

I. Intro – Christ & Humanity

A. Jesus the fulfillment of humanity

1. He is the Son of Man
2. He fulfills God's call for humanity
3. Last week: fulfillment of man as image bearer

B. This week: rule over creation

1. Is this part of man's call?
2. What does it mean?
3. How does Jesus fulfill it?
4. How does the church do this?

II. Man: Called to Rule Creation

A. The call to rule creation (1:26-28; Ps 8; Heb 2:5-9)

1. Part of the image (1:26-28)
2. Reiterated after the fall (Ps 8:4-8; Heb 2:5-9)

B. The meaning of rule

1. Authority over creation (subdue) – 1:28
2. Develop creation (work and care for) – 2:15
 - a. Work it – develop potential (like Gen 1; child)

i. Image of God carries on work of development

ii. Like child – don't leave; help develop/train

b. Care for it – protect it – don't abuse it (steward)

iii. It belongs to God – not us

iv. We care for it and protect it – for Him

III. The Fall: the Distortion of Dominion

A. Man now at war with creation (Gen 3:17-19)

1. No longer produces easily (Narnia; thorns)
2. Earth drags us into it eventually

B. Sin has marred creation (Rom 8:19-22)

1. It suffered in fall; we led poorly
2. It longs for salvation

IV. Christ: the Ruler of Creation

A. Christ has reconciled creation

1. Creates, rules, reconciles 'all things' (Col 1:15-20)
2. Creator (v16) is redeemer (v20) (Athanasius)

B. Christ's return will fully renew creation

1. Creation looks for this (Rom 8:19-22)

2. Revelation – curse is removed (slide)
3. Revelation – Gen purposed fulfilled (slide)

Christ: Ruler Over God's Creation

Genesis 1:26-28
September 5, 2004
????????
Impromptu

V. Conclusion & Summary

- A. God's plan is not thwarted by our sin!
 1. His will is going to be fulfilled!
 2. Not moving back to beginning; forward to end
- B. As believers we must care for creation
 1. Part of image; "care" for garden
 2. We should care about earth, environment
- C. As believers we must develop creation
 1. Care does not mean untouched!
 2. We must develop creation
 3. Foundation for science, engineering, medicine
 4. All of life is sacred to God – NOT just religious
- D. As believers we long for the final restoration
 1. All will be set to right
 2. Creation will find its true fulfillment then

⁴ **what is man that** you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? ⁵ You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ **You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet:** ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the beasts of the field, ⁸ the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. Psalm 8:4-8

⁵ It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. ⁶ But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" ⁷ You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor ⁸ **and put everything under his feet.** In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. **Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him.** ⁹ **But we see Jesus,** who was made a little lower than the angels, **now crowned with glory and honor** because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. Hebrews 2:5-9

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden **to work it and take care of it.** Genesis 2:15

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' **"Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.** ¹⁸ **It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.** ¹⁹ **By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."** Genesis 3:17-19

¹⁹ The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For **the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice,** but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the **creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay** and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² **We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth** right up to the present time. Romans 8:19-22

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ **For by him all things were created:** things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; **all things were created by him and for him.** ¹⁷ He is before **all things,** and **in him all things hold together.** ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and **through him to reconcile to himself all things,** whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:15-20

The first fact you must recognize is this: the renewal of creation has been wrought by the Self-same Word Who made it in the beginning. **There is thus no inconsistency between creation and salvation;** for the One Father has employed the same Agent for both works, effecting the salvation of the world through the same Word Who made it in the beginning.

Athanasius, *On the Incarnation of the Word*, section 1.

| Genesis Motif | Revelation Fulfillment |
|---|---|
| Pain (Genesis 3:16) "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children...." | No more pain (Revelation 21:4) "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain..." |
| The ground is cursed (Genesis 3:17-19) "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you...By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food..." | The ground freely produces fruit (Revelation 22:2-3) "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...." |
| Tree of life forbidden (3:22-24) "He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat... he placed on the East side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword... to guard the way to the tree of life. | Tree of life given (22:2-3) 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..." |
| Death (Genesis 3:19) "for dust you are and to dust you will return." | No more death (Revelation 21:4) "There will be no more death" |

| Genesis Motif of Creation | Revelation Consummation |
|---|--|
| Creation of heaven & earth (1:1) | New heavens and earth (21:1) |
| Formation out of seas (1:2ff) | No more sea – all fulfilled (21:1) |
| Sun, moon for light (1:14-19) | No sun or moon – God is light (21:23) |
| Man in a garden (2:8) | Man in a city (21-22) |
| Gold – precious metal in land (2:11-12) | Gold and precious jewels used to build city (21:18-21) |
| River in garden (2:10) | River in city (22:1) |
| One man (2:8) | Many nations (21:24) |