



NEW GARDEN

ONLINE

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2022



life is a garden

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26 Then God said,
“Let Us **make mankind**
in Our image,
according to Our likeness;
and let them **rule**
over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the sky
and over the livestock
and over all **the earth**, (land)
and over every crawling thing that crawls on **the earth**.”

27 So **God created man** in His own image,
in the image of God He created him;
male and female He created them.

28 **God blessed them;**
and God said to them,
“**Be fruitful and multiply,**
and fill the earth,
and **subdue** it;
and **rule** over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the sky
and over every living thing that moves on **the earth**.”



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(Human)

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Plurality in unity,
ruling in partnership together,
is a key part of the image.




“Genesis 1 and 2 describe, to anyone with first-century eyes, the construction of the ultimate Temple, the single heaven-and-earth reality, the one Cosmos within which the twin realities of God’s space and our space are held together in proper balance and mutual relation. The seven stages of creation are the seven stages of constructing a temple, into which the builder will come to take up residence, to take his ‘rest’: Here is Zion, my resting-place, says Israel’s God in the Psalms...

-N.T. Wright



“...And within this Temple there is of course, as the final element of construction, the Image: the true Image through which the rest of creation sees and worships the creator, the true Image through which the sovereign and loving creator becomes present to, in, and with His creation, working out His purposes. Genesis 1 declares that the God who made the world is the heaven-and-earth God, the working-through-humans-in-the-world God. (perhaps we could take the Greek and speak not just of an anthropic God, a God who was appropriately bodied forth in human life, but a dianthropic God, a God who desired to express Himself perfectly by working-through-humans-in-the-world.)”


-N.T. Wright



God is *dianthropic*-
He desires and designs
to work through (Greek '*dia*')
human beings (Greek '*anthropos*')




**The God of the Bible is a God
who delights in partnering with
others so that their united wills
discover a future together.**



Humanity in the garden is an incarnation of God's heavenly presence and rule on earth: "To appreciate the full force of this image-of-God-in-humanity theology, we must have in mind the role of idols in ancient Near Eastern religion...where an idol is set up to be the real presence of the god. Because the god is really believed to inhabit the image, the image is the god, and its proper care and veneration guarantees the god's benefits and protection for the worshipping community..."

-CRISPIN FLETCHER-LOUIS,
"GOD'S IMAGE, HIS COSMIC TEMPLE, AND THE HIGH PRIEST,"



With this understanding of divine images assumed, [Genesis 1] has a sharply focused theological anthropology: humanity is the be the eyes, ears, mouth, being, and action of the creator God within his creation... This point gives the biblical prohibition of idolatry its strongest possible rationale: for humans to make an idol is foolish because it fails to appreciate that according to the original order of creation, it is humanity that functions in relation to God as do the idols in relation to their gods.”

-CRISPIN FLETCHER-LOUIS,
“GOD’S IMAGE, HIS COSMIC TEMPLE, AND THE HIGH PRIEST,”

**“The LORD God placed the man in
the Garden of Eden to tend and watch over it.”
– Genesis 2:15**



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What are mere mortals that you should think about them,
human beings that you should care for them?
Yet you made them only a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You gave them charge of everything you made,
putting all things under their authority—
the flocks and the herds and all the wild animals,
the birds in the sky, the fish in the sea,
and everything that swims the ocean currents.

– Psalm 8:4-8



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**“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”**

– Revelation 5:10



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“Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him... And they will reign for ever and ever.”

– Revelation 22:1-3, 22:5



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