

## Hath God Said “Be Fruitful and Multiply”?

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Since mankind’s fall in Eden, Satan asks, “Hath God said?” (Genesis 3:1), to inject deadly doubt about God’s Word. Has God said, “Choose life” (Deuteronomy 30:19)? Has God commanded both Adam and Noah to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 1:28; 9:1)? Is not the divine directive to Jacob to “be fruitful and multiply” (Genesis 35:11) now seriously outmoded? Sadly, many have succumbed to the bleak view of Thomas Malthus. “Population, when unchecked, increases in a geometrical ratio. Subsistence [food production] increases only in an arithmetical ratio.”<sup>1</sup> The projected result of unchecked population growth -- famine and grinding poverty -- is widely accepted today.

Thus, we have seen Paul R. Ehrlich’s The Population Bomb (1968), which fizzled, and the Paddocks’ (1967) Famine 1975!, yet to arrive. R. J. Rushdoony, however, in The Myth of Over-Population notes: “The world, during its least populous eras, suffered most from hunger and famine. As statist controls receded in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, ... Western civilization increasingly saw famine banished” (1975: p.5). Economist Julian Simon concurs in The Ultimate Resource: “We also know that famine has progressively diminished ... And there is strong reason to believe that human nutrition will continue to improve into the indefinite future, even with continued population growth” (1981: p.5).

Unhappily, this “bountiful harvest” view has yet to prevail in D.C. and capitals around the world. Rather, demonic demographics of “looming famine” still drive public policy contrary to God’s mandate to “be fruitful and multiply.” China has sought since 1979 to check surging population by limiting family size. Draconian enforcement of its “one-child” policy generates horrific “forced abortions.”<sup>2</sup> Since the United States legalized abortion in 1973, American death dealers have begun an equally hideous practice of “partial-birth” abortion. Further, we have gruesome reports of infant murder should a baby be born alive in a “failed” abortion.<sup>3</sup>

When will God’s people stop heeding distinguished doomsayers, deluded by Satan through Malthus? When will we reclaim the vision God gave to Jacob: “And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth ...and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 28:14)? Children are not to be seen as liabilities, drags on the economy of struggling families. Rather, we are well-advised to take the Psalmist’s long-run view of the blessings that children bring into our homes. “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate” (Psalm 127:3-5).

Christian families now must cope with an economy falling into a ruinous shambles. But our economic problems pale beside those of Noah, who received God’s directive: “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth” (Genesis 9:1). Noah was called to rebuild civilization for all earth’s families from the ground up in the midst of a world recovering from earth’s greatest environmental disaster. God also promised Noah an unending food source from the earth. “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, ... day and night shall not cease” (Genesis 8:22).

America--like Great Britain, which Malthus observed--is sustained by an industrial economy. In Britain, industrialization so reduced the cost of essential food and fiber that a population explosion ensued. This demographic revolution produced severe social problems, which businessmen addressed as they endowed charities. In “A Christmas Carol,” Charles Dickens offers a telling critique of such a charity-business approach in his caricature of Scrooge. Yet industrialization with its signature of population explosions, has not slammed up against the massive famine of food projected by Malthus. Instead, the world has experienced the Green Revolution, a quantum leap in food production.

Millennia after Noah, Paul reminds his hearers in Lystra of God’s unfailing provision for man’s sustenance. “The living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, ... left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:15-

17). So, let Christian men take “wives, and beget sons and daughters; ... that they [also] may bear sons and daughters; ... And seek the peace of [our cities] ... for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace” (Jeremiah 29:6-7).

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1. See the PDF file @ <http://www.esp.org/books/malthus/population/malthus.pdf> Page 4.

2. See Steven Mosher’s “A Mother’s Ordeal” (1993: pp. 203-207).

3. URL below links to a Reuter’s report of the murder conviction of Dr. Kermit Gosnell.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/13/us-usa-philadelphia-clinic>