

# Self Sustaining Earth

When God made Adam and Eve almost 6000 years ago He had every intention that their descendants would live out their lives surrounded by His creation, in an Eden -like environment, Genesis 1:28-29, *‘Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” And God said, “See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.’*

*Genesis 2:7-9, ‘And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.’*

and also verse 15, *‘Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.’*

Adam was to care for Eden and teach his children how to replicate the garden in all parts of the earth. Gradually the whole earth would become a garden like Eden and men would respect their Creator and Provider. They would easily learn to follow God’s laws, and eventually eat of the tree of life and join the family of God. How **we** will help return the earth to that system is my subject today!

Of course that’s not how it worked out! *Genesis 6:5-7, ‘Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.”*

Noah alone was worth saving, *verse 8: ‘But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.’*

Soon after the flood Noah’s great grandson Nimrod once again perverted the Plan of God by setting himself up as God’s rival, *Genesis 10: 8-9, ‘Cush begot Nimrod; he began to be a mighty one on the earth. He was a mighty hunter before the LORD; therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter **before** the LORD.”*

Declaring himself a king, he established an alternative system of government with himself at the top ruling over other people. To keep control more easily, he gathered people together in larger groups, the first of which was the city of Babel, *verse 10, ‘And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.’*

Soon that system of rulership, which was not a part of God’s plan, brought about idolatry, (he himself claimed to be a god) wars, famines and great suffering, but it remained the pattern for what

the world called civilisation. *Verses 11-12, 'From that land he went to Assyria and built Nineveh, Rehoboth Ir, Calah, and Resen between Nineveh and Calah (that is the principal city).'*

God still calls it Babylon! *Revelation 18:2, 4, 'And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!" 4, 'And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues.'*

The particular aspect of Babylon which God will replace with His original plan, which we will look at today is in *Isaiah 5:7-8, 'For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, And the men of Judah are His pleasant plant. He looked for justice, but behold, oppression; For righteousness, but behold, a cry for help. Woe to those who join house to house; They add field to field, Till there is no place Where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land!'*

Vast cities like New York and London will be removed, probably replaced with new land from beneath the sea. Men will no longer live in such huge conurbations surrounded by concrete, or even leafy suburbs, because those Nimrod inspired patterns are simply not sustainable when the Great White Throne Judgment occurs, and the earth's population becomes prohibitive. Jerusalem, which will become the capital city of the earth, will be half the size it was in Jesus Christ's day. *Jeremiah 31:31, 38 – 40, 'Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.'*

*'Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that the city shall be built for the LORD from the Tower of Hananel to the Corner Gate. The surveyor's line shall again extend straight forward over the hill Gareb; then it shall turn toward Goath. And the whole valley of the dead bodies and of the ashes, and all the fields as far as the Brook Kidron, to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the east, shall be holy to the LORD. It shall not be plucked up or thrown down anymore forever.'*

The basic principle behind all the changes God will institute at the start of His Kingdom is sustainability. He built this Earth with self-sustaining systems like the water cycle, the cycle of plant growth and decay, the way plants utilise the carbon dioxide living creatures breathe out to grow, and in the process replace oxygen which living creatures need, as well as all the weather systems based upon the rotation of the earth.

These principles of sustainability will underlie the changes that will turn this earth back into Eden, *Isaiah 51:3, 'For the LORD will comfort Zion, He will comfort all her waste places; He will make her wilderness like Eden, And her desert like the garden of the LORD; Joy and gladness will be found in it, Thanksgiving and the voice of melody.'*

God has set aside 1000 years for this to be achieved, *Revelation 20:4, 'And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years'* By the end of the millennium God's Plan will also have provided just enough members of His spirit-born family, well experienced in God's way of life, to teach those vast numbers then resurrected, how to live in a self-sustaining environment, which does not gobble up irreplaceable natural resources such as rare minerals, oil and gas. If our present system were continued, these would very soon become exhausted.

Let's think about our present system. Like many people I used to commute for hours in my car to get to work. I would often spend up to half an hour almost stationary, surrounded by 4 lanes of

idling engines stretching into the distance along a motorway that cost millions per kilometre to build. Much of that traffic was trucks, carrying goods to warehouses, from which the goods were often sent back to the very area in which they were produced, unless that is, they had come from the other side of the world!

Many of those goods of plastic and steel, along with the cars, trucks and planes, were produced by heavy industry, in huge plants which grossly pollute our air and water with toxic chemicals of all kinds.

Today, even our farms are huge, with few men but much heavy machinery. These compact the soil, which becomes almost sterile because of artificial fertilisers. The runoff from these factories and farms pollute our drinking water with chemicals and hormones. So, we get sick, weakened by foodless food and the stress of living surrounded by Godless and lawless humanity. What a mess – and I've only mentioned a few of our present system's drawbacks!

So. How will God change it when Jesus Christ returns?

*Revelation 16:17-20, 'Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.'*

First, there will be a dramatic re-structuring of the earth just before His return. This will continue even into the millennium. *Isaiah 41: 15-18, 'Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; You shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, And make the hills like chaff. You shall winnow them, the wind shall carry them away, And the whirlwind shall scatter them; You shall rejoice in the LORD, And glory in the Holy One of Israel. The poor and needy seek water, but there is none, Their tongues fail for thirst. I, the LORD, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open rivers in desolate heights, And fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, And the dry land springs of water.'*

Compare that with *Isaiah 24:19-20, 'The earth is violently broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly. The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, And shall totter like a hut; Its transgression shall be heavy upon it, And it will fall, and not rise again.'*

It won't be long before the re-shaped probably expanded continents are clothed with green, *Isaiah 35:1-2, 'The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, And the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, Even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, The excellence of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, The excellency of our God.'*

Interior seas like the Dead Sea, and dry lakes such as Lake Eyre will greatly expand, creating more rainfall within large land masses. *Joel 3:18, 'And it will come to pass in that day That the mountains shall drip with new wine, The hills shall flow with milk, And all the brooks of Judah shall be flooded with water; A fountain shall flow from the house of the LORD and water the Valley of Acacias.'*

Even deserts will become well watered – *Isaiah 35:7, ‘The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water; In the habitation of jackals, where each lay, There shall be grass with reeds and rushes.’*

Essentially, the effect of these changes will be to provide a much more temperate climate where it is now too hot and dry. There will be few mountains, more fertile land, and even long harsh winters will be removed.

In the new climate there need be no pause in the production of crops, *Amos 9:13, ‘Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, “When the plowman shall overtake the reaper, And the treader of grapes him who sows seed; The mountains shall drip with sweet wine, And all the hills shall flow with it.”*

The curse God placed on the ground will be removed – *Genesis 3: 17-18, ‘Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’: “Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.’*

*Revelation 22: 1-3, And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.*

*Isaiah 55: 13, ‘Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”*

Vast amounts of time and chemicals are now spent on reducing this curse, so farming will then become much more enjoyable. Each family will be given land, *Micah 4: 4-5 ‘But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid; for the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. For all people walk each in the name of his god, but we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.’*

This then, is a predominantly rural lifestyle where, even if farms are placed close to a village their land will radiate out from the village so that the family can walk out to work in the fields. Notice that mono-culture is gone. *Isaiah 30:23-24, ‘Then He will give the rain for your seed With which you sow the ground, And bread of the increase of the earth; It will be fat and plentiful. In that day your cattle will feed In large pastures. Likewise the oxen and the young donkeys that work the ground Will eat cured fodder, Which has been winnowed with the shovel and fan.’*

Here we see mixed farming – animals and crops.

Probably many trees too. *Isaiah 41:19, 'I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree, the myrtle and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the cypress tree and the pine and the box tree together.'*

In such farming the whole system is self sustaining. The animals provide the dung and the muscle-power to work and fertilise the soil. The humus content and worms increase, and with the addition of occasional lime, and trace elements, no other fertilisers are needed. *Leviticus 25:1-7, 'And the LORD spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a sabbath to the LORD. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land. And the sabbath produce of the land shall be food for you: for you, your male and female servants, your hired man, and the stranger who dwells with you, for your livestock and the beasts that are in your land—all its produce shall be for food.'*

Food grown this way takes up all the elements we need for good health. It is entirely organic. Even the family's home gardens will be prolific. *Amos 9:14, 'I will bring back the captives of My people Israel; They shall build the waste cities and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and drink wine from them; They shall also make gardens and eat fruit from them.'*

The run-off from this land will be unpolluted. Rivers, lakes and domestic dams will be sparkling clean and provide drinking water for the people. No huge reservoirs and waterworks will be needed. Fishing will become very profitable!

As it was many years ago, each area will be almost self sufficient. Food, wool, cotton, linen, leather and wood will provide most of all people's needs, without the need for plastics or synthetic materials. As a consequence, vast transport systems will no longer be required. Because people will live and work nearby we will see the return of the horse as a source of power and transport, just as we can see today in Pennsylvania USA among the Amish, where the landscape is beautiful and productive while the pace of life slower and much more enjoyable.

Wind, water and wave power will probably provide what electricity is needed, though without severe winters, wood and bio-mass will be all that is needed to heat the homes. Houses will be built from local wood and stone, or whatever local materials are appropriate. High rise buildings of steel and concrete will be rare indeed. Local trade and barter will replace the supermarket and probably the largest building in the town or village will be the church meeting hall.

The throw-away society will be gone forever. *Ezekiel 39:9-10, 'Then those who dwell in the cities of Israel will go out and set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and bucklers, the bows and arrows, the javelins and spears; and they will make fires with them for seven years. They will not take wood from the field nor cut down any from the forests, because they will make fires with the weapons; and they will plunder those who plundered them, and pillage those who pillaged them,' says the Lord GOD.'* There is probably enough metal already refined to last hundreds of years in an agrarian society, but small mining and smelting operations will continue, throughout the millennium.

Families will once again work together in tending their land and animals. Mother will teach daughter the domestic arts that make a home, and fathers their sons, the crafts they use.

Farming will not take up the whole time and men will practice crafts of all kinds and often cooperate together in groups for projects that would be difficult alone. So each village will be bound together by agricultural and social events.

Everyone will follow the example and instruction of their King/Priest, *Luke 19:17, 'And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'*

In conclusion, this is the type of Godly, sustainable civilisation that will eventually be found worldwide, *Isaiah 2:3, 'Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.'*

This is just as God had originally intended for Adam's children and descendants. Built upon the family with correct male/female roles, it will enable parents to provide the character building spiritual and physical lessons their children need. Individuals will utilise and share the gifts God gives them.

It will result in a happy, productive and peaceful society, close in contact with God's creation and God's family during the millennium.

We would do well to practice as many of these principles as we can in our own lives, even now, because they keep us close to our Creator and instruct us in His ways!

.....