

Be Fruitful & Multiply

By E. Giorgio

“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him, male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it, have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth’” (Genesis 1:27, 28).

As we look carefully at these verses, God created mankind in His own image. He created male and female, which describes Adam and Eve. The word image includes shape, size and likeness. Toy makers work carefully to make toy cars and trucks in the likeness of the real ones. The shape and form are based on the real objects. Therefore, it helps us to understand that Adam was formed in the image of God. He is not God, but he was made in God’s image. The blueprint of mankind was fashioned after the Creator Himself.

We can safely conclude that God also gave mankind at least three important authorities. Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the living things in the sea, air and earth. We will look at these delegated powers later. For now, let us concentrate on *“Be fruitful and multiply.”*

Similar Mandates

Did God give similar commands to others after Adam? Yes, He did.

“So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth. And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move on the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand’” (Genesis 9:1, 2).

Adam was in charge of all the living things in Paradise. In that wonderful place, he exercised all the authority and dominion that God gave him. But when they disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit, they were cast out of the place.

Judgment came on the earth during Noah’s time. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and he escaped the judgment with his family and several animals. When the flood ended, he came out and sacrificed his offering to God. And God blessed him with very similar words that Adam received. The fruitfulness and multiplication with the authorities were fully pronounced on Noah and his family. Directly or indirectly all mankind came from Noah’s family.

Then a man called Abram came along. *“Now the Lord had said to Abram; ‘Get out of your country from your family and from your father’s house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curses you and in you shall the families of the earth shall be blessed’”* (Genesis 12:1 – 3).

Later on God takes Abraham out to look at the stars. *“Then He brought him outside and said, ‘Look now towards heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them.’ And He said to him, ‘So shall your descendants be’”* (Genesis 15:5). Wow, the man received an awesome promise from God.

These three persons, Adam, Noah and Abraham received promises to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. They did their parts spiritually and literally. Their fruitfulness continues into our modern days. Noah's family filled the earth by scattering over different parts of the whole earth. Abraham's family became the tribes of Israel physically. And in one way or another, Abraham has spiritual families all over this world.

"And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, In you all the nations shall be blessed.' So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham" (Galatians 3:8,9).

Be Fruitful and Multiply

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you" (John 15:16). Notice, God is initiating the choosing and fruitfulness. He did it with Adam, Noah and Abraham. He has done it again in the New Testament with all who believe in Him.