

MY FATHER'S WORLD



We don't need a crisis to celebrate and care

THE FALL AND THE CALL

The Fall negatively impacted both our relationship with God and our relation to creation.

The solution to any ecological crisis is not to raise our fists in anger but fall to our knees in surrender.

It's a relational problem.



Genesis 3:1-7

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’ ”

“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”



When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves



**The fall did more than make their calling to rule difficult,
it made their mission to subdue impossible.**



Genesis 1:28

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”



SUBDUE

כַּבַּשׁ • kabash

subdue, bring into bondage:
assault, brought them into subjection.



SUBDUE • בָּכַשׁ • KABASH

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To tread down, trample

...and the Lord Almighty will shield them. They will destroy and overcome with slingstones. They will drink and roar as with wine; they will be full like a bowl used for sprinkling the corners of the altar.

Zechariah 9:15a

also Micah 7:19

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To subdue

The whole assembly of the Israelites gathered at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The country was brought under their control...

Joshua 18:1

also Numbers 32:20-22, 29,

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Bring into subjection

Although we are of the same flesh and blood as our fellow Jews and though our children are as good as theirs, yet we have to subject our sons and daughters to slavery. Some of our daughters have already been enslaved, but we are powerless, because our fields and our vineyards belong to others.

Nehemiah 5:5

also Jeremiah 34:11, 16 + 1 Chronicles 28:10

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Force a woman

Just as the king returned from the palace garden to the banquet hall, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was reclining. The king exclaimed, "Will he even molest the queen while she is with me in the house?" As soon as the word left the king's mouth, they covered Haman's face.

Esther 7:8

“Kabash assumes that the party being subdued is hostile to the subduer, necessitating some sort of coercion if the subduing is to take place.”

J. Oswalt



**“The context of this passage does not present the earth
as an active adversary of mankind,
but rather as an undeveloped yet fruitful environment
intended for human flourishing.”**

Z. Klein and H. Klein



Genesis 9:1-2

Then God blessed Noah and his sons, saying to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the earth. The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands.”



Genesis 1:28-30

- 1. Be fruitful**
- 2. Increase in number**
- 3. Fill the earth**
- 4a. Subdue it**
- 4b. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky
and over every living creature that moves on the ground.**
- 5. Food for humanity (1:29-30)**

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- 4. The fear and dread of you will fall on all the beasts of the earth, and on all the birds in the sky, on every creature that moves along the ground, and on all the fish in the sea; they are given into your hands.**
- 5. Food for humanity (9:3-4)**

**For the Christian, an ecological crisis
is first and foremost a relational crisis.**



Genesis 3:16-19

To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”



Creation before the Fall

Creation after the Fall

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- **Creation was characterized by fruitfulness and harmony between animals, humanity, and God Himself** (*Gen. 3:8-9; 13:10; Isa. 51:3; Ezek. 36:34-35; Joel 2:3*)

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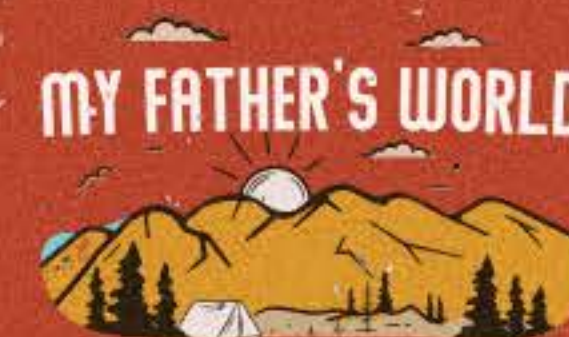
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- **God pronounced the initial state of creation as 'very good'** (*Gen. 1:31*)

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- **The very good initial state of creation now operates in a state of futility** (*Romans 8:20*)

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1. God will crush the enemy (Gen. 3:15)
2. God will comfort us when the toll of hard labor is felt (Gen. 5:29)
3. God is committed to us and will bless us (Gen. 8:21-22; 9:1-7)

