

Gen 1:26-28 The Creation Mandate

Bear the Image and Likeness of God accurately
"Be visible representatives of the invisible God"
Love, Enjoy, Dwell with, Know, Worship, Emulate
***Bring God's blessing into the world
through your involvement in it***

The purpose for which humans
were created.

1. Be fruitful and multiply – BLESS/DO GOOD

- Be abundantly productive (spiritually, mentally, emotionally, physically, and relationally)
- Fill the whole earth with additional images and likenesses of the One True God
- Reproduce in other humans the mission and purpose of God to bear his image and likeness (Responsibility and privilege)
- Develop a Godly heritage in each generation so they will intimately know how to carry out the Creation Mandate

2. Rule over creation and exercise dominion on God's behalf - RIGHTEOUSNESS

- Partner with God to rule over the world he created and to make it productive for Him.
- Manage the specific dominion entrusted to us
- Govern as a representative of the King who is on a journey and will one day return to set up his physical kingdom
- Prepare to give an account to the King when he returns, answering for how we invested and grew our talents in God's purposes for his majesty.

3. Subdue chaos and disorder, promote order and goodness - JUSTICE

- Bring creation into orderly productivity
- Tame beastliness as a representative of a very good Master
- Make things subject to godly authority structures
- Be responsible for making creation useful, beautiful, and orderly
- Use power and authority to care for each other and creation for God's glory rather than exploiting it for personal gain

Male – Gen 2:15-17, 19-21

- Given the mandate to cultivate and keep the garden
- Named the animals and Eve – gave them a symbol of their meaning and purpose.
- Exercised authority over creation
- Roles include bearing the image of God uniquely in Leadership, Provision, Protection

Marriage - Gen 2:24-25

- The marital relationship was a source of enjoyment, pleasure, and community, reflecting Trinity's relationship.
- The partnership was designed to help fulfill their mutual destiny
- Biological differences and complementarity of their roles allows mission to be fulfilled
- Both man and woman worshipped/ worked "full-time" out of their home to fulfill God's mission.

Female – Gen 2:18

- Created after Adam as a completer for him
- Roles include bearing God's image uniquely as: Helper/Rescuer/Completer, Companion/Cooperator, Nurturer/Caretaker
- Biologically suited to bring forth new life
- Responsible to respond appropriately to man's leadership, provision, protection

The family – Gen 1:28, Gen 2:24

- Create a secure and stable foundation from which new life could enter the world and be trained and mentored for eternal purposes.
- Participate in a greater purpose than any one of them could accomplish on their own, each member was working together for a unified common vision.
- Provide the relationship, safety, direction, and provision for receiving and generationally replicating God's purpose for humans.
- All members worship, work, and are educated "full-time" out of their home to fulfill God's mission for themselves and the created world.

Understanding Kingdom Building Through History

1. A majestic king gained power and built his empire/kingdom in a way that reflected his awesome glory. He targeted kingdom expansion in areas that had vast natural & human resources that could be exploited and used to advance his initiatives and spread the fame of his glory.

2. VISIBLE REPRESENTATIVES OF AN INVISIBLE KING - As he expanded his kingdom, the High King conquered lands and set up Lesser Kings, princes, regents, governor, or **ambassadors** to represent him and his interests accurately to those conquered people. Since the High King was so far away and unseen by his subjects he needed visible representatives living among the people to promote his laws and uphold order.

The High King reminded his conquered people that he was the authority over them by having images/statues carved in his likeness & placed throughout his conquered land. This reminded the people that they were **conquered** and **tamed** by the greatness of the High King.

3. BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY - The excellence of the products produced and the fruitfulness of the people and the land reflected upon the majesty of the High King. More people = more subjects.

4. SUBDUE - The Lesser King / Prince / Regent / Ambassador was responsible to crush insurrection and disorder and cause the land/people to be orderly subordinates of the King's authority.

5. RULE / DOMINION - The Lesser King / Prince / Regent / Ambassador was responsible to exercise dominion over that conquered land, representing the king's interests to the people and the people's interests to the king. Promote High King's law and order.

6. POWER/AUTHORITY – Use to promote and extend the greatness of the High King and exploit the blessings of the conquered land for His benefit.

Understanding God's Kingdom Through History

1. God is the good, benevolent High King with an eternal, everlasting kingdom (Dan 4:34, 6:26; I Tim 6:13-16; Ps 145:13). God's goal is to enjoy his Creation and to bring blessing and joy into their lives through their experience of knowing him (Ps 16:11)

2. VISIBLE REPRESENTATIVES OF AN INVISIBLE KING - God created humans to **experientially** know and love Him and his truth and to bear his accurate image and initiatives visibly to the world and all creation (Gen 1:26-28). They were not to bear their own image or worship a created object's image (Ex 20:4-6; Rom 1:18-32). Humans were not able to love or obey God perfectly, instead longing to decide their own **definitions of good and evil** and to **promote** themselves & their agenda (Gen 2:16, 3:1-7). That sin affected their ability to accurately represent God since they were devoted to experiencing knowledge, truth, & joy outside of a relationship with their Creator (Gen 3). It also brought all of creation under a curse (Gen 3:14-19). Only Jesus has ever accomplished God's mission by completely & accurately representing, loving, and obeying God & the Creation Mandate perfectly, focused on bringing God's blessing into the world at his own personal expense (Col 1:15-20; Heb 1:3; I Peter 2:22). Because Jesus honored God by humbling himself to fulfill His mission & also taking on the likeness of man in order to die on man's behalf, God exalted Him above all others (Phil 2:5-11). Jesus substitutionary death made it possible for us to be reconciled to our Creator & returned to the purpose of rightly bearing God's image (I Cor 5:14). The more time we spend with God the more we rightly reflect his glory, being conformed into his image (Rom 8:28-29, 2 Cor 3:18, 1 John 3:2). As Jesus incarnated God (fleshed him out) so we could understand him (John 1:14), so all believers are now to incarnate Jesus (flesh him out) so others can understand him (Col 3:3).

3. BE FRUITFUL AND MULTIPLY – God commanded his creatures to be abundantly productive, both by filling the world with other humans, but also by reproducing in other humans the mission and purpose of God to bear his image and likeness and to bring his blessing into the world (Gen 1:26-28). The conduct of all creation bears witness to the majesty of their creative High King and his dominion (Ps 145, esp 7 and 13; Psalm 8:6; 103:22).

4. SUBDUE – Humans ruling for the High King were commanded to tame wildness and bring all of creation under the order and authority of the Creator (Eph 1:22, 3:17-24). Humans are to use their lives to urge other humans to allow the High King to conquer them & to live as tamed citizens of the heavenly kingdom (invisible now/visible later) (2 Cor 4-5). This includes creating a civilized society that reflects his order and rule.

5. RULE / DOMINION - Humans are to be developing God's kingdom in law and orderliness, promoting purity and goodness and ruling on His behalf and **in his name** in their assigned tamed dominion in order to bring his blessing in to all the created world (Ps 119:133; Rom 6:14, 2 Cor 5:15; Rev 1:5-6), even now while the earth is under the curse. The influence and **blessing** of the King and His kingdom is to fill the whole earth (I Peter 2:9-12, Is 6:3). Redeemed humans reign with God as Lesser Kings/Governors, representing the sovereign's character and interests with increasing accuracy to the creation which is in subjection to Him (I Peter 2:9-10). The High King plans to return to break the curse & physically rule over all of his kingdom at some point (I Cor 15:27,28, Rev 17:14, 19:16, 21:3-4). Humans who were faithful to use their skills for the High King will be rewarded eternally (2 Tim 2:12).

6. POWER/AUTHORITY – Use to promote and extend the greatness of the High King and bring his joy, goodness, and blessing into the world (righteousness and justice) (Psalm 16:11, 89:14) never to exploit or take advantage.