

BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY

- I. God's Blessing (Charge, Commission) To Man
 - A. First things are usually important. Certainly a Creator's first Words to His creation would be and are exceedingly important.
 - B. God's first words to man came in the form of a blessing recorded in Genesis 1:28.
 - C. God used the same creative force that He used to create light, heaven, earth, seas, plants, sun, moon, stars, and animals - His spoken Words.
 - D. This was God's will (desire, purpose) for mankind, because God speaks His will for a matter and then brings it to pass.
 - E. It can also be viewed as God's charge or His commission to mankind.
 - F. God spoke this blessing (charge, commission) to the one, single spirit of man, which consisted of male and female, from which we have all descended. (God created the spirit first, then the body. Notice the body of man was not formed until Chapter 2.)
 - G. Genesis 1:28 says, 'And God blessed them; and God said to them (male and female), "Be **fruitful** and **multiply**, and **fill the earth**, and **subdue** it; and **rule** over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
- II. God's Blessing Was A Progressive One
 - A. (You, Yourself) Be fruitful = prosper; be life bearing; I believe in God's terms it means to obtain God. For when you obtain God, you obtain His life, which is abundant, and you prosper in your soul as mentioned in III John 2. In our words today, get saved, know God, manifest the fruit of the Spirit, be a light, and witness. Put succinctly, be like God, for we were created in His image. But God did not stop at just you being fruitful; He commissioned us to go beyond ourselves – to multiply.
 - B. Multiply = increase; reproduce your fruitfulness (prosperity); share God; share this abundant life; spread the word, the news, the truth; broadcast God; publish
 - C. Fill the earth = win souls; enlarge your borders like Jabez did; God's purpose for us filling the earth is for us then to be a blessing to the earth; it is not about **us**, it is about **OTHERS**; disciple those who will disciple others
 - D. Subdue – the Amplified Bible adds, "using all its vast resources in the service of God and man" = feed the world; capture resources; do battle; conquer life; conquer by God; conquer with God; influence people, groups, cities, states, nations; "the people who know their God shall be strong and carry out great exploits" (Daniel 11:32)
 - E. Rule = reign; have dominion; reign over life; reign with God. When you have been fruitful, multiplied, filled the earth, and subdued it, then you can rule over (your part of) it. This is what Lucifer wanted to do, except he did not want to co-rule. God intended for Adam and Eve to co-rule with Him. We will get to co-rule as kings of our own kingdoms, Satan will not.
- III. God's Word (Will, Plan, Desire, Charge, Commission) Will Be Accomplished (Isaiah 55:10-11) – In Spite of Our Perceived Inability
 - A. When God created, He placed within His creation the properties (capacity, potential, abilities) to accomplish what He decreed for them to accomplish. In Genesis 1:11 He said "Let the earth sprout...fruit trees bearing fruit after their kind, with seed (**already**) in them..." Likewise, God has already placed in us the potential, the capacity, the abilities, and the properties to succeed, because what He placed

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(breathed) into us was Himself – once in Genesis 2:7 at creation and then again in John 20:22 after re-creation. At creation His Spirit made a clay body a living soul.

Then His Spirit received into a re-created (born again) spirit gives us the power to be like Him. (i.e., do the works of Jesus “and greater works than these” per John 14:12)

- B. With this blessing to man coming in the form of a charge (a command, or a commission), God was calling forth the properties (abilities, potential, and capacity) He had already sovereignly placed in the spirit of man that man would need to accomplish God’s commission. It was like God was energizing the qualities He had placed within the spirit of man at creation; sort of like, He created man with a battery as the power source, and with this commission He was turning on the power.
 - C. It is impossible for us to fail, **as long as we partner with God**. Luke 1:37 says “For nothing (not any word) will be impossible **WITH (not for)** God.”
 - D. This was God’s **first** Great Commission
- IV. What is the nature of fruit? (as in “Be fruitful”); How do we accomplish this? We accomplish it by simply being the fruit.
- A. **We** are God’s fruit. God is fruitful. God multiplied Himself when He created us (in His image).
 - B. Fruit contains wonderful qualities (flavor, juices, vitamins, nutrients, seeds [already in them], life [is in the seeds]); properties of blessing **to others**. God placed in us at creation the capacity to bless others.
 - C. But the fruit does not own those qualities (i.e., Those qualities are no good unless they are given away for someone else to share, consume, and enjoy. They are not for self-consumption.)
 - D. Born (Its purpose is) to be consumed. Or, to multiply by being planted and dying.
 - E. In dying it bears more fruit; Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat fall into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.” (John 12:24); (ex: Jesus) we are to be this to the world (others, such as family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, teammates, and strangers around us). Jesus was and is God’s Fruit, and we likewise become God’s fruit when we become like Jesus and allow our egos to die so that we can bless others by our (Jesus’) nature being consumed by them.