

Topic: Made to Rule
Text: **Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-20 (NIV)**
Theme: “God made man to rule over all His other creations”

INTRODUCTION

- In Genesis 1:1 “*In the beginning God CREATED the heavens and the earth,*” the word “created” is **bara** in Hebrew, which means, “creating something from nothing by speaking the word.”
- God never used raw materials in most of His creations, except for man and animals who both came from the dust (Genesis 2:7,19).
- From Day 1 to Day 5 of creation, God prepared everything that man would need for existence. Then on Day 6, when everything was done and ready, God made man in **their** (Trinity) image.
- Suffice to say, of all God's creations, man is God's **handiwork** (Genesis 2:7 as opposed to Psalm 8:3) and **masterpiece** (Psalm 139:14).
- We were made to worship the Creator. Also we are commissioned to rule over all His other creations. Have we really accomplished that mission?

I. GOD GAVE MAN DOMINION

V26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

V28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."

- Dominion means the power or right to govern and control or to exercise supreme authority.
- It also denotes a territory to dominate.

A. **Dominion over all animals, fish, birds, insects, plants.** **(Genesis 1:26b,c,e)**

B. Dominion over all the earth

1. Genesis 1:26d "rule... over all the earth." Genesis 1:28 "fill/replenish the earth and subdue"
2. REPLENISH – to bring back to a state of fullness; as by supplying what is lacking.
3. SUBDUE – to conquer, to overcome by superior force.
4. Adam and Eve were not just running around playing hide and sick, but were too busy replenishing and subduing their territory.

C. Intelligence to rule (Genesis 2:19,20)

V19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

V20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

1. God had so much trust in Adam to honour his word.
2. Names of some animals and their meanings: Ant (team player, worker); Dog (loyal and protection); Horse (stamina, strength, mobility); Lion (power, strength, respect); Owl (wisdom); Pig (intelligence, hungry); Spider (creative); Swan (grace, balance); Turtle (self-contained).

II. GOD CONFISCATED MAN'S DOMINION

V16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

V17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

A. Man failed the test and lost the dominion.

1. Man lost his dominion and became scared of other God's creation: afraid of animals (spiders, snakes, cockroaches,) scared of heights (batophobia), scared of confined spaces (claustrophobia).
2. There are around 300 phobias. Animal and bird phobias (like arachnophobia, fear of spiders, or ornithophobia fear of birds) can produce heart palpitations, feeling sick, chest pains, breathing difficulty, jelly legs, intense sweating, feeling faint, dry throat, and restricted or fuzzy vision or hearing.
3. Some funny phobias: Anuptaphobia (fear of staying single) Arithmophobia (fear of numbers); Gynophobia (fear of women); Bibliophobia (fear of books); Cacophobia (fear of ugliness); Leukophobia (fear of colour white); Philophobia (fear of love); Scolionophobia (fear of school); Somniphobia (fear of sleep); Venustraphobia (fear of beautiful women); Ablutophobia (fear of bathing);

B. Satan usurped man's dominion

1. USURP means to seize and hold (a position, office, power, etc.) by force or without legal right; to use without authority or right
2. DETHRONE means: to remove from any position of power or authority
3. Satan became the prince of this world. (John 12:31; John 14:30; John 16:1)
4. The standard of the world is not godly anymore, but demonic.
5. Sometimes, we can't distinguish the church and world anymore. The church is becoming worldly, while the world is becoming churchy,

III. GOD RESTORED MAN'S DOMINION

- John Milton's epic poem ***Paradise Lost*** and its sequel ***Paradise Regained*** were published in 1667. *Paradise Lost* is about Satan's rebellion and expulsion from heaven, and tempting Adam and Eve to eat the fruit that caused their expulsion from Paradise. *Paradise Regained* is about Satan's temptation of Jesus who wasn't tempted at all, thereby passing the test on behalf of humanity.

A. ***First phase of restoration: Jesus destroyed Satan's RULE on earth. (Hebrews 2:14)***

B. ***Second phase of restoration: Jesus rebuilt our relationship with the Father. (John 1:12, 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:6)***

- Jesus is the BRIDGE that connected the glorified Father and the fallen men:

C. ***Third phase of restoration: Jesus restored man's original RIGHT. (John 14:3, Luke 10:19, Matthew 18:18)***

1. Christians were given power and authority to drive out demons and to heal diseases (Luke 9:1).
2. Christians were given power and authority to use the name of Jesus.
3. Christians were given power to bind and loose on earth and in heaven.