

**“Let them have dominion and subdue the earth”**

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.” <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”

**Martin Luther:** Here the rule is assigned to the most beautiful creature, who knows God and the image of God, in whom the similitude of the divine nature shines forth through his enlightened reason through his justice and his wisdom. Who can conceive of that part, as it were, of the divine nature, that Adam and Eve had insight into all the dispositions of all animals, into their character and all their powers? What kind of reign would it have been if they had not had this knowledge? But the knowledge of nature—that we should know all the qualities of trees and herbs, and the dispositions of all the beasts—is utterly beyond repair in this life. Furthermore, they also had the most dependable knowledge of the stars and of the whole of astronomy.

**1 Kings 4:** <sup>29</sup> God gave Solomon very great wisdom, discernment, and breadth of understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore, <sup>30</sup> so that Solomon’s wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the East and all the wisdom of Egypt. <sup>33</sup> He would speak of trees, from the cedar that is in the Lebanon to the hyssop that grows in the wall; he would speak of animals, and birds, and reptiles, and fish.

**Psalms 72:** <sup>1</sup> Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to a king’s son.  
<sup>2</sup> May he judge your people with righteousness  
and your poor with justice.  
<sup>3</sup> May the mountains yield prosperity for the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.  
<sup>4</sup> May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,  
give deliverance to the needy,  
and crush the oppressor.  
<sup>5</sup> May he live while the sun endures  
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.  
<sup>6</sup> May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,  
like showers that water the earth.  
<sup>7</sup> In his days may righteousness flourish  
and peace abound, until the moon is no more.  
<sup>8</sup> May he have dominion from sea to sea  
and from the River to the ends of the earth.  
<sup>9</sup> May his foes bow down before him,  
and his enemies lick the dust.  
<sup>11</sup> May all kings fall down before him,  
all nations give him service.

- <sup>12</sup> For he delivers the needy when they call,  
the poor and those who have no helper.  
<sup>13</sup> He has pity on the weak and the needy  
and saves the lives of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup> From oppression and violence he redeems their life,  
and precious is their blood in his sight.  
<sup>16</sup> May there be abundance of grain in the land;  
may it wave on the tops of the mountains;  
may its fruit be like Lebanon;  
and may people blossom in the cities  
like the grass of the field.  
<sup>18</sup> Blessed be YHWH, the God of Israel.

**Isaiah 13:** <sup>11</sup> I will put an end to the pride of the arrogant  
and lay low the insolence of tyrants.

**Matthew 20:** <sup>24</sup> When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>26</sup> It will not be so among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

**Romans 12:** <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

- Isaiah 11:** <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.  
<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.