

# Founding A New Civilisation

God has created human beings along with many other life forms, who owe our continued existence to the constant availability of three things, oxygen, water and food.

**Oxygen** – God has made available by enveloping our planet in an atmosphere that is consistently recharged with this gas. All we have to do is breathe it in.

**Water** – God has made freely available through cyclical atmospheric precipitation, however we are required to do something more than drink it, we have to go and get it for ourselves.

Furthermore, our survival depends on locating ourselves close to a regular supply of water.

**Food** – by contrast with the other two basic necessities, is something humans have to really work at producing for themselves. Our Creator God has provided us with the essentials, but we have to do the rest.

**Some, whom we now call “hunter-gatherers”, managed to survive without actually engaging in agriculture, but the lives of most people depends directly on the activities of farming.**

**Not one rational human would hope to survive in any environment where their supplies of oxygen and water were not secure.**

**Is it not then quite irrational that multiple millions have seen fit to locate themselves in massive urban concentrations, without any security in respect to food?**

**Simply because so many are born into the insulated and unreal existence is of itself no reason for assuming it to be a right way of life.**

We know that there is little any of us can do at this time to combat the weaknesses and evils of raising humans under such battery conditions.

**We may at least recognise that teeming millions are daily undergoing dehumanisation and social disintegration as successive generations live and die in the isolation of these sterile human conglomerations we are so pleased to call cities!**

To attempt to even discuss the basics of physical life is an open invitation to be tuned-out today.

**However, in this article we aim to contrast our modern society with the type of environment God intended human beings to live and mature in.**

Jesus Christ as a human being lived in a society where all but a trace of God’s pattern for living was blotted out by the cultural synthesis of ancient Babylon, Greece and Rome.

Can we imagine what an abomination it must have been to Jesus Christ, the author of humanity’s true intended lifestyle in the Garden of Eden, and the nation of ancient Israel.

**Perhaps none of us have yet sufficiently grasped the significant differences between human led society and God’s coming physical kingdom on earth.**

Those differences are so great that they should reach right through into spiritual aspects of our lives.

**We have become blinded to the basic essentials for physical life.**

We do **not** like to be told we are polluting the oxygen supply in our atmosphere by our lifestyle.

We take our pure water supply for granted, until some faceless “*water authority*” fails its responsibility to keep a constant supply on tap in our home.

**When it comes to food our unconcern is even less rational, in fact downright shocking.**

**We have now, for example, generations who live and die not only without ever having the remotest idea of how to produce food to feed themselves and their family.**

Such people are without any desire to understand or to be involved in the production of the food they need to survive.

**City dwelling people also forget that they do not have some inalienable right to a cheap and constant source of food. Supplied by what many regard as a remote and primitive human rural sub-culture!**

Food supplied by impoverished farmers worldwide, to millions living in congested cities is hardly the goal of a superior society.

Neither is a factory assembly-line worker, repeating the action over and over, 40 hours a week and 49 weeks a year, until they reach the age of 65 years, part of a superior society.

**Is this what God intended human life to be like?**

Compared with what God intended for humans our present situation would be laughable, except it is such a horrific reality.

A Sheffield steelworker, when asked what he liked least and most about his job replied, “*coming and going*”. I feel this summed up the attitude of most factory or office employees.

What a contrast to God’s plan for human beings.

**How deeply do we appreciate that our Creator God knew exactly what He was doing when He placed the first human beings in a garden He specifically created for them.**

**Genesis 1:11-12, 28-30** [NIV] “*Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.” ... “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.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground, everything that has the breath of life in it, I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.*”

**Can we conceive the fact that this was not just a crude means of getting humans started and that there might have been even more than just a human survival connection between humans and the environment God created for us?**

**Why then did God tie human survival to food production and why did God make it such a time-consuming business?**

**Why, as we will see in this article, did God also make food production an activity in which every individual was to participate to at least some extent?**

**Genesis 2:7-8, 15-17** [NIV] “*the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.*” ... “*The LORD*

*God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 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."*

This is **not** to imply that the solution to human problems is for all of us to become farmers.

**It is merely making the point that by humans giving up our intended God-given relationship with the soil, from which we were created, humans have committed one of their greatest blunders.**

**As a result humanity has virtually lost all knowledge of the true God.**

**Perhaps even professing Christians have not yet appreciated what is still missing in their lives through being cut off from the soil.**

The very hint of such a possibility in some quarters of our society today is an open invitation for scorn, jokes and ridicule.

The "*peasant*" syndrome represents "*natural*" human reaction today to anything agricultural and we should by now have become totally distrustful of "*natural*" reactions!

**All of us in the Western World have grown up in a society that has gone as far as it can in separating itself from direct contact with the soil and with the most important physical function in our lives, next to breathing oxygen and drinking water, is the production of food to eat!**

**Many humans consider the idea of the Garden of Eden is too primitive an environment to hold our interest, or present us with any worthwhile challenge.**

Modern society is transfixed by the vista of human ingenuity and we are all pressured into admiring the "*sophistication*" of this society.

Webster's definition of the word "*sophisticate*" is "*to pervert, to render worthless by adulteration.*"

Is any further comment necessary?

**What are the fruits of this human-driven society?**

**Choose any area of the world today and you will find a direct correlation between the concentration of population in cities and the incidents of crime and corruption.**

**True that the rural countryside have less people, but most such areas produce very few, if any, hardened criminals, unless they are residents who have drifted to the big cities, or unemployed, or state-dependent residents of cities who have been placed by city councils into rural housing.**

Every human has the potential to become a criminal but the rural countryside offers less opportunity to become such a human being.

The financial development that this presents society offers more to city dwellers is **not** of itself wrong, but too often such people lack the character to handle it!

**That could be a major reason why God chose a different kind of society for His children.**

**God only knows what is best for the humans He created.,**

God desires success for every human being but His ideal for living successfully is so different from that which humans have devised for themselves.

**Genesis 2:8-9, 16-17** [NIV] *“Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground, trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” ... “And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 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.”*

To eat of the tree, symbolic of choosing what is good and bad for humanity, God did **not** want humans to eat.

**God wanted humans to follow the laws He had made that would truly benefit the humans He had created.**

This was a major test of obedience that humanity was given from the very beginning of their existence, by their Creator.

**Genesis 3:1-3** [NIV] *“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”*

Eve knew exactly what God had said.

**Genesis 3:4-6** [NIV] *“You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”*

Satan tricked Adam and Eve into disobeying their Creator.

**What was being offered by Satan looked and tasted really good, and hadn't God said something about their becoming “like” Him?**

**Adam and Eve failed this test of obedience and all human beings have followed their example ever since.**

**In the Christian Bible, God gave to the ancient nation of Israel a few basic physical laws which if followed, will guide humans into an entirely different pattern of life to that which they have chosen with their very limited intellect and wisdom.**

The nation of ancient Israel was to be a national living example of a people operating under these laws.

**Israel failed to maintain obedience to these laws but the next time God will put them into operation at Jesus Christ's return, God's people will succeed to maintain their obedience as an example for all humanity to follow.**

## **The Jubilee Law**

**When we think of the legal system in any modern society, even the trained mind boggles at its complexity.**

**Yet it is shot through with loopholes and weakness that are used by some to their personal advantage.**

**By contrast, the legal system in God's directed society in Ancient Israel was remarkable for its simplicity.**

**This is because the mind of God has a habit of getting to the root cause of the problem and His laws if obeyed will head off the problems before they get started.**

**One of the most basic and very far reaching civil laws in God's society is one that makes it illegal for any human [except priests and Levites] to be landless.**

**Numbers 34:13-18 [NIV]** *“Moses commanded the Israelites: “Assign this land by lot as an inheritance. The LORD has ordered that it be given to the nine and a half tribes, because the families of the tribe of Reuben, the tribe of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh have received their inheritance. These two and a half tribes have received their inheritance on the east side of the Jordan of Jericho, towards the sunrise.” The LORD said to Moses, “These are the names of the men who are to assign the land for you as an inheritance: Eleazar the priest and Joshua son of Nun. And appoint one leader from each tribe to help assign the land.”*

When Ancient Israel entered the land promised by God for an inheritance, after being freed from slavery in Egypt, each tribe was allotted land as their perpetual inheritance.

**Within each tribe every family was allotted a portion of this tribal land as an inheritance from God.**

**Every family became the recipient of an area of land which would remain their possession down through every generation.**

**This family plot was big enough to support the family in vegetables, fruit and sufficient pasture to graze animals for milk and meat.**

**Leviticus 25:14-17 [NIV]** *“If you sell land to one of your countrymen or buy any from him, do not take advantage of each other. You are to buy from your countryman on the basis of the number of years since the Jubilee. And he is to sell to you on the basis of the number of years left for harvesting crops. When the years are many, you are to increase the price, and when the years are few, you are to decrease the price, because what he is really selling you is the number of crops. Do not take advantage of each other, but fear your God. I am the LORD your God.”*

The land could be rented out to other families, but **never** sold out of the family so that future generations were without land.

**Leviticus 25:13 [NIV]** *“In this Year of Jubilee everyone is to return to his own property.”*

**Every 50 years all the land had to be returned to the original owner or their descendants, irrespective of whether they wanted it or not.**

**The only possible exception to this law, concerns acreage consecrated to God and therefore given into priests control.**

**Leviticus 27:20-21 [NIV]** *“If, however, he does not redeem the field, or if he has sold it to someone else, it can never be redeemed. When the field is released in the Jubilee, it will become holy, like a field devoted to the LORD; it will become the property of the priests.”*

**Presumably this acreage would then be re-distributed to others in need because of the growth in their family.**

**If this was not the case the priests would end up just like the present day churches of Rome and England, who are perhaps the biggest landowners in the country.**

That of course was never God's purpose.

If it had been, God would have kept all the land promised to Ancient Israel for the priests and never made the initial distribution to all the tribes and their families.

**This is a typical contrast between the systems of God and the human system, influenced by Satan.**

**The important point is that under God all His people have compulsory land ownership.**

This is also a state of affairs that is preserved intact by the law of release, the 50 year Jubilee.

**In contrast today's society in the western world 90% of the population are concentrated in cities and have neither ownership or access to land large enough for food production on a scale to feed a family with vegetables, fruit, milk and meat.**

**Who wants a peasant society?**

You might be surprised at how few people want to own land today, especially if there was any thought that they might have to live on it and produce their food from its soil.

**Humans may ask, does God really want us to return to some second-rate peasant society?**

**The answer is no, what God is preparing for all humanity is far from a peasant society.**

What we see in this world today as half-starved peasant-economies either have **no** land of their own or their area of land is totally inadequate for their needs.

Equally important, such economies are mostly subject to crippling financial burdens being the result of the pitiful rewards for their produce and a lack of right education in the basics of land management.

**In most of these nations today, land-ownership and power is concentrated in the hands of a socially elite class.**

Whether of the extreme right or the extreme left, these ruling people manage to struggle with their consciences and sleep quite soundly every night.

**In the west, we too have our own brand of "elite" who are the organised mass of trade unions and their bosses, each struggling for power.**

**Scattered and relatively small numbers of farmers pose no threat to either of these groups.**

**Farmers have resigned themselves to the fact of life in our present civilisation, industrially-controlled economies will always demand cheap food for their massive workforce.**

Furthermore, **no** political party is going to risk its future by redressing the social imbalance.

**What politicians, unions and management have yet to understand is the fact that no amount of technological and industrial penetration into the business of food production is going to stave off collapse!**

**This disaster may arise from social anarchy and from the nutritional bankruptcy of the soil, plants, animals and finally ourselves.**

Even today, we should be able to see that a large and prosperous land-owning society is the only sound type of a stable society.

## **Misconceptions of a farm-based society**

**We should not conclude that in a society based on compulsory land-ownership, every person must produce their own food.**

**Some could pay others to do this for them.**

**We do this today, but the great majority are landless and therefore lost the privilege of growing any of their own food, even when they do not like the price of agricultural produce.**

All they can do is protest, riot and shout for government subsidies to keep down prices of food and strike for higher wages.

Where would the money for subsidies come from?

Higher taxes and increase in the price of other goods.

**In God's system, every family will own land and most will work at least part of it.**

**Everyone will have the option of growing more than their own food needs, and selling excess to other people.**

**Or some of the family may spend most of their worktime performing other functions useful in society.**

**Any community based on these lines would have a large measure of social and economic stability built into it.**

**There is an option for the non-farmer to return to producing food at any time when his skills of some craft are not needed enough to totally support the family.**

The full-time farmer may opt to cut production any time the returns are inadequate and branch out into activities that are more financially rewarding.

**These gentle and simple voluntary adjustments being open to all humans will promote a happy state of equilibrium.**

What a contrast to the violent recessions, mass unemployment, depressions and hardships that have characterised today's society.

**These simple facts should make us all wish that God's society would come more quickly.**

## **The second key law to our environment**

**Compulsory land-ownership would be an abject failure in any society without some other law, or laws, governing use of the land by each individual owner.**

**It is most remarkable the degree of environmental protection and guidance God has given humanity in one briefly-stated law.**

**The law of the land-sabbath forces every landowner in an obedient nation to protect the food-giving soil.**

**Briefly stated the land-sabbath law imposes the following conditions every seventh year:-**

1. No grain may be harvested for commercial purposes.

2. No crops may be sown specifically for harvesting.
3. No vineyards, or orchards, may be pruned.
4. No fruit, vegetables or grain may be stored.
5. No hay, or winter fodder, may be collected in barns.
6. No fresh fruit, or vegetables, would be available for sale.
7. Pasturing cattle, sheep and poultry **not** restricted.

**With a little study and meditation it is not difficult to get the main message God is giving humans on managing our environment via the land-sabbath law.**

**In essence, it is a law designed to protect the soil from the excessive demands humans may be prone to make upon it via crop production.**

**By ruling out commercial crop production every seventh year, God made it uneconomical for humans to depend heavily on crops, especially continuous arable farming.**

**Marketing of vegetable production is eliminated in the seventh year, this forcing every family to grow at least some of their own needs.**

To do that, you must have access to a minimum amount of land.

**This need is just one more very important reason for compulsory land-ownership, nationwide.**

**As you may harvest only volunteer crops and those only for personal use, the law virtually forces everyone to have their own garden in the sixth year as well as the seventh in every cycle.**

This is due to the simple fact that you cannot have volunteer production in the seventh year without planned sowing in the sixth year.

Viewed positively, the land-sabbath, above all else, discourages the “*getting*” attitude so prevalent in society today.

**It encourages us to care for the soil and thereby the future or coming generations.**

It also encourages a system of agriculture based on domestic animal husbandry, which will add nutrients to the soil from their dung.

**Only God can make this dramatic turn-round in society but all of us can seek to understand the system and practice it in measure where we are able to do so.**

We will then be prepared to teach others how the system works and assist them to make a success of their lives as a result of obeying God’s system of agriculture in the future new civilisation ruled directly by the returning Jesus Christ.