



Lesson 2 – You’re in Charge

Mankind and the Dominion Mandate

After God created man, He looked at him and said, “You’re in charge.” When God made man in His image, He gave Him an important task: ruling over the creation that He had made.

God Puts Humanity in Charge (Genesis 1-2)

In describing man’s role toward the creation, Genesis uses 4 verbs: “subdue” and “have dominion” (Genesis 1:28), “dress” and “keep” (Genesis 2:15).

_____ (“Subdue” Genesis 1:28)

This word (*kabash*) is often used in military contexts where one group conquers another (Numbers 23:21-22, 29; Joshua 18:1; 2 Samuel 8:11). It pictures humanity overcoming the obstacles of creation.

_____ (“Have Dominion” Genesis 1:28)

This word (*radah*) It means to exert authority over someone or something (1 Kings 4:22-24; Nehemiah 9:28; Psalm 110:2). While God remains sovereign over His creation (Daniel 4:35; Job 38-41; Matthew 5:45), in a very real sense He has put man in charge underneath Him.

_____ (“Dress” Genesis 2:15)

This word (*abad*) is a very common Hebrew word for “work.” Believers today are called to bring order to God’s world by working, and the work they do building, creating, and organizing is important work for God’s glory.



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_____ (“Keep” Genesis 2:15)

This word (*shamar*) means to protect or guard. God intended for Adam to keep a close watch on the garden. Man is supposed to build, but man is also supposed to protect.

David Ponders Humanity’s Role (Psalm 8)

In Psalm 8, David marvels at the fact that God has given man authority over His creation. This Psalm gives us important insight into how we should think about the dominion mandate today.

God has honored _____ by giving him dominion

The pagans around Israel believed that the gods made humanity because they didn’t want to work. The Bible tells us God made man and to reflect Him and rule over His creation.

God has honored _____ by giving man dominion

David is doing more than just reveling in the fact that man is in charge. He reminds us that our rule is designed to turn the attention, not to ourselves, but ultimately to God.

The Dominion Mandate and You

A God-Honoring _____

Everyone has important work to do, not just the pastors and missionaries. Every legitimate job in some way brings order to God’s world, creates beauty, and allows greater use of God’s creation. You can worship God Monday through Friday while you work your job by partaking in the global human project to rule over the world.

A God-Intended _____

This task is ultimately one that will require the teamwork of men and women. When God created woman, the Bible describes her as “an help[er] meet [fitting] for him” (Genesis 2:18). In other words, God put man in charge of creation and knew he would need help! The solution was to create a woman who “corresponded” to him and could fill in his deficiencies.

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