

# Relating to Culture

2019-07-21 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass Church on Genesis 1:26-28

## Welcome to Tallgrass Church and a special welcome to our friends in The Christian Motorcyclists Association!

Wait a minute Christian motorcyclists?!?! Isn't that an oxymoron? I thought bikers were into some pretty raw stuff, man! I grew up in Chadron, NE until I was almost ten years old. I remember being the Black Hills for family vacation when lots and lots of motorcyclists would cruise through headed to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. I remember as a little boy seeing all the biker's leather jackets with lots of skulls and scary looking things on them and not sure if I should be scared or curious or what. I was drawn in and wanted to check out the bikes, and ask about the patches on the jackets, and hear people's stories, like "Why are you here riding this huge Harley and wearing a jacket with scary stuff on it?" But at age eight, I didn't know how to relate to the culture of motorcyclists found in the hills of Western South Dakota.

Fast forward to 2013 when I and some others helped a gal move from her home where she had experienced a very rough life. 25 years later I got to meet someone who in a way embodied the rough and tumble lifestyle I had associated with the motorcycle culture. But as Maris and I had this struggling woman over for dinner and got to hear from her about her passion for building bikes and using that as a platform to empower women. We connected with her and brought our presence and curiosity and learned yet again that people are people. We had so much more in common that I thought.

Then I meet Bill Bickmeier and learn about the CMA and I'm like wow, here are some folks seeking to engage with biker culture in a way that's truly recreational and reconnectional for the cause of Christ in this world.

And that brings us to this moment...

### But first a couple announcements:

1. Get kids and wait outside and an announcement will come to start the line. If raining, we're in the basement. If no raining, we're outside. Kids can touch the bikes but be careful, they might be hot!
2. GLS deadline TODAY
3. Next week Dave is talking about sex.

### Mingle Question:

What's a hobby you may need to spend more or less time doing? Which is it? More or less?

## Relating Sermon Series

**Relating to... Wordcloud List:** Soul/Self, God, Scripture, Disciples, Friends, Technology, Past, Culture, Sexuality, Enemy, Money, Neighbors, Church, Earth, Body, Politics, Family

## Relating to Culture

**Definition of Culture From Wikipedia**—Culture is the social behavior and norms found in human societies. Cultural universals are found in all human societies; these include expressive forms like art, music, music, dance, ritual, religion, and technologies like tool usage, cooking, shelter, and clothing. The concept of material culture covers the physical expressions of culture, such as technology, architecture and art, whereas the immaterial aspects of culture such as principles of social organization (including practices of political organization and social institutions), mythology, philosophy, literature (both written and oral), and science comprise the intangible cultural heritage of a society.

## Human stuff!

As followers of Jesus Christ, how do we relate to things within our culture like:

- Yoga, Halloween, Easter, Christmas trees, Media

As followers of Jesus, how do we relate to other cultures and the subcultures within those cultures:

- People from all over the world right here in our backyard!
- North American culture
- South American culture
- European culture
- African culture
- Asian culture
  - Middle Eastern culture
- Australian culture
- Antarctic culture
  - With Antarctica lacking any permanent residents, there is no unique culture here, but visitors can learn more about the Heroic Age of Antarctic Exploration by visiting the former whaling station at South Georgia. –from iExplore
  - This reinforces to me that culture is about the stuff of humans, homo sapiens.

The Bible speaks about how we are to Relate to Culture! In fact, in a way, you could say that the whole Biblical account is about how we are to cultivate culture.

## Genesis 1-2—The Cultural Mandate

*Please turn to page 1 in your ESV giveaway Bible!*

## Read Genesis 1:26-28

**PRAY!!!**

**Genesis 1:26-28** <sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup>So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup>And 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 heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

- Adam and Eve were God’s Image Bearers. That meant many things but perhaps important was that they had the task of representing God in creation. They were His Vice-Regents (a deputy regent; a person who acts in the place of a ruler, governor, or sovereign).
- Cultivating culture

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

- Adam and Eve were to rule as God would rule, to have dominion over. This is the concept of stewardship. God’s the Owner of creation. Humanity is the steward of creation. We are to ensure that creation is developing the way in which God intends it to develop.
- They were to garden...essentially.
- God is creative, so we too are creative.
- Checkout my little garden! This is our ZZ Plant and it has a new sprout and it makes me very happy! I’m working and keeping this little garden!

**Big Idea:** The sons and daughters of God are to cultivate a culture of human flourishing by stewarding the raw materials of creation.

## Genesis 3—Revelation 20—Cultural Messiness

### Genesis 3

- Adam and Eve walked with God daily. They were learning how to be wise stewards of creation from the Creator Himself. But then, Eve saw the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and was tempted by the slithering serpent to choose her own path towards wisdom and that created devastating cultural messiness.
- Eve rejected the path to wisdom to steward creation.
- Misuse of Creation! Oops. Brokenness.
- *Illus:* It’s like dropping that beautiful teacup and it shatters!

**Genesis 3:17-19** <sup>17</sup>And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup>thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup>By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

- *Illus:* Pierre house trees, plants, weeds, vines—constant beauty yet unrelenting chaos! What’s my role in that as steward of that property? I got Poison Ivy over there this week! This stinks! But it’s still beautiful!
- *Illus:* Just dropped \$900 on the Vibe for new struts and fronts brakes and something else. Had to go get an alignment. Things go outta whack all the time in a fallen, broken, messy world!

**Genesis 3:23-24** <sup>22</sup>Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—” <sup>23</sup>therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup>He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Genesis 4:16-22** <sup>16</sup>Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. <sup>17</sup>Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch. <sup>18</sup>To Enoch was born Irad, and Irad fathered Mehujael, and Mehujael fathered Methushael, and Methushael fathered Lamech. <sup>19</sup>And Lamech took two wives. The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. <sup>20</sup>Adah bore Jabal; he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock. <sup>21</sup>His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe. <sup>22</sup>Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron. The sister of Tubal-cain was Naamah.

- Civilization—First City
  - First to become comfortable in this world; Make a name for themselves
  - None of this is done to or for the glory of God but for the glory of man.
  - Humans will fill the earth with their own glory rather than the glory of God.
  - It’s interesting that throughout history often the societies that are considered most civilized commit the most atrocious wide-scale atrocities. One example would be slavery in our own country.
  - Humanity will never fix itself. The 20<sup>th</sup> century was the height of human advancement and proved to be by far the bloodiest century ever. It’s insane to think that humanity can right this ship on our own.
- Sexual Deviation—Polygamy
  - Never a good idea. Never affirmed in Scripture. The Bible always affirms God’s design for marriage being one man and one woman for life. No deviation from that in any way.
- Development of Agriculture and Ranching
- Development of Music and the Arts
  - Glimmers of the *imago dei* in the arts. There’s enough in there to connect with people on matters of human brokenness and human desire for relationship.
- Development of Technology
  - Technology can be used for great good but is often used for great harm.
  - Space exploration—God-honoring or humanity-exalting?!?!
  - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of sending a man to the moon! We are so amazingly creative even as fallen, broken, messy, Image Bearers!

**Romans 1:20-23** <sup>20</sup>For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup>For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup>Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup>and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

- The development of the world system under the leadership of the crafty serpent, Satan.
- **1 John 5:19b** ...the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.
- We are up against an uphill battle—Satan, the world system that’s been developed under his leadership, and our own flesh.

## God’s creates...and then God redeems!

- God left humanity here in the midst of this cultural chaos. But He didn’t just leave us here. He had a plan.

## Babylon—Sojourners & Exiles

**Jeremiah 29:4-7** <sup>4</sup>“Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup>Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. <sup>6</sup>Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup>But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

- Rarticulation of The Cultural Mandate in the midst of the cultural messiness.
- **Jeremiah 29:11-14** <sup>11</sup>“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup>Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>13</sup>You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup>I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.”

### See also:

- **John 17:15-16** <sup>15</sup>I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world...
- **John 17:18** As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world...
- **John 17:20** I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word...
  - Jesus was also a literal and figurative sojourner and exile in His life.
    - The Incarnation
    - His goal was to procure a people for His own possession.
- **Philippians 3:20-21** <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>21</sup> who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.
- **Hebrews 11:13-16** <sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. <sup>14</sup>For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.<sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup>But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.
- **See also 1 Peter 2:9-12** <sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. <sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup>Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.
  - Sojourners in Egypt
  - Exiles in Babylon

## The Great Commission

- **Matthew 28:18-20** <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- Authority over earth reclaimed by the King!
- We are His vice-regents (a deputy regent; a person who acts in the place of a ruler, governor, or sovereign)!

- **Romans 8:18-23** <sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.
- **Romans 8:28-30** <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

## Relating to Culture—Receive, Redeem, Reject

### Receive

- Moderation

### Redeem

- African Cultural and Food Festival—beautiful performance with an interesting instrument; mesmerizing; ancestor worship; How should I engage?

### Reject

### Guidelines:

- **Philippians 4:8-9** <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
- **Romans 12:2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.
- “Instead of teaching disciples *what* to think, you need to teach them *how* to think.” –Dennis McCallum, *Organic Discipleship*

## reCreation & reConnection

### Examples:

- Stranger Things, yoga mat, Harry Potter books, poker chips, alcohol, Christmas tree, K-State football

## In the world, not of the world—John 17:15-18—See talk from 10/8/18

- Hedonism vs. Asceticism
- Jesus and Paul were hardest on the ascetics, those who were not in the world!

## Bill Bickmeier’s testimony!

## Revelation 21—Cultural Majesty

- **Revelation 21:1-2** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- **Revelation 21:22-27** <sup>22</sup>And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup>And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. <sup>24</sup>By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, <sup>25</sup>and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.
  - The kings of the earth are in opposition to the Lamb throughout history and throughout the vision of Revelation...until the end!
- **Revelation 22:1-2** Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
  - Remember the Tree of Life in Genesis 2:9? The one we were banished from eating of? Here it is, healing the nations! Not back to the Garden of Eden but to the City of God, eating from the Tree of Life and spreading the glory of God throughout the universe, or another way to put that, cultivating culture forever and ever!

## Reflection Questions:

1. What in culture are you wrestling with that you need wisdom from God on?
2. What hobby would be truly recreational for you?
3. What creative endeavor is God leading you towards?
4. What redemptive work do you sense the Spirit leading you towards?
5. What in culture would help you connect with other Image Bearers?

## Resources:

- *The Search for God and Guinness: A Biography of the Beer that Changed the World* by Stephen Mansfield
- *The Curious Garden* by Peter Brown

## PRAY!!!

## Q&R&Testimonies

### Songs:

1. So Will I
2. God of This City
3. The Benediction
4. Happy Birthday to Dave and Bill and July birthdays!

# The Chopping Block:

## Resources on the Cultural Mandate:

- *The Bible and the Future*; by Anthony A. Hoekema
- *Total Truth: Liberating Christianity from its Cultural Captivity*; by Nancy Pearcey
- *Liberating the Nations: Biblical Principles of Government, Education, Economics and Politics*; by Mark Beliles
- *Culture Making*; by Andy Crouch
- *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*; by David J. Bosch
- *Missional God, Missional Church: Hope for Re-evangelizing the West*; by Ross Hastings
- <https://matthiasmedia.com/briefing/2013/07/gods-plan-for-work-the-cultural-mandate/>

## God of Earth & Outer Space

- <https://www.baptistboard.com/threads/god-of-earth-and-outer-space.99939/>
- Space exploration—God-honoring or humanity-exalting?!?!
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of sending a man to the moon!

## Google Definition of Culture:

1. the arts and other manifestations of human intellectual achievement regarded collectively. "20th century popular culture" synonyms: the arts, the humanities; intellectual achievement(s), intellectual activity; literature, music, painting, philosophy
2. the customs, arts, social institutions, and achievements of a particular nation, people, or other social group. "Caribbean culture" synonyms: civilization, society, way of life, lifestyle; customs, traditions, heritage, habits, ways, mores, values "people from many different cultures"

## Josephus, *The Antiquities of the Jews*; Book 1, Chapter 2.2.60

- "And when Cain had travelled over many countries, he, with his wife, built a city, named Nod, which is a place so called, and there he settled his abode; where also he had children. However, he did not accept of his punishment, in order to amendment, but to increase his wickedness; for he only aimed to procure everything that was for his own bodily pleasure, though it obliged him to be injurious to his neighbors."
- "He augmented his household substance with much wealth, by rapine and violence; he excited his acquaintance to procure pleasures and spoils by robbery, and became a great leader of men into wicked courses. He also introduced a change in that way of simplicity wherein men lived before; and was the author of measures and weights. And whereas they lived innocently and generously while they knew nothing of such arts, he changed the world into cunning craftiness."

## Passages:

- **Daniel 1:3-5** <sup>3</sup>Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, <sup>4</sup>youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. <sup>5</sup>The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king.
  - **Daniel 1:8** But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.
  - **Daniel 1:17-20** <sup>17</sup>As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. <sup>18</sup>At the end of the time, when the



king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. <sup>20</sup> And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

- **Jeremiah 29:4-14** <sup>4</sup> “Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. <sup>6</sup> Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. <sup>7</sup> But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. <sup>8</sup> For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, <sup>9</sup> for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, declares the LORD. <sup>10</sup> “For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. <sup>12</sup> Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. <sup>13</sup> You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. <sup>14</sup> I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.
- **Matthew 11:18-19** <sup>18</sup> For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ <sup>19</sup> The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds.”
- **Romans 1:18-31** <sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. <sup>19</sup> For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. <sup>26</sup> For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; <sup>27</sup> and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. <sup>28</sup> And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, <sup>30</sup> slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup> foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. <sup>32</sup> Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.
- **Romans 8:18-25** <sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup> For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup> that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup> For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

- **Romans 8:26-30** <sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

## ***kings* in Revelation**

### **Revelation 1:5**

and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of **kings** on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

### **Revelation 6:15**

Then the **kings** of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

### **Revelation 10:11**

And I was told, “You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and **kings**.”

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

### **Revelation 16:12**

The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the **kings** from the east.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

### **Revelation 16:14**

For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the **kings** of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

### **Revelation 17:2**

with whom the **kings** of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.”

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

### **Revelation 17:10**

they are also seven **kings**, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

### **Revelation 17:12**

And the ten horns that you saw are ten **kings** who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as **kings** for one hour, together with the beast.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

### **Revelation 17:14**

They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of **kings**, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful.”

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

### **Revelation 17:18**

And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the **kings** of the earth.”

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

### **Revelation 18:3**

For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the **kings** of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living.”

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Revelation 18:9**

And the **kings** of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Revelation 19:16**

On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of **kings** and Lord of lords.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Revelation 19:18**

to eat the flesh of **kings**, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great.”

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Revelation 19:19**

And I saw the beast and the **kings** of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Revelation 21:24**

By its light will the nations walk, and the **kings** of the earth will bring their glory into it,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

## ***sojourners***

#### **Genesis 15:13**

Then the LORD said to Abram, “Know for certain that your offspring will be **sojourners** in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Exodus 6:4**

I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as **sojourners**.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Exodus 22:21**

“You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were **sojourners** in the land of Egypt.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Exodus 23:9**

“You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were **sojourners** in the land of Egypt.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Leviticus 22:18**

“Speak to Aaron and his sons and all the people of Israel and say to them, When any one of the house of Israel or of the **sojourners** in Israel presents a burnt offering as his offering, for any of their vows or freewill offerings that they offer to the LORD,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Leviticus 25:23**

[ *Redemption of Property* ] “The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine. For you are strangers and **sojourners** with me.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

#### **Deuteronomy 10:19**

Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were **sojourners** in the land of Egypt.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**Deuteronomy 24:14**

“You shall not oppress a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether he is one of your brothers or one of the **sojourners** who are in your land within your towns.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**Joshua 8:35**

There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the **sojourners** who lived among them.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**2 Samuel 4:3**

the Beerothites fled to Gittaim and have been **sojourners** there to this day).

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**1 Chronicles 16:19**

When you were few in number, of little account, and **sojourners** in it,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**1 Chronicles 29:15**

For we are strangers before you and **sojourners**, as all our fathers were. Our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no abiding.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**2 Chronicles 30:25**

The whole assembly of Judah, and the priests and the Levites, and the whole assembly that came out of Israel, and the **sojourners** who came out of the land of Israel, and the **sojourners** who lived in Judah, rejoiced.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**Psalms 105:12**

When they were few in number, of little account, and **sojourners** in it,

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**Psalms 146:9**

The LORD watches over the **sojourners**; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**Isaiah 14:1**

[ *The Restoration of Jacob* ] For the LORD will have compassion on Jacob and will again choose Israel, and will set them in their own land, and **sojourners** will join them and will attach themselves to the house of Jacob.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**Ezekiel 47:22**

You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the **sojourners** who reside among you and have had children among you. They shall be to you as native-born children of Israel. With you they shall be allotted an inheritance among the tribes of Israel.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**Acts 7:6**

And God spoke to this effect—that his offspring would be **sojourners** in a land belonging to others, who would enslave them and afflict them four hundred years.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations

**1 Peter 2:11**

Beloved, I urge you as **sojourners** and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

In Context | Full Chapter | Other Translations