

## DOES A MAN'S LIFE HAVE ANY PURPOSE? -- by Dr. Francis Nigel Lee

Why are we alive? What is the purpose of human life? Why did God create man? What will man ultimately achieve? What will human life be like on the renewed Earth yet to come?

### A. Introduction

Man is the glorious crown of God's creation. He was created to rule over plants, animals, the land, the sea, the air, the earth, the moon, and apparently even the stars. Psalm 8:3-6 and Isaiah 45:18 and Hebrews 2:5-9. For God made man a little less than a Divine Being -- and "crowned him with glory and honour."

God made man to have dominion over the works of His hands and by putting all things whatsoever under his feet (Psalm 8:3-8). All things whatsoever -- including the Heavens; the moon and the stars; all sheep and oxen; all the beasts of the field; all the birds of the air; and all the fishes of the sea! For God did not create the Heavens and form the Earth to leave it as a formless void. But He made them to be inhabited by His image man, who would further cultivate them into an ordered cosmos. Isaiah 45:18.

Man was and is to glorify God, and fully to enjoy Him for ever. Man is to do everything to the glory of God (First Corinthians 10:31). He is to desire and to enjoy nobody and nothing on Earth, more than or apart from God (Psalm 73:24-28). And the Son of man Jesus Christ glorified His God and Father and loved and enjoyed Him, from before the foundation of the World (John 17:4f,10,21-24).

Man's 'Great Commission' to subdue the Universe, still needs to be executed fully -- even after the completion of Christ's work here on Earth (Genesis 1:26 and Matthew 28:19). This is because, even though Christ's earthly life and sufferings finished at His death on Calvary, His subsequent heavenly work of subduing mankind and all of mankind's works is still far from finished (First Corinthians 15:21-28). And He executes His heavenly work through the earthly Church as the revived and true human race, and as His Own substituted earthly body (Ephesians 1:17-23 & 2:6-10 & 3:9-21).

Man, after becoming Christian, is to glorify God in all human activities -- in his thoughts, in his concepts and imagination; in all his words, language and descriptions; and in all his deeds, total behaviour and actions. Man's world is not just Church life, but all of life. For from God, through God, and unto God -- are all things. Therefore, whether we eat or drink or whatever else we do -- we are to do it all to the glory of God. Romans 11:36 and First Corinthians 10:31.

This leads to man's progressive glorification of God down through history in terms of fructification, multiplication, nationalization, subjugation, restoration, consummation and glorification. Genesis 1:26-28 and Psalm 78:2-7. Starting with Adam's life of gardening and naming animals with the help of Eve in their family of Seth and his descendants -- and then through the clan, to Noah -- from the tower of Babel onward, the Semites and Hamites and Japhethites developed into nationalities to subdue the Earth. Then Christ came, to restore and

consummate the whole elect Universe, unto the further glorification of God. Genesis 1:26 and Acts 17:26f and Ephesians 1:10 and Colossians 1:16-20 and Revelation 21:24-26 & 22:1-5.

For God made man male and female, as His image. And God blessed them and told them to be fruitful and to multiply and to fill the Earth and to subdue it, and to have dominion over the land and the sea and the sky and all their contents (Genesis 1:26-28 & 9:1-7 and Psalm 8:3-6). So man was to "make" the created cosmos further, and to unfold it more and more to the glory of God (Genesis 2:3 margin, and First Corinthians 10:31).

## **B. Fructification**

By fructification, is meant man's being fruitful in all he does in God's service (such as personally and in marriage and family and career and nationally and internationally), and not just in "spiritual" or "Church" affairs. Genesis 1:28 & 9:1-6 and Leviticus 26:9 *cf.* vv. 2-12 and Ecclesiastes 2:4-9,11,21,24,26 and 3:1-13 and First Corinthians 10:31 & 15:58 and Colossians 1:10 and Revelation 14:13.

"God blessed them. And God said to them: 'Be fruitful!'" Genesis 1:28. "God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: 'Be fruitful!'" Genesis 9:1a *cf.* 1:28a. God said to the children of Israel: "I will have respect to you, and make you fruitful.... You shall keep My sabbaths, and reverence My sanctuary.... Keep My Commandments, and do them!... I will give you rain..., and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.... And your threshing shall reach to the vintage; and the vintage shall reach to the sowing-time.... You shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace." Leviticus 25:55 & 26:2-8,9,12.

Being fruitful involves many different things. We are to build great works, construct houses, plant vineyards, make gardens, irrigate fields, employ servants, acquire herds and flocks, gather silver and gold, develop a taste for music, cultivate prosperity, work and labour with our hands, bequeath inheritances, eat and drink, enjoy all of God's gifts, and value wisdom and knowledge and contentment (Ecclesiastes 2:4-9,11,21,24,26a). We should also be fruitful in planting, reaping, healing, building, laughing, relaxing, toiling, embracing, acquiring, storing, mending, speaking, loving, reconciling, profiting, travelling, appreciating, meditating, discovering, rejoicing, doing, eating, drinking, and enjoying the good of all our labour (Ecclesiastes 3:2-13).

Whether then we eat or drink or do anything, we should do all things only to the glory of God (First Corinthians 10:31). Thus, we should always be fruitful and abound in our labours for the Lord, which are never in vain (First Corinthians 15:58). For if and when we die in the Lord, all the fruits of our present earthly works will follow us into glory (Revelation 14:13).

Let us then always remember that God crowned man with glory and honour, and appointed him over all His works, and put all things under his feet (Psalm 8:3-6). This was never retracted after the fall, even though fallen man now lacks the ability to do all of this (Genesis 9:1-7). Because it was never retracted, it remained and still remains in force -- even after Jesus Christ the Second Adam or Son of man tasted death for every man and was Himself crowned with glory and honour after His resurrection and ascension.

For even today, we still "see that all things have not yet been put under Him." Nor will this have been accomplished, until He has finally brought many sons to glory and destroyed the devil (Hebrews 2:5-9). Meanwhile, let us continue to be fruitful in all things, in the power of the Spirit of the resurrected and reigning Saviour! Philippians 2:1 & 4:8,13.

### **C. Multiplication**

To be fruitful in God's service, Adam needed a wife to help him. It was not good that the male Adam should be alone. So God made him a woman, to assist him to subdue the Earth. Cf. Genesis 1:26-28 & 2:18-22 and Proverbs 12:4 & 31:10-31. Adam the crown of creation needed his wife to be his crown, and to be a model homemaker (Proverbs 12:4 and Titus 2:3-5).

Yet Adam's wife, though a great boon to him, was still insufficient assistance to help him to subdue the Universe. To do this, Adam also needed the whole of humanity. This is why God told Adam and Eve to multiply and produce children, who would fill the Earth and subdue it. Genesis 1:28 & 5:1-5 and Romans 5:12f.

Such multiplication was to be effected only through essentially-good sexual intercourse within marriage (Genesis 1:28-31 & 2:24f and Proverbs 5:15-20 and Hebrews 13:4a). It should be noted that multiplication as such is only sometimes the natural product of sexual intercourse, and that sexual intercourse within marriage is itself pleasing to the Lord and is in itself essentially "very good" -- even when it does not or cannot result in the multiplication of the human race.

Hence sexual intercourse is "very good" not only throughout regular marriages. It is also "very good" even within childless marriages or late-in-life marriages -- and during honeymoons prior to the birth of any children (Genesis 2:23-25 & 16:1-2 & 17:17-21 & 18:11-15 & 21:1-7 & 26:8 & 29:23-28 and Exodus 21:10 and Deuteronomy 21:11-15 & 24:5 & 28:54 and Proverbs 5:15-20 and Song 7:1-8 & 8:3-6 and Matthew 19:4-6 and First Corinthians 7:2-5 and Ephesians 5:22-31 and Hebrews 13:4).

Now multiplication is to be effected only through monogamy (Genesis 2:24f and Proverbs 5:15-20 and Malachi 2:14f and Matthew 19:5f). Children are a natural fruit of a monogamous marriage, and they should be welcomed as one of its expected products (Genesis 2:18-25 & 3:15f & 4:1 & 18:10-14 & 21:1-7 & 24:67 & 25:20f and Psalms 127 to 128). Notice, however, that this does not preclude but in fact presupposes responsible family planning for the best or optimal rather than for the maximal or minimal number of offspring (Genesis 1:28 and Leviticus 15:16-33 and First Corinthians 7:2-5).

Marriage should thus lead to the family; families, to kindred; kindreds, to clans; clans, to a nation; and nations should result in the expansion and enrichment of the human race throughout the world (Genesis 1:28 & 12:3 & 17:19f & 22:20-23 & 25:13-16a & 17:5f & 22:18 and Romans 4:13,17). Thus the whole human race was initially and still is one family, despite the Trincentric one-and-the-many differences within that family (Ephesians 2:11-18 & 3:6,15). Here too, we have yet another beautiful example of the one God and the many Persons within the Trinity -- and so too withing His church (First Corinthians 12:4-14).

#### **D. Nationalization**

Even before man's fall, the principle of national development was already present. For God ordered man: 'Fill the Earth!' (Genesis 1:26-28 & 2:24 and Acts 17:26f).

By "nationalization" we do not mean statist expropriation of private commerce, but the formation and development of nationality as such. Even if sin had never occurred, it is obvious that man's obedience to God's requirement that His image man should fill the Earth, would have led to the formation of different nations (Genesis 1:28 & 2:24). For God "has made of one blood all nations of men, to dwell on all the surface of the Earth -- and determined the times before appointed, and the boundaries of their habitation" (Acts 17:26).

After man's sin, national differences were of course intensified. This was especially so after the events of the tower of Babel, where God Himself confused the tongues of the human race and drove men apart from one another into the various nations. Man was differentiated into Semites and Hamites and Japhethites alias Caucasians -- a process still slowly continuing, even today (Genesis 10:1-32 & 11:1-9 and Deuteronomy 32:8).

It is true that the events of Pentecost Sunday laid down the basis for international harmony (as opposed to antinational cosmopolitanism). For Pentecost did not destroy but rather sanctified nationality (Acts 2:5,8,11 & 6:1-7). Indeed, the militant church universal here and now consists of various national churches in the process of christianizing their own nation and other nations (Matthew 28:19).

Even on the renewed Earth yet to come, there shall still be sanctified nations living in Christian-international harmony (Revelation 21:24-26). Moreover, we are now told to pray that God's will shall be done here on Earth, as it is being done in Heaven (Matthew 6:10). Therefore, we should work for both a Christian-national and a Christian-international but not an unnational or an antinational order on Earth here and now (Isaiah 2:2-4 & 11:1-2 & 66:22-23).

#### **E. Subduing the cosmos**

It is clear that God to His glory commanded man to subdue at least our whole inhabited world -- that is, our Earth, sea and sky. Consequently, this also includes everything in the world -- such as its cattle, its land-surfaces, its mines, its oceans, its fishes, its birds, and its atmosphere (Genesis 1:26-28 & 2:5,12,15,19,20,22).

The subjugation of the cosmos implies man's development also of the arts and sciences. This is why man was told to till or "dress the garden" -- and to examine and give names to the animals (Genesis 2:15,19). For God put the whole world in the heart of men, to prompt them to undertake and enjoy their labours of investigating the cosmos (Ecclesiastes 3:11-13).

Inevitably, this would require man soon to extend the frontiers far beyond Eden (Genesis 1:26 & 2:5,8,15-19 and Job 38:26 and Isaiah 45:18). Today, man has at last started to do this even in his modern attempts to develop solar energy -- and to explore the moon and Mars.

Yet there were and still are possible limitations to man's authority. Presumably there could have been (and still are) parts of the Universe man could or would never have reached, and still less been able to develop (Ecclesiastes 5:2). It is assuredly questionable whether man had or has the legal authority to make rain (Job 28:26). And it is certain man has no authority to subdue God or his fellow-man as God's image, so that the depictability of Christ seems to be unauthorized (Exodus 20:4 & 32:1-8 & 33:20f). So too personal slavery, or the subjugation of one man to another (First Corinthians 7:23).

Yet man should surely subjugate his own sin, and Satan (Genesis 4:7 and Romans 6:12-14 & 16:20). Still, man is not forbidden to subjugate the moon and even the stars (Psalm 8:3-5) -- and, still less, also the good angels (First Corinthians 6:1-3 and Hebrews 1:14).

## **F. The work of Christ as Second Adam**

"We see Jesus..., crowned with glory!" (Hebrews 2:8f). He is the Second Adam (Romans 5:12f and First Corinthians 15:21f,45f). He is involved in fructification, multiplication, nationalization, subjugation, and glorification -- and develops all of man's earthly tasks for God, and fills them all with His Own heavenly aroma (Hebrews 2:6-9 & 4:3,9,11,14).

He fructifies the life of man by making it fruitful. Indeed, He Himself kept labouring and working in a remarkable way. John 5:17 & 10:10 & 12:23f and Acts 2:22. In living as a man, He came to this Earth to give humanity life more abundantly (John 10:10). In dying, He brought forth much fruit (John 12:24 and First Corinthians 15:36f,58).

Second, Jesus Christ the Second Adam multiplies His seed or His descendants. After Calvary and His resurrection, He prolongs His days -- even through His prospering seed (Isaiah 53:10-12). For He tasted death for every man, and is right now "bringing many sons to glory" -- while declaring His Father's name to His brethren, and to the children which the Father has given Him (Hebrews 2:9-14).

Third, Jesus Christ the Second Adam nationalizes. Never did the Saviour minimize the importance of His Own nationality (as regards His human nature). Matthew 15:24 and John 4:9,19-22. And, through His mission to the world, He would christianize all the nations and bring them into the Kingdom of His Father. Isaiah 52:15 and Matthew 8:11 & 15:24 & 28:19.

Fourth, Jesus Christ the Second Adam subjugates the Earth and the sea and the sky and all their contents. Mark chapters 4 to 6 and Acts 1:1-11. While He said "It is finished!" (John 19:30), He also said "greater works than these" shall we do (John 14:12) -- on the basis of His finished work and His Spirit mightily working within us. And right now, He is still continuing to subdue all things to Himself -- even through the instrumentality of His church as His earthly body. First Corinthians 15:24-28 and Ephesians 1:20-23 and Philippians 3:21 and First Peter 3:22.

And last, Jesus Christ the Second Adam glorifies. After His death and resurrection, He started to enter into His glory (Luke 24:26). After His ascension, He was exalted by the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:33 & 7:55). And from that lofty station, He periodically sends

glorious times of refreshing to His earthly church -- until the time of the restitution of all things at the end of the world. Acts 3:19-21.

The ascended Christ in and from Heaven continues His ministry here on Earth. Now He does even greater things than He previously did when He was physically present on this planet. For Christ's Spirit now works through the millions of members of His church as His earthly body, which continues to subjugate the Earth in His name. John 14:12,17.

### **G. Calvin on the ongoing purpose of man**

In his *Institutes* I:14:1 to II:1:7, Calvin remarks: "It is of importance to attend to the history of creation.... God, by the power of His Word and His Spirit, created the Heavens and the Earth out of nothing.... Thereafter, He produced things inanimate and animate of every kind..., giving each kind its proper nature.... As all things were liable to corruption, (God was) providing for the perpetuation of each single species...(by)...bestowing...a power of continuing their race -- so preventing it from perishing at their own death....

"At length, man was made -- man, by the beauty of his person and his many noble endowments, the most glorious specimen of the works of God.... The Lord Himself, by the very order of creation, has demonstrated that He created all things for the sake of man....

"The many noble faculties with which the human mind is endued, proclaim that...they are so many evidences of an immortal essence.... Such sense as the lower animals possess, goes not beyond the body.... But the swiftness with which the human mind glances from Heaven to Earth, scans the secrets of nature -- and, after it has embraced all ages with intellect and memory, digests each in its proper order. and reads the future in the past" -- astounds.

"The image of God extends to everything in which the nature of man surpasses that of all other species of animals.... When Adam lost his first estate, he became alienated from God.... Our deliverance begins with that renovation which we obtain from Christ, Who is therefore called the 'Second Adam'.... The end of regeneration, is to form us anew in the image of God....

"John (1:4)...says that the Light which was from the beginning in the eternal Word of God, was the light of man. His object being to extol...God, in making man excel the other animals.... Man was undoubtedly created to meditate on the heavenly life -- so it is certain that the knowledge of it was engraven on the soul....

"God has provided the soul of man with intellect, by which he might discern good from evil.... To this, He has joined will -- to which choice belongs.... [This] not only sufficed for the government of his earthly life, but also enabled him to rise up to God and eternal happiness.... In this upright state, man possessed freedom of will -- by which, if he chose, he was able to obtain eternal life....

"It was chiefly for the sake of mankind, that the world was made.... When reflecting on what God gave us at our creation and still continues graciously to give, we perceive how great the excellence of our nature.... God at first formed us in His Own image, so that He might

elevate our minds to...the contemplation of eternal life -- so as to prevent us from heartlessly burying those noble qualities which distinguish us from the lower animals.... We were endued with reason and intelligence, in order that we might cultivate a holy and honourable life -- and regard a blessed immortality as our destined aim....

"It is impossible for us to think of our first origin...or the end for which we were created, without being urged to meditate on immortality.... The prohibition to touch the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, was a trial of obedience so that Adam by observing it might prove his willing submission to the command of God.... The promise which gave him hope of eternal life as long as he should eat of the tree of life..., was meant to prove and exercise his faith....

"Adam's spiritual life would have consisted in remaining united and bound to his Maker.... Adam was made the depository of the endowments which God was pleased to bestow on human nature." But mankind, 'like Adam, transgressed the covenant!' Hosea 6:7. He sinned!! And grievously so!!!

In his *Commentary on Genesis* 1:11 to 9:10, Calvin adds: "Herbs and trees were...created.... Both were endued with the power of propagation, in order that their several species might be perpetuated.... God then...created whales...and other fishes...with respect to species.... To what purpose do distinct species exist -- unless that individuals, by their several kinds, may be multiplied?" So, for Calvin -- no evolution!

"Man is...a certain pre-eminent specimen of divine wisdom.... He is deservedly called by the ancients *mikrokosmos*, 'a world in miniature'.... Chrysostom...refers to the dominion which was given to man in order that he might...act as God's vicegerent in the government of the World.... Spiritual regeneration is nothing else than the restoration of the same image (Colossians 3:10 and Ephesians 4:23)....

"He (God) decreed to honour man..., so that he should have authority over all living creatures. He appointed man...lord of the World.... The use of the plural number ('let them have dominion') intimates that this authority was not given to Adam only, but to all his posterity as well as to him.... Adam with his wife was formed for the production of offspring, in order that men might fill the Earth....

"God intends the human race to be multiplied by generation.... That pure and lawful method of increase which God ordained from the beginning, remains firm. This is that law of nature which common sense declares to be inviolable.... Man had already been created..., so that he should subject the Earth to himself....

"The first men offered sacrifices from their flocks. This moreover is the law of sacrificing rightly, not to offer to God anything except what he has granted to our use... It was lawful for them to kill animals....

"God claims for Himself the meditations and employments of men on the seventh day. This is indeed the proper business of the whole life, in which men should daily exercise themselves.... God rested.... He blessed this rest, so that in all ages it might be held sacred among men....

"This is to be the common employment not of one age or people only, but of the whole human race.... The Sabbath...was commanded to men from the beginning, so that they might employ themselves in the worship of God. It is right that it should continue to the end of the World....

"Adam was, by divine appointment, an inhabitant of the Earth in order that he might -- in passing through his earthly life -- meditate on heavenly glory.... He was commanded to cultivate the fields.... Men were created to employ themselves in some work, and not to lie down in inactivity and idleness.... Let him who possesses a field, so partake of its yearly fruits that he may not suffer the ground to be injured by his negligence!... Let him endeavour to hand it down to posterity...even better cultivated!...

"Man...was in every respect, happy.... His earthly life truly would have been temporal [or subject to the passage of time]. Yet he would have passed into Heaven, without death....

"God's bringing the animals to Adam signifies...He endued them with the disposition to obedience.... They would voluntarily offer themselves to the man in order that he, having closely inspected them, might distinguish them by appropriate names agreeing with the nature of each.... In the person of the woman, the human race was...like a building just begun....

Despite man's fall into sin, "God leaves...dominion to man.... Victory is promised to the human race through a continual succession of ages.... The human race...would at length be victorious.... The whole Church of God, under [Christ] its Head, will gloriously exult....

"To this...Paul refers, 'The Lord shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly!' (Romans 16:20). Truly, the first man would have passed to a better life, had he remained upright.... There would have been no separation of the soul from the body....

"Adam, animated by the hope of a more happy condition because God had promised that the head of the serpent should be wounded by [Christ] the Seed of the woman [Eve], called her by a name [Chavvaah] implying **life**.... When he heard the declaration of God concerning the prolongation of life -- he began again to breathe and to take courage.... As one revived, he gave his wife [Eve] a name derived from *life*.... Notice that the benediction of God -- 'Increase and multiply!' -- was not abolished by sin....

"With you will I (re-)establish My covenant!' (Genesis 6:18).... Thus was Noah encouraged to obey God.... Noah would be safe.... The covenant with him is confirmed.... His family shall be preserved for his sake..., for the replenishing of the new world....

"When Moses...says that God blessed Noah and his sons (Genesis 9:1), he does not simply mean that the favour of fruitfulness was restored to them.... The new restitution of the world was revealed to them.... The Lord prescribed...their future condition of life.... They shall raise up mankind from death to life....

"He not only renews the World by the same Word by which He before created it. But He directs His Word to men, in order that they may recover the lawful use of marriage...so that a progeny shall spring from them which shall diffuse itself through all regions of the Earth....



"This...has chiefly respect to the restoration of the World, in order that the sovereignty over the rest of animals might remain with men.... That dominion over them which God had conferred on him in the beginning, was still left.... The same dominion shall continue.... The fact that oxen become accustomed to bear the yoke...; that cows give milk, and suffer themselves to be milked; that sheep are mute under the hand of the shearer -- all these facts are the result of this dominion....

"We must firmly retain the liberty given us by the Lord, which He designed to be recorded as on Public Tables.... He addresses all the posterity of Noah, and renders His gift common to all ages.... Atrocious injury is done to God, when we give such licence to men as to allow them to pronounce that unlawful which God designs to be lawful.... The punishment which the laws ordain...are founded on this divine sentence ['Whosoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed!'].

"God, making His covenant with the sons of Noah, commands them to hope for the best.... It was not therefore a private covenant confirmed with one family only, but one which is common to all people -- and which shall flourish in all ages to the end of the world (Psalm 8:3-8).... God...makes a covenant with Noah and his family.... He transmits His covenant to posterity..., so that as by continual succession the effect may reach to other ages.... God promises salvation to a thousand generations" -- for 1000 times one generation to the next, meaning 20000 years!

"'Noah began to be a farmer' (Genesis 9:20).... Noah, with a collected mind -- though now an old man (601 to 950 years old!) -- returned to the culture of the fields and to his former labours."

'God...shall bruise Satan [under your feet shortly!]' (Romans 16:20). Comments Calvin: "This is a promise to **strengthen**.... He exhorts...to fight against Satan without fear, and promises...a speedy victory.... He not only speaks of the last day when Satan will be trodden openly underfoot.... He promises that the Lord will subdue him and make him to be trodden under your feet" -- speedily, and **now**!

## **H. The duties of Christians**

"Do all to the glory of God!" First Corinthians 10:31. Through Christ the Second Adam, Christians produce fruitfulness and multiplication and nationalities as they eat and drink and do greater things and produce holy families.

Through the actions of Christians, God is now gathering together all things in Heaven and on Earth in Christ Who is the Head of His church -- and Who keeps on filling all people and all things (Ephesians 1:10,20-23). This is because Christ, through His Spirit, keeps on activating His creation (Ephesians 3:16-20).

First, Christians are to be fruitful. As they abide in Christ, they do even greater works than He did while He was here on Earth. Because He ordained them to bring forth fruit which should remain. John 15:16. Consequently, Christians glorify God by bearing much fruit. John 14:12 & 15:4,8.

Second, Christians are to multiply. Not only are they to attempt to win outsiders for the Lord. Proverbs 11:30 and Daniel 12:3 and James 5:20. They are particularly to bear their own covenant children, and to raise them too in the fear and admonition of the Lord. First Corinthians 7:14 and Ephesians 6:1-4 and First Timothy 2:10,15 & 3:2-4 & 5:14 and Titus 2:3-5.

Third, Christians are to be a blessing to the nations. They are to be a blessing to their own nation, and to help exalt it with righteousness. Proverbs 14:34 and First Corinthians 7:18-20 and Romans 10:1 & 11:1,25-28. They are also to love all other peoples too, and to do all that they can to christianize all of the nations in the world in terms of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19 and Romans 16:26 and First Corinthians 9:20f).

Fourth, Christians are to subjugate. Because Christ subjugates the world, the Christians too are always to abound and confidently to labour (First Corinthians 15:25,27,58). In the power of the Spirit of God, they are to pull down the strongholds of Satan and to bring every thought into captivity so as to obey Christ (Second Corinthians 10:4f). They are to work hard with their own hands in their businesses and their vocations, as a testimony to unbelievers -- and they are never to sponge on others (First Thessalonians 4:11f and Second Thessalonians 3:8-13). They are also to keep on subjugating the Earth and the sea and the sky and all their contents to the glory of God -- until the final coming of Christ at the end of history to glorify His church (Hebrews 6:7 and James 3:3f & 5:7-9).

Christ glorifies us, so that we reign now and still more after our death and Christ's final coming. In Genesis 2:3 we are told that God created, in order to make His work (*l'aṣooth*) -- through man! Viz. in fructification (John 15:4,8 & 14:12 and First Corinthians 10:31); multiplication (First Corinthians 7:14 and First Timothy 2:15 & 3:2-4 & 5:14 and Titus 2:3-5); nationalization (Romans 10:1 & 11:1,25-28 and First Corinthians 7:18-20 & 9:20f); subjugation (First Corinthians 10:31 & 15:25,27,58 and Second Corinthians 10:4f and First Thessalonians 4:11f and Second Thessalonians 3:8-13 and Hebrews 6:7 and James 3:3-7); and glorification.

Last, they are to glorify the Lord in all they do here and now on Earth, as well as when they later enter into glory at the end of their earthly lives. So, then. Whether we eat or drink or whatever we do, we are to do everything solely to the glory of God Psalm 73:24f and First Corinthians 10:31.

## **I. Faithful man's entry into God's sabbath rest**

"Enter into that rest!" Hebrews 4:8,11. Adam was created with unlosable and everlasting continued existence, but with losable life (Genesis 1:26 & 2:17 and Revelation 14:11 & 30:10-14). God made a covenant of works with Adam, whereby he and his descendants were to execute the dominion charter until they had adequately fulfilled it. Genesis 12:16-18 & 2:19,34 and Hosea 6:7 and Revelation 6:10-13 & 10:5-7 & 11:15-18.

If Adam kept this covenant, he would ultimately have lived for ever (Genesis 2:9 & 3:22). Adam broke the everlasting covenant, but Christ restored it (Genesis 3:15 and Isaiah 24:5 & 28:15f and Hosea 6:1-7 and Hebrews 13:20).

Through Christ's work as Second Adam, we now enter into the glorious heavenly rest of God -- namely unlosable everlasting life, both when we believe in this life here and now, and even more hereafter when we go to Heaven (Luke 24:26 and John 3:36 & 5:24f & 6:47 & 10:10 and Hebrews 2:8-13 & 4:9-14 & 10:25 & 11:16 and First John 5:13). Adam was to have entered into this heavenly rest -- and Christ as Second Adam and we too as the seed of both the first and Second Adam enter it, when we go to glory (Genesis 2:3 *cf.* Psalm 95:11 and Isaiah 66:1,22f and Hebrews 4:3-11 and Revelation 14:13).

This "eternal rest" would have preserved and shall yet preserve all the valuable work ever done by Adam and his descendants (Isaiah 43:14-18 & 60:1-21 & 62:1-4 and Revelation 14:13 & 21:24-26). And the "eternal rest" would have seen the "unification" (but not the "uniformitarianization") of Heaven and Earth (Genesis 1:1 & 2:1-3 and Luke 11:2 & 17:21 and Revelation 21:1-2,10).

Thus although Adam in his original rectitude would then have reached the end of history -- even after his fall when he lost life but not unlosable existence, elect man in Christ keeps the charter and Christ donates man unlosable life. So that as a saved Christian, he escapes everlasting hell and enters into the unlosable life of God's rest as man's reward.

All of the above is precisely what gives meaning to our earthly life here and now. Do you understand this? Has your life this kind of meaning? If not -- ask God to begin giving you this kind of outlook today!

#### **J. Questions for further discussion**

1. Question: Should multiplication of the human race not be abandoned, in favour of zero population growth -- in order to try to stave off future food and job shortages?

Answer: No! We do not need less people on our planet, but more of the right kind of people (who will live by godly principles in both food productions and employmental practices). Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.

2. Question: Should Christians not promote cosmopolitanism, in order to avert wars?

Answer: No! The elimination of wars will come about not by the destruction of nationality but by the christianization of all nations in terms of the Great Commission. Genesis 11 and Isaiah 2 and Matthew 28:19.

3. Question: In countries like Ethiopia and Saudi-Arabia which still practice the sinful subjugation of man to man in their kind of slavery, should that institution summarily be abolished without compensation to the slave owners?

Answer: No! Scripture required the anti-revolutionary phasing out of such slavery, with adequate compensation always being paid to those who thus sustained the economic loss. Exodus 21:1-11 and Philemon 10-21.

## **K. Literature**

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