

The Dominion Mandate

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Introduction

The vast majority of the evangelical writers and preachers miss the entire point of God's work here on earth through His church. They place the entire emphasis of the Gospel on getting people into heaven. But there is work to be done here on earth...that work was given to all mankind right in the first chapter of Genesis and before the fall of man.

Our work on earth is both the spiritual work of saving the lost...and we are to fulfill also God's original command. I will call this the "Dominion Mandate". It is found in Genesis 1:26-28: The Lord made mankind in His own image and gave them a command..."Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it and have dominion...".

Yes man is a fallen creature through the rebellion of the first Adam...but here is the crucial principle to understand: Jesus is the second Adam who came to restore to us everything we lost when the first Adam sinned...we are now in the time of the restoration of power and authority so that we can get on with the job for which God created man...which is to be fruitful, fill the earth and subdue the earth and take dominion over all the works of God's handiwork!

That means that science and technology and business and productive work and wealth creation and culture creation are all components of the Dominion Mandate.

Our job as the church is firstly the salvation of souls and then disciple those souls restore the image of God in all of us...so that we can get on with our original calling: Fulfilling our Dominion Mandate.

What I am going to write now is going to be very radical especially for those who have been taught prophecy interpretation by Dispensationalists. The vast majority of evangelicals believe that the world will shortly end, that most of mankind will be lost, that God has a prophetic timeline of about 7000 years and then basically it's over and after that it is heaven. So let me give you some scriptures that will indicate in fact the vast extent of the Lord's Dominion Mandate that lies ahead for all of us to participate in.

The Earth and the Cosmos have a future ahead that can be measured in billions of years!

There are a lot of what I would call apocalyptic scriptures in the Bible that many people believe point to the destruction of the earth and the heavens. And from these misinterpretations many evangelicals believe that God is going to destroy the heavens and the earth. This is not going to happen. The Lord has an eternal plan for His creation and He created it good and blessed it. Lets look at a couple of these apocalyptic scriptures and their real meaning:

Isaiah 34:4. *"All the stars of heaven will be dissolved and the sky rolled up like a scroll..."*

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No this is not a prophecy of the end of the universe but instead it is a prophecy of the coming destruction of Edom in the late 6th Century BC.

Ezekiel 32:7 *“I will cover the heavens and darken their stars; I will cover the sun with a cloud...all the shining lights of heaven I will darken over you.”*

No the stars are not going to stop shining, instead the Lord is prophesying to the Pharaoh of Egypt of his coming fall in mid-6th Century BC.

Many other examples can be given. But here is what the Word of God tells us of the earth:

“Generations come and generations go but the earth endures forever (Eccl. 1:4).

The Psalmist tells us that the earth is established forever (Psalm 78:69) and the earth and its foundations will never be removed (Psalm 104:5, Psalm 93:1, 96:10, 119:90).

But not just the earth but also the sun and the moon and the whole cosmos are forever (Psalm 89:36-37; Psalm 148:4,6).

And not just in the Old Testament but Paul also believed the world was without end... ***“...from the beginning of the world...throughout all ages, world without end. Amen”*** (Ephesians 3:9,21).

But this world is blessed and not cursed as many people have been taught...***“Never again will I (God) curse the ground because of man.”*** (Genesis 8:21).

But what is God’s purpose with the earth and the cosmos?

The earth has a purpose. The Lord told mankind to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth with life! But now here is the amazing thing...in Isaiah we are given a command by the Lord that not only the earth but the whole cosmos must be filled with life.

Isaiah 45:18 the Lord says the following: ***“For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens, God himself that formed the earth and made it; he established it, he created it not in vain he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord and there is none else.”***

The Lord created the earth and the heavens and He made them to be inhabited! In the Hebrew the word “vain” is “to’hoo” meaning “to lie waste, desolate” (Strong’s H8414). The Lord made the earth to be inhabited and He made the heavens to be inhabited. It is only in the last century with modern telescopes that we have been able to see the extent of the heavens that the Lord has made.

Our galaxy the Milky Way consists of over 400 billion stars, each of those with planets. Billions of those planets can be inhabited. But astronomers have also discovered over 1000 billion galaxies each with billions of stars and planets! All are meant by the Lord to be inhabited!

But that is not all. Scientists have discovered that the universe is expanding endlessly. They once thought that it would expand and then contract. But it is not contracting. In fact the expansion is speeding up and as it expands more star clusters and galaxies are being formed all the time.

The Abrahamic Covenant

Now we can also see why the covenant that the Lord made with Abraham was not an exaggeration. The Lord told Abraham

“That blessing I will bless thee and multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is upon the sea shore...” (Gen. 22:17).

This is not an exaggeration! The Lord intends literally to fulfill this promise. Abraham’s seed will multiply into uncounted billions and trillions. Why? Because the Lord loves children. He is making a family. This earth and the vast cosmos is the Lord’s womb from which trillions of children are to come into existence. The issue

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is not Abraham's family...the issue is this is the Lord's family.

The Lord has provided a universe of unlimited abundance for us. There is an unlimited amount of energy, minerals, plants and animals, soils and nutrients for us to fulfill His command to be fruitful and multiply. There are no limits to growth in God's Kingdom. There are no shortages of resources in God's universe. He simply makes more.

How long do we have to fulfill our Dominion Mandate?

One of the false impressions made by prophecy books and sermons is that it is all about to end, the world is finished, the end is upon us. God has given us a few thousand years for mankind on earth and then He finishes it all. But this is not what scripture tells us.

Deut. 7:9. ***“Know therefore that the Lord thy God he is God the faithful God which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations.”***

Ex.34:7 ***“keeping lovingkindness for thousands of generations, forgiving iniquity and transgressions and sin...visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and upon the children's children upon the third and fourth generation.”***

That is right. This is not an exaggeration. The Lord has plans spanning for thousands of generations. Because it will take thousands of generations for us to fulfill our Dominion Mandate.

But in addition to thousands of generations that are needed to fulfill the Lord's commandment we are also going to be given extended life spans. It is not part of the Lord's plan for the future that people only live for about 70 years. There is a reason the Lord wanted Adam to live for thousands of years...the universe is an incredibly big place and it takes time to travel and colonize space! The Lord is going to restore long life. In Isaiah 65:20, *“there shall be no*

more thence an infant of days or an old man that has not filled his days; for the child shall die a hundred years old...”

Subdue the earth...

After the Lord made the earth and declared it to be good he made Adam and told him to “subdue it”. That means that the Lord is not going to do everything for us. We have to do our part and it requires work. Work was part of the command to Adam from the beginning. Work is not a curse, it is a blessing. But the Lord is going to restore to us productive work that we can enjoy what we produce without others stealing our labour.

Again Isaiah 65:22-23 says, ***“they shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for as the days of a tree shall the days of my people and my chosen shall long enjoy the works of their hands. They shall not labour in vain nor bring forth for calamity for they are the seed of the blessed of Jehovah and their offspring with them.”***

But subduing the earth means understanding the way that the Lord made the earth. That requires understanding science and technology to unlock the hidden wealth of the Lord's creation. And it also means protecting the earth and all of God's creation. We are not to pollute the earth or destroy the wonderful animals the Lord placed here on the earth and their natural habitats. There is room for all to live and thrive.

Who is to take dominion of the earth?

In Psalms 115:14-16 we are clearly told to whom this universe is given....

“The Lord will increase you more and more, you and your children. You are blessed of the Lord who made heaven and earth. The heaven even the heavens are the Lord's but the earth has he given to the children of men.”

The Lord wants a great increase of children...more and more. So He has created a vast universe for us to have more and more

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children. The heavens of spirit beings which is paradise and the great throne room of God, belongs to the Lord...but the created universe made for earthly mankind He has given to us to have dominion over.

Psalm 8:3-6 says, *“When I consider thy heavens the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained; What is man that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man that thou visitest him? For thou has made him but little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor. Thou makest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands, thou hast put all things under his feet.”*

Now do what the Psalmist says. Consider the incredible works of God that we have observed with our telescopes. Look at the billions of galaxies out there. Now consider this: God has given all that for us to have dominion over! The universe belongs to us. It does not belong to some ET's or interplanetary UFO inhabitants or to Satan or to the angels...it all belongs to us and our children.

But we must go out there and subdue it. The angels are not going to do it nor is the Lord going to do it. We have to do it. We have been made in God's image. We have been crowned with glory and honor. Adam had direct access to the presence of the Lord. He had fellowship with God. The Lord was very interested to see what Adam would call the various things He had made. He expected Adam to explore and discover. We have been fully endowed by the Lord to fulfill our Godly Dominion Mandate.

The Gospel and the Dominion Mandate

For thousands of years of human history mankind did not subdue the earth...the earth subdued mankind. People lived in wretched poverty. The earth had potential abundance to provide support, food, comfort and shelter for billions of people but instead mankind lived in abject poverty.

Then came the Reformation of 1517 when the Bible was translated into the common language

of the people and the Reformation preachers like Luther and Calvin began to preach the Word of God to the common people. This preaching starting in Europe brought freedom to the masses from the deprivations of the feudalism that held them in bondage. The power of kings and priests were broken, the gospel freed people to study the work of God around them and the process of subduing the earth could begin. What followed was the scientific revolution and with it the Industrial Revolution. Soon wealth was being produced in enormous quantities, medical breakthroughs brought about healing for the masses. This was the effect of the gospel on the world.

Mankind cannot fulfill his Dominion Mandate as a sinner. He must repent, be born again and return to the image of God in which he was created. It is only with the mind of Christ that we can understand the works of God. It is only



Behold the heavens...consider the works of God's hands. He has made all this not in vain...He made them to be inhabited and bring forth seed to Abraham like the stars of heaven and the sands of the seas in number. Our Dominion Mandate: Be fruitful, multiply and fill the galaxies and subdue the universe!

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with the mind of Christ that we can get the mind of God for how to take dominion over all the works of God's hand. Sinful man in his arrogance thinks he can do this without God. He thinks he can take dominion over God's creation without the mind of the creator. He will fail. All the technology of man will not save him from his greed. He will destroy his world by his greed and technology will not save him.

History will prove the Word of God true...in the end it is the meek who will inherit not only the earth but all the works of God's hands, the entire universe. It will be those who have taken on the image of God that will be given all the works of God's hands.

Trillions of galaxies in the universe...
Billions of stars and planets in each galaxy...



And they all belong to us.....and the need to be filled with growing families!