

Godly Offspring, the Great Commission and the Glory of God
Genesis 2-5

I. Introduction

- A. How should we view children?
1. A secular vision that leads to a degradation of the family.
 2. An ideal vision that leads to an idolatry of the family.

II. Proposition

- A. God created Adam and Even to fill the earth with His glory by maintaining the garden-sanctuary and expanding its borders throughout the earth via the cultural mandate/blessing..

III. Exposition

A. As God's image bearers, Adam with Eve's help was to fill the earth with the glory of the Lord by fulfilling the cultural blessing/mandate (Genesis 2).

1. The cosmos is the temple of God: Isaiah 66:1 (ESV): Thus says the LORD: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; . . ."
 - a. Heaven is His throne – Psalm 11:4; 103:19; Matthew 5:34; Revelation 4-5
 - b. The earth is His footstool – Psalm 99:5; Matthew 5:35
2. The garden-sanctuary/temple (2:4-17).
3. The creation/cultural mandate: Adam was to spread God's glory over all the earth by keeping the garden and exercising dominion over the earth by extending the garden and populating it with godly offspring who were God's image (1:26-28)
 - a. Adam's job (2:4-17), Eve's help (2:18-25) – see Malachi 2:13ff.

B. Adam's sin introduced a competing, ungodly line that threatened God's blessing/mandate and denied God's glory (Genesis 3-5).

1. Two lines now competing to fill the earth (Genesis 3:15).
2. Genesis traces the enmity between these two lines:
 - a. The ungodly line-children of the devil (enemies of God and Israel):
 - 1). Cain (4); Canaan (9); etc.
 - b. The godly line – children of God:
 - 1). Seth (4:25-26; 5:1-3)
 - 2). Noah (5:28-32)
 - a). Hope will come through Noah (5:29).
 - b). Note the creation/cultural mandate given to Noah (9:1, 7-17).
 - 3). Shem (9:18-19, 24-27)
 - 4). Abraham (12:1-3)
3. Question: Which seed, offspring will eventually prevail?

C. God promised that a godly seed would prevail and fill the earth with the glory of the Lord by fulfilling the creation/cultural blessing/mandate (Genesis 3:15).

1. God promised a godly seed that would prevail over the ungodly seed.
 - a. Genesis 3:15 – the *protoevangelium*
 - b. We now know that this godly seed of the woman is none other than Jesus the Christ:
 - 1). Galatians 3:16 (ESV) Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ.
2. Jesus prevailed over the serpent by His life, death and resurrection - Col. 2:13-15 (ESV) And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
3. Jesus, the true image of God, is now exercising dominion over creation and placing everything in subjection to Him (Hebrews 2:5-18).
4. Thus, the godly line continues today through Jesus Christ:
 - a. We are Abraham's offspring by faith in Christ: Galatians 3:7-9 (ESV), Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify

the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

5. Jesus will return to consummate the kingdom of God which will encompass the entire new earth and fill the new earth with the glory of God (1 Corinthians 15:20-28; see also Revelation 21).
6. Until that day, Jesus calls us to fulfill the creation/cultural mandate and fill the earth with God's glory by preaching the gospel to all creation, all nations that those who hear may become children of God.
 - a. Mark 16:15 (ESV) And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."
 - b. Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
 - c. Luke 24:46-47 (ESV) and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

IV. Conclusion: How do we fulfill the cultural mandate today?

A. **By God's grace – having children and shepherding their hearts toward Christ in order that they may come to know Christ as their Lord and King.**

1. Children are a blessing from the Lord – Psalm 127:3-4
 - a. Beware of worldly attitudes about having children.
2. Godly parents must raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
 - a. No guarantee of godliness, but it is our responsibility to teach God's Word.
 - b. NOTE: Having children in and of itself does not fulfill the cultural mandate/blessing.
 - 1). Two lines – children of God and children of the devil (1 John 3:1-15).
3. Having children and shepherding their hearts toward Christ is not the only way to fulfill the cultural blessing/mandate.

B. **By God's grace – we are to take the gospel to all nations that those who believe might become children of God (John 1:12).**

1. Though we are first missionaries in our homes to our unbelieving children, we are also missionaries in our world bringing the gospel to bear on all mankind.
 - a. All of us must either send people or go ourselves – no other options!
2. Evangelism and missions is not optional; it God's mandate to the church through which He is spreading His glory over all the earth and putting all Christ's enemies under His feet (Romans 8:18-25).

C. **By God's grace, through faith – we are to be in the world, but not of it (1 Corinthians 5:9-13).**

1. Sin's curse has spread throughout the earth like napalm.
2. Christ is reversing the curse and putting everything in subjection to Himself; He redeems all things!
3. The multiplication of the redeemed should effect great cultural transformation as we live on earth!
 - a. Politics is NOT the answer!
 - b. Redeemed people in vocations, art, education, sports (illus: Tim Tebow – Heisman).

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