

# Why Agriculture?

Why did God create cattle, sheep, poultry and the other domesticated livestock?

Why did God create wheat, oats, rice, barley and maize?

Why did God design potatoes, beans, peas and cabbage?

**Why has so much of humanity's activity from creation until now centred around crop cultivation, orchard and forest management and livestock husbandry?**

In short, why did God create agriculture the way He did?

**Was God's main purpose in this system to feed and clothe humanity?**

Humanity has historically assumed this to be so!

**Perhaps you have also assumed this to be true.**

**But like so many other human assumptions, this does not agree with the truth of God as revealed in the Christian Bible.**

**In this article we will draw attention to the fact that food and fibre production is not the primary purpose of agriculture.**

This article will demonstrate that God has a far greater purpose for agriculture than the mere production of so many calories per person per day to sustain physical existence.

By losing sight of God and His purpose for creating humans, humanity has long since lost the true perspective of agriculture.

**In doing this humanity has doomed itself and our environment to slow but certain degeneration and destruction.**

## Why is agriculture so time-consuming?

God's Word, the Christian Bible, indicates that humanity has been using the same domesticated livestock and crops for food from the original creation of humans recorded in Genesis till now.

**But this carefully planned system is without a doubt very time-consuming, complicated and laborious.**

**Any "time-and-motion study" expert would have to condemn God's food production system as extremely cumbersome, wasteful, expensive, complex and just plain inefficient.**

**Take bread for example.**

God's system involves soil-tillage, seed planting, a year's delay between harvests, gathering, threshing and cleaning.

Next comes the milling and daily making and baking that loaf of bread.

**Surely a continuously bearing "loaf of bread tree" producing ready-to-eat loaves like apples would be simpler and much more "efficient?"**

## **What about milk?**

It takes three years to produce a milk-yielding cow and even then the milk supply is dependent on a continuous feeding, watering and daily extraction process.

The latter can be unpleasant and even hazardous at times.

## **Why all this effort to obtain milk and the further complexities of butter and cheese production?**

**God literally provided food from heaven for his nation of Israel as they escaped the slavery in Egypt.**

**Exodus 16:4, 11-15 [NIV]** *“Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.” ... “The LORD said to Moses, “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’”* *“ That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.”*

**God provided manna and quail.**

**Numbers 11:7-9 [NIV]** *“The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin. The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a hand mill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into cakes. And it tasted like something made with olive oil. When the dew settled on the camp at night, the manna also came down.”*

**God could have continued to send our food from heaven each night, or supply all our nutritional needs from a nearby stream.**

**Could humans not have been designed to live on air only or perhaps eat soil?**

**Was God an inefficient designer?**

**Was God incapable of developing more efficient methods of sustaining the humans He had created?**

**Not at all!**

Anyone who truly understands God and His Plan for human beings, knows better.

**God does nothing haphazardly.**

**At creation God deliberately designed an environmental system that demands much of humanity’s time, effort and thought.**

**This was for reasons far more important than mere human physical survival.**

## **The true purpose of agriculture**

The Christian Bible contains no verse which states plainly, the main function of human environment is such and such.

**But careful analysis of God’s plan for humanity’s physical life and His system of agriculture does reveal several major reasons behind the true purpose of agriculture.**

### **1. To enable humans to understand God more clearly.**

Few humans have been privileged to speak with God physically one-to-one since Adam was evicted from the Garden of Eden.

**Genesis 3:24** [NIV] *“After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”*

Up until that time Adam and Eve had frequent conversations with their Creator God.

**Genesis 2:19-20** [NIV] *“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. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.”*

One example of this personal conversation with God.

But humans can begin to understand God’s purpose and will from what God has created.

**Romans 1:18-20** [NIV] *“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

In fact God has surrounded humans with His very mind in the ecological relationship humans experience in our complex environment.

Quotation from “*My Experience*” by Louis Bromfield:

*“Agriculture is the only profession in which humans deal constantly with all the laws of the universe and life.”*

**Nothing forces humans to study God’s creation more than His natural way of feeding and clothing humanity.**

**2 Corinthians 4:4** [NIV] *“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

**This is why I believe that Satan, the God of this society, has encouraged humanity to live in large cities far away from where their food is produced.**

Without a working knowledge of the laws governing soil, animals, crops, seasons and their inter-relationship, humans could **not** survive.

**City dwelling humans are not generally aware of all that is involved in food production.**

**For most it is something you go to a supermarket to buy.**

### **2. To create in humans an awareness of his dependency on His Creator God.**

**Plant and animal production, as God designed it, is extremely subject to the vagaries of drought, flood, hail, disease, insect attack, etc.**

**Daily dependence on God and obedience to His laws is essential for humans to avoid extreme discomfort and even death from these forces.**

**Deuteronomy 28:1-5, 15-18 [NIV]** *“If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands that I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock, the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.” ... “However, if you do not obey the LORD your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed. The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.”*

**This choice was clearly stated to the nation of Israelites after God had brought them out of the slavery in Egypt.**

**This promise still stands today, for human good or bad.**

Today under the influence of Satan, humanity’s enemy number one, humans have developed a system that aims to delay the penalty of environmental lawlessness, but in the end this penalty has to be paid in full.

When even farmers obtain most of their food from the local supermarket, you can see how effective this deception of Satan has been.

Quotation from “*A Sand County Almanac*” by Aldo Leopold:

*“There are two **spiritual** dangers in not owning a farm. One is the danger of supposing that breakfast comes from the grocery and the other that heat comes from the furnace.”*

**Today human’s sustenance appears to spring from those vast areas of nutritional junk, called supermarkets, rather from God.**

Likewise credit for providing heat, power and light is now given to gigantic national gas and electrical grid systems, rather than God who supplies water, forests, coal and solar energy.

**3. To provide opportunities for learning true rulership.**

Quotation from “*The Earth’s Face*” by Dr. E. Pfeiffer:

*“The preservation of the landscape belongs among the essential tasks of humanity, for humans have been appointed masters of life on earth. The forming, maintenance and recreation of the landscape, is not only an eternal biological problem but a problem with an essential spiritual and social significance.”*

**Genesis 1:26 [NIV]** *“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.”*

**The very design of God’s system of agriculture, provides His future created children with ample opportunity to practice rulership.**

**Revelation 5:10 [NIV]** *“You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”*

The “*them*” refers to Christians, followers of Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 1:5-6 [NIV]** *“and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father, to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”*

**Christians will become a created family of teachers [priests] to teach all who have not known God’s way of life, and that includes the right system of agriculture.**

**Humanity has rebelled against this God-given responsibility.**

**In effect most people have fled the land and turned food processing and fibre production into a specialised city-based industry.**

**4. To express humanity’s creative desires.**

Quotation from *“My Experience”* by Louis Bromfield:

*“I know the satisfaction of seeing the whole landscape, a whole small world, change from a half-desert into a rich ordered green valley inhabited by a happy people. Secure and prosperous, who each day create and add a little more to the world in which they live. Who each season see their valley grow richer and more beautiful.”*

**Here is a man rare among agriculturalists, expressing the joy and satisfaction of having helped to develop a portion of the earth to a higher plateau of beauty, order and productivity.**

**God’s creation was designed to subtly pressure every individual into working with soil, grass, flowers, trees, shrubs, birds and animals.**

All of these are the very components of landscape development.

**God’s whole living environment has provided humans with unparalleled opportunity to exercise the very creative desire inherent in every human mind and spirit.**

**Genesis 1:26-27 [NIV]** *“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.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

**Remember humans, both male and female, are created in the “image” of a Creator God, so naturally have in them this desire to create something.**

**5. To provide an ideal family environment.**

Quotation *“Human Ecology”* by Sir George Stapleton:

*“The conditions for the growth of happy and united families are fulfilled to a marked degree on the farm [or smallholding]. Here the growing child has ample opportunities to go out with their father, and be associated with living things and mechanical devices.”*

Quotation *“The Human Environment”* by Rene Dubos, published in Science Journal, October 1969:

*“In the past, rural life presented favourable conditions for the mental development of children, because it exposed them to an immense variety of stimuli. This came from the nature of the very diverse activities on the farm, and especially those from the chores in which they were expected to participate.”*

What better way is there to channel a child’s zest for life and boundless energy than helping parents care for animals and growing vegetables, harvesting grain, etc?

**I have personal experience of this as a young child born a few years before the last World War.**

**Due to the great shortage of food in Britain, every family was forced to “*dig for victory*” using every vacant area of land to grow vegetables. This was the only way we could be well fed.**

**Working alongside of my father on our allotment [part of a field rented from a landowner] growing vegetables was one of the highlights of each day during spring, summer and autumn. I also had my own chickens and rabbits [we supplemented our tiny meat ration with their flesh] to look after.**

The marvellous wisdom of God becomes more apparent when we look at food production from this point of view.

**Modern agriculture is totally astray!**

**The understanding of the real purpose of human environment is only shared by extremely few agricultural thinkers today.**

Satan has encouraged farm advisers and scientists to consider voluminous production of food, regardless of quality, as the real and only purpose of agriculture.

**In the last one hundred years the economics of the system of agriculture has adopted the removal of millions from the farming environment of the Western World.**

This is also being adopted in other parts of the world, and there is no end in sight of this slide into mismanagement of our environment.

**Politicians say millions more must join those who are already in the cities and jobs must be found for them in the manufacture of goods, and provision of services.**

The problem is that such jobs can **only** be found in an ever-expanding environment, that needs these manufactured goods.

**Any recession then causes large unemployment and all the social and money problems that come with such a situation.**

**The small farms and smallholdings have been replaced by vast prairies of grain, battery egg and broiler production, huge animal grain feed-lots, one man milking a hundred cows daily, and so on.**

Large specialised farms with the minimum of workers and the maximum of workers in towns and cities, may be efficient food production and processing from a human point of view.

**However, God considers not food, but character development to be the most important purpose of agriculture for the future created children in His family.**

**In this respect specialised, mechanised agriculture is failing humanity miserably.**

The skeleton staff that remain on these farms are rubbing shoulders more with machines than people, and they are poorer for that experience.

**The profit motive is what drives modern agriculture and this is more likely to debase character of those involved than to build it up.**

**The demands and power of supermarket chains to have cheaper food for their customers is also driving agriculture to cut corners in production and to deplete the quality of the soil, and pollute the soil and water with harmful chemicals.**

## **The future of agriculture**

**Acts 3:19-21** [NIV] *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you, even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.”*

God has promised a time of restitution of all things at the return of Jesus Christ.

One of these things will be the understanding of the true purpose of agriculture, that is from God’s viewpoint, **not** human.

**In conjunction with this article please read the article entitled “*Founding A New Civilisation.*”**