 3:23,24**

**23** And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,  
**24** knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

*3, God would have been at work*

**Genesis 3:8-10**

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

**9** Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"

**10** So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

- a) God's creative abilities would be released through man
- b) Discovering and harnessing laws in God's creation would have been exciting

**Isaiah 28:23-29**

**23** Give ear and hear my voice, Listen and hear my speech.

**24** Does the plowman keep plowing all day to sow? Does he keep turning his soil and breaking the clods?

**25** When he has leveled its surface, Does he not sow the black cummin And scatter the cummin, Plant the wheat in rows, The barley in the appointed place, And the spelt in its place?

**26** For He instructs him in right judgment, His God teaches him.

**27** For the black cummin is not threshed with a threshing sledge, Nor is a cartwheel rolled over the cummin; But the black cummin is beaten out with a stick, And the cummin with a rod.

**28** Bread flour must be ground; Therefore he does not thresh it forever, Break it with his cartwheel, Or crush it with his horsemen.

**29** This also comes from the LORD of hosts, Who is wonderful in counsel and excellent in guidance.

Discovering seed-time and harvest

**Genesis 1:11,12**

**11** Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.

**12** And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

Students: When you are studying science, math, medicine or psychology or what ever - see your education as a journey of discovering the mind of God, the wisdom of God embedded in His creation.

**Jeremiah 10:12**

He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion.

**Proverbs 8:22-31**

**22** "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.

**23** I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth.

**24** When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water.

**25** Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth;

**26** While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world.

**27** When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep,

**28** When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep,



**29** When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command,  
**When He marked out the foundations of the earth,**  
**30** Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always  
before Him,  
**31** Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men.

God's wisdom is integrated into all that He created.

**Proverbs 8:15** By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice.

**Proverbs 8:21** That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their  
treasuries.

*4, Fruitfulness, multiplication and increase would be a natural outcome*

**Genesis 1:28** "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion

The Fall made it hard

**Genesis 3:17-19**

**17** Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree  
of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you  
shall eat of it All the days of your life.

**18** Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.

**19** In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken;  
For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."

*5, Work would be enjoyable, something of pleasure*

Here is what things will be like in the coming kingdom age:

**Isaiah 65:21-23**

**21** They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

**22** They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree,  
so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

**23** They shall not labor in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of  
the blessed of the LORD, And their offspring with them.

Here is God's promise in this life, for those who fear Him and walk in His ways:

**Psalm 128:1,2**

**1** Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways.

**2** When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you.

Economic crisis would be unknown!

**Psalm 33:18,10**

**18** Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear Him, On those who hope in His mercy,

**19** To deliver their soul from death, And to keep them alive in famine.

**Psalm 37:18,19**

**18** The LORD knows the days of the upright, And their inheritance shall be forever.

**19** They shall not be ashamed in the evil time, And in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.



### **Redeemed From The Fall**

We are redeemed from the Fall. Part of our redemption is a present-tense reality (Galatians 1:4, Ephesians 1:7). Part of our redemption is still in the future. The fullness of our redemption is still to be experienced (Ephesians 1:14). Creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons (children) of God and for it to be delivered from the corruption it was subjected to (Romans 8:19-23).

As redeemed people, we taste of the powers of the age to come, in this life.

**Hebrews 6:5 and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,**

### **Tending Your Garden in an IMPERFECT world**

Can we recognize that the Genesis Mandate is still in force – even though Adam sinned and man fell.

As you tend your garden (do your work), can you attempt to capture what God originally intended:

- 1, Worship would have continued through the work day
- 2, Worship and work would both be unto God
- 3, God would have been at work
  - a) God's creative abilities would be released through man
  - b) Discovering and harnessing laws in God's creation would have been exciting
- 4, Fruitfulness, multiplication and increase would be a natural outcome
- 5, Work would be enjoyable, something of pleasure