

Introduction

I came across an article titled **"The 50 Funniest Job Descriptions Ever."** Its author asked individuals from different fields of pursuit to **"describe your job in one sentence."** Here is a sampling of their replies. #1 – Talk in other people's sleep (College Professor). #2 – Stand on a field and get yelled at for hours (Umpire). #3 – Help people hate each other (Divorce Attorney). #4 – Take a simple two-way promise and turn it into several complicated one-way promises which neither side can understand or hope to fulfill (Contract Attorney). #5 – Run away and calls the police (Security Guard). #6 – Read things that don't matter, write papers saying they do matter, for points that don't matter, to get a job doing something totally unrelated (College Student).

Funny or not, those silly job descriptions stand in sharp contrast to the most serious job description ever written. I'm talking about yours, which is found in the text we read today, Genesis 1:26-32.

Made to Rule

This text is part of the creation account in Genesis 1-2. God created human beings and then gave them a mandate in verses 26-30. Most Bible commentators call this mandate **"the creation covenant."** But what one writer calls it is more explanatory. It's **"the human job description."** In it, God explained to Adam and Eve and their offspring what their job on earth was and how they were to do it.

According to verses 26 and 28, that job was to **"rule over"** the earth and everything on it. We're able to infer from the rest of the creation account what God meant by **"rule over."** He meant that they were to order, develop, and care for the earth and everything on it.

2:15 is the first example of that being done. Adam and later Eve cultivated the Garden of Eden. Doing so was a **"developing"** of the earth. They tended it, directing how it looked and the way it produced. In tending it, they were doing what was in the job description God had

given them.

2:19 is the second example of ruling over the earth. Adam named all the animals. Doing so was an **“ordering”** of the earth. It enabled Adam and Eve to think more fully about animals and also to talk with each other about them. In naming the animals, Adam was doing what was in the job description that God had given him.

Those two examples occurred in the Garden of Eden, but notice something in 1:26, 28. God didn't limit the human job description to it. On the contrary, Adam and Eve and their offspring were to rule over the whole earth. Old Testament scholar Meredith Kline explained it well. He wrote that man was to **“put all the capacity of human brain and brawn to work in a challenging and rewarding world to develop his original paradise home into a universal city.”** He was right. Adam and Eve and their offspring were to order, develop, and care for the whole earth. They were to transform it into a universal and utopian city.

That then is the human job description. It shows us that Adam and Eve were created to rule. Their desire to do so was part of the very nature with which God made them. It was **“in them”** so to speak to order, develop, and care for the earth and everything on it.

And it's in us, their descendants, as well. The Fall didn't change that. Our fundamental nature in that regard is same as theirs was. We were created to rule – to order, develop, and care for the earth. Examples abound. Take the Periodic Table of the Elements, for instance. It's an ordering of creation. Or take computers. They're a developing of creation. Or take the Humane Society. It's a caring for creation. There's no doubt about it. We were made to rule.

The Kingdom We Rule

Now let's go back to our text again. It records that God not only gave Adam and Eve the desire to rule but an immediate kingdom in which to do so, the Garden of Eden. He set them loose in it to order, develop, and care for it as they pleased.

In the same way, God not only gives us the desire to rule but an immediate kingdom in which to do so. That kingdom is the range of our effective will. It is the realm of reality in which our choices determine what happens, in which what we want done is done. Whatever we genuinely have the say so over is within it.

Carefully consider your kingdom. Give substantial time to asking and answering this question, **“What are the things that I truly have the ‘say so’ over?”** The fact is they’re countless. One is money. The median income in the United States is \$46,000 a year. If we work 40 years, therefore, we’ll earn \$1,840,000 in our lifetime. That’s an enormous amount of money, and it’s part of our kingdom. We have the say so over how we spend it. Another is dress. The clothes we wear are part of our kingdom. We have the say so over what we buy and put on. Still another is the Bible. We all have one and are able to read. That makes it part of our kingdom. We have the say so over how little or much we read it. Money, dress, and the Bible are just three of the countless things that we have the say so over.

They demonstrate my point. Each of us has a range of our effective will, a realm in which what we want done is done. That is our kingdom and we have the freedom and ability to rule in it.

Rule Faithfully

So let’s exercise our freedom and ability and rule faithfully. That’s what the details of the creation account in Genesis 1-2 call us to do.

Notice one of those details in 2:19, what the naming of the animals involved. God brought them to Adam. Adam then named them. The naming of the animals wasn’t just God’s work. It wasn’t just Adam’s work. It was God’s and Adam’s together.

That illustrates what Adam and Eve were supposed to do. It was to exercise their rule faithfully. That means they were to exercise it in partnership with God, in union with Him. They were to have a personal relationship with Him, out of which He and they would act together to

order, develop, and care for the earth.

You and I, as disciples of Jesus, should do the same. The creation account calls us to exercise our rule in our kingdoms faithfully. That means we make God our constant companion and co-worker in all the things that we have the say so over. We act and do them in union with Him. Or to say it another way, we submit moment by moment and case by case to His will.

Consider money. It isn't just us spending it. It's God and us spending it. So, we study and learn everything He says about money in the Bible. We then submit to Him by spending it as He says.

Or consider dress. It isn't just us buying and wearing the clothes we do. It's God and us buying and wearing them. So, we study and learn what He says about dress in 1 Timothy 2:9-10. We then submit to Him by dressing as He says. We dress modestly, discreetly, and simply.

You get the idea. We rule faithfully in our kingdoms. We routinely submit what we are, where we are, and what we do to God.

Our Rule Enhanced

Something extraordinary happens when we do. He enhances our rule. In January of 1930, Frank Laubach began a personal experiment of submitting moment by moment to God's will in all things. Only four weeks later, he wrote about that: **"I feel simply carried along each hour, doing my part in a plan which is far beyond myself. This sense of cooperation with God in little things is what so astonishes me, for I have never felt it this way before. I need something, and turn around to find it waiting for me. I must work, to be sure, but there is God working along with me."** Please understand exactly what God did. He enhanced Laubach's rule. He empowered and guided it so that He was able to exercise it more easily and effectively.

The good news is that He'll do the same with our rule – if we exercise it faithfully. So let's do just that. Let's constantly interface with God in the details of our day to day existence.

Our Rule Extended and Enlarged

But when we're faithful, God doesn't just enhance our rule now on earth. He also extends and enlarges it forever in heaven.

In John 14:3, Jesus promises us, if we're disciples of His, that He's preparing a place for us. His comment in Matthew 25:34 clarifies what He means. He speaks there about "**the kingdom prepared for you.**" What those two texts together teach us is absolutely stirring.

As I've explained before, heaven will be our present universe renewed or restored, that is, made perfect and complete. But even now, as I speak, Jesus is preparing or has finished preparing a personal kingdom for each of us in it. This is an actual material realm in the universe that will belong to us.

Maybe you've been reading about the Andromeda Galaxy. It's in the news because it's headed toward and going to collide with our own galaxy, the Milky Way. This collision will occur in approximately 2 billion years. I'm not worried about it though because Jesus is preparing or going to prepare those galaxies for two or more disciples of His.

Whatever it is, each of us will have part of the universe as our own after Jesus comes again. We will have a literal material kingdom over which to rule. God will set us loose in it with mind-numbing powers to do with it whatever we please. We will, after the pattern of creation in Genesis 1, form it and fill it as we please.

But there's something we desperately need to know in that regard. The nature and extent of our future kingdom in heaven is linked to our present kingdom on earth and how we rule in it.

The text preceding the verse I mentioned, Matthew 25:34, teaches us just that. Jesus tells the parable of the talents. In it, the Master says to his servants who ruled their kingdoms faithfully, "**Well done, good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things.**" His message is clear. How faithful we are in our earthly kingdom determines the nature and extent of our heavenly kingdom. On Judgment Day, God will judge our

faithfulness in how we spent our money, how we dressed, how we read His written word, the Bible, and so on. And the more faithful we were in those and all things, the greater the power and authority and the size of our kingdom He'll give us in heaven.

That reality infuses absolute meaning and significance into our everyday lives. It makes every exercise of our rule, everything we say and do, eternal life-altering.

If we're wise, therefore, we'll exercise our rule faithfully. I know what I want God to say to me on Judgment Day: **"Well done good and faithful servant. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things."** You want Him to say the same thing to you I'm sure. So let's rule faithfully in our kingdoms. He will if we do.

Conclusion

I have in my left hand what most people would consider the most important job description in the world. It's that of the President of the United States, in Article II of the United State Constitution. But in reality, this isn't the most important job description in the world. Yours is – in Chapter 1 of the Book of Genesis. Do you very best to fulfill it. You'll hear God's **"well-done"** if you do.