

Speaker : Prince Guneratnam
Title : Divine Ownership

INTRODUCTION

- God created man that He might have fellowship
 - Man was created in His image
 - He gave man the responsibility to be a steward of the earth He created

(Genesis 1:26-28)

"26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 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."

- Peter tells us that man is a steward

(1 Peter 4:10)

"As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

A steward is a trustee or custodian.

- As a steward, he is to:-
 - "Be fruitful and multiply"
 - Not only to have children but every tree he cuts down or herb he cuts off, he is to plant and sow and replenish the earth.
 - Man has mistreated the earth so it is running short of resources
 - He is to "subdue", to bring it into subjection – to administer the earth
 - "To have dominion" – to maintain order, harmony and discipline.

THE GARDEN WAS TO TAKE CARE OF MAN'S NEEDS

(Genesis 2:8,9, 15-17)

"8 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 9 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.

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- "The Lord God" – He is the Lord!
- Man was to "tend" or "cultivate" and "keep" or "be the caretaker"
- Man was to work the garden and be a steward of God's garden.
- To work is not a curse and not to work is not worthy of the garden

(Proverbs 12:27)

"The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, but diligence is man's precious possession."

(2 Thessalonians 3:10)

"For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat"

- For God to maintain Ownership, He said,

(Genesis 2:16-17)

"Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- Divine Order
 - The tree was "set apart" – it was sacred, it was there for man to know the garden belonged to God.
 - To eat of the tree was to deny God as the Owner.

WHAT DID SATAN SAY?

(Genesis 3:5)

"For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

- Man had a choice whom to obey
 - To obey God is to be blessed and to prosper
 - To disobey is to be cursed – to fall out with God, the source of life and blessings
 - It is not punishment; it is a choice
 - Choose to obey God and be a faithful steward
 - Choose to disobey God and be a sinner – a slave to the devil

THE PAGAN CONCEPT

- You own what you have. You can live, act and be what you want.
- Satan has got the world to think that God is a force and not a person.
 - Because a force cannot own
 - Therefore, fight and conquer.
 - The best title to property is by conquest – so we have wars – nations against nations.
- So man has built:-
 - Fences, boundaries
 - Become arrogant
 - Act as owners by their abilities to fight and own
 - That's why money is a dominating force in this world
 - Money gives man the feeling he owns the world

(1Timothy 6:10)

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

When you live this way, you have stolen property and you are cursed.

(Malachi 3:8-11)

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ' In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. 9 You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, Even this whole nation. 10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts, " If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.11 " And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts;

THE CHRISTIAN CONCEPT

- God is a Person – He has a will, a mind and emotions.
- He created man for fellowship and gave man the earth as his responsibility to be a faithful steward.

(Psalm 24:1)

"The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein."

(Psalm 95:4,5)

"4 In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also. 5 The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land.

(Psalm 50:10)

"For every beast of the forest is Mine, And the cattle on a thousand hills."

(Isaiah 66:1)

"Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest?"

(Haggai 2:8)

'The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,' says the Lord of hosts.

- Tithes
 - It is the acknowledgement of God's ownership in your life.

(Leviticus 27:30)
"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord"
- The tithe is the Lord's
- The tithe is sacred – sanctified, devoted
- Tithes has nothing to do with the Law of Moses – it is a rule for all men to obey

CONCLUSION

God spoke to Israel through the Prophet Isaiah.

(Isaiah 1:1-4)

"1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: " I have nourished and brought up children, And they have rebelled against Me; 3 The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider." 4 Alas, sinful nation, A people laden with iniquity, A brood of evildoers, Children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the Lord, They have provoked to anger The Holy One of Israel, They have turned away backward."

- Know your maker and acknowledge Him.
- Touch not the tithe that belongs to God
 - Recognizing Divine Ownership is a matter of intelligence.
 - Acknowledging Divine Ownership is a matter of honour.
 - Do not touch what God has set aside for you to acknowledge Divine Ownership.

(Psalms 50:14)

"Offer to God thanksgiving, And pay your vows to the Most High"

- Obey and be blessed

(Psalm 50:15)

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me."