

gardeners by Design

In the first book of Moses, the second chapter, we are informed that the role of Man upon earth is to till and keep the Garden¹. Man was Designed for that very role, Woman as Helper. What would it take for men to keep the world garden in shape for the sake of all creatures and their offspring for two generations yet to come? How hard would it have been when numbers were small? Not so hard I guess, but why are we so far from the ideal today?

Today, the paycheck factory² has clouded the minds of most men with nonsense and cluttered the earth with pointless novelties, most noticeably the condensed urban and industrial areas, unnatural beyond measure, that despoil the world garden from a distance by their influence. As a child, I marveled at such immense human undertakings; as an adult, I am reminded more of their starting point at the Tower of Babel.³ Today, I see a wide range of unhealthy lifestyles in unbalanced measure. We can begin with the pointlessly over-fed, over-paid and under-worked who steer the great paycheck factory. Many keep *pets* with unnatural diets and with behaviours – both master and pet - showing little connection now remains with their Designed roles in the Garden. Outside their mansion fence lines are animals who must choose between nibbling on the ornamentals chosen for civic plantings, eating of refuse from the gated communities, or preying upon one another. From that opulent yet depressing area of the world garden, let us move to the poorer folk who work at the low end of the paycheck scale if they can find a paycheck job at all. In the cities, they are the ones who suffer the mice and the cockroaches; the noise and menace of the gangs; the deaf ear at city hall; the gouging on prices by traders in food beyond expiry dates. They understand “give us this day our daily bread” but must eat cheap and heavily adulterated foods instead of the fresh ones Designed for us - they haven’t enough in their *fantasy money* paychecks to do otherwise. The job GOD gave us to keep the Garden has been broadly abandoned. What would it take for men to return to thoughtful gardening for the sake of all simply because it is the job GOD generously gave to us? Let us return to basics, the Commandments, for a sense of real order and justice. These are mainly of Legal Code (4) as I call it, for Israel rather than Gentiles.⁴

INTERIOR LIFE

Love YHVH with all your heart, all your soul and all diligence.	Deut 6:4-5
Do not bear a grudge against the sons of your people. Love your neighbour as yourself.	Lev 19:18
Do not to covet another man’s wife or the property of another. Do not wrongfully desire in your heart nor plan to wrongfully acquire	Exo 20:17 Deut 5:21 Matt 5:27-28
The Words of YHVH to be bound like a sign on your hands and a guidepost, a focus, between your eyes. Mindfulness of YHVH’s Word.	Deut 6:8;11:18

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF

The greens are food for all creatures. Man was made in GOD’s image to till and keep the Garden	Gen 1:28-29 Gen 2:15
Love your neighbour as yourself – rebuke for sin	Lev 19:18
Give due respect to elders and strangers	Lev 19:32
Showing love for the foreigner in your land, for you were aliens in Egypt where you were mistreated.	Deut 10:18-19 Lev. 19:33-34
The poor of the land are to be allowed to glean the fields and vineyards for themselves.	Lev 19:9-10 Lev 23:22
Neighbours can eat from your field or vineyard when hungry, but not carry away (except for gleanings at harvest, as above)	Deut 23:24-25

¹ see Genesis 2:15

² see *escape from the paycheck factory* at www.primeconcord.info for a discussion of this term

³ see Genesis 11:1-9

⁴ see *a Legal primer* on www.primeconcord.info for discussion of the term Legal Code (4)

Give generously to the poor. Remission of debts in 7th year. Don't be stingy as 7th year approaches. There should be no poor among you.	Deut 15:1-11
Do not mislead a blind person	Deut 27:18
Return lost property and help neighbours	Deut 22:1-4
Do not strike a neighbour in secret	Exodus 23:4-5; Deut 27:24
Do not afflict the widow or the fatherless	Exodus 22:22-24
Do not take a widow's garment in pledge	Deut 24:17
No slandering of neighbour, nor act against the life of a neighbour	Lev 19:16
Making restitution where needed	Num 5:6-8
Not wronging a religious convert by speech	Exo. 22:20
Not wronging one another by speech	Lev. 25:17
Not to exclude the descendants of Esav or the descendants of Egyptians from becoming converts	Deu. 23:8

FOOD - BASIC PROHIBITIONS

Do not eat any blood	Gen 9:3-4 for all people of earth Lev 3:16-17 Lev 7:26-27 Lev 17:13
Perpetual statute - Do not eat <u>any</u> fat or any blood. General as a statute, penalty not stated in this verse.	Lev 3:17
Do not eat fat of animals from which an offering by fire is offered to YHVH (cattle, sheep, or goats), or any animal torn by beasts. Penalty is to be cut off from your people.	Lev 7:22-25

DISTINCTIONS - CLEAN AND UNCLEAR FOODS

Clean - splits hoof and chews cud	Lev 11:2-8 Deut 14:3-8
Seafood – only that with both fins and scales	Lev 11:9-12 Deut 14:9-10
Birds - edible and unclean	Lev 11:13-19 Deut 14:11-19
Do not eat insects other than locusts, devastating locusts, crickets and grasshoppers. All other "teeming things" are unclean as food. Note that Deuteronomy 14:19 is a reminder about Leviticus chapter 11, but does not restate the four exceptions.	Lev 11:20-25 Deut 14:19

FURTHER COMMANDMENTS RELATED TO FOOD

Do not cook a young goat in its mother's milk	Exod 23:19 Exod 34:26 Deut 14:21
Cattle or sheep, you shall not kill it and its young in one day	Lev 22:28
Not to take a bird and its eggs or young from a nest. You are to let the mother go.	Deut 22:6-7
Saying thanks after meals	Deut 8:10
Not to eat fruit from trees until after their fourth year	Lev 19:23-25
Not to eat new grain or bread until you have brought an offering to GOD	Lev 23:14
Do not eat an ox that was put to death for goring someone	Exod 21:28-29
“And you shall be Holy men to ME, therefore you shall not eat flesh torn to pieces in the field; you shall throw it to the dogs.”	Exodus 22:31

DISEASES & HEALTH

Keep the Commandments and you will not get the diseases YHVH placed upon the Egyptians for YHVH is our Healer	Exodus 15:26
Serve YHVH and HE will bless your food and drink, and will remove sickness from your midst. (Don't eat what YHVH declared unclean)	Exodus 23:25-26
Do not touch any carcasses. If unavoids, then bathe and wash clothing afterward.	Lev 11:24-28 Lev 11:39-40
Rodents and lizards unclean. Do not touch a carcass. If these fall into a clay vessel, dispose of contents and break the vessel or clay oven. &c.	Lev 11:29
Do not eat creatures that crawl on the ground	Lev 11:41-45
Leprosy – All of Leviticus chapters 13 and 14 apply to leprosy. The subject is not well known where there is little practical need.	Lev Ch 13-14 Deut 24:8 Num 5:2

FASTING

Day of Atonement – Yom Kippur - starts evening of 9th day of 7th month and continues until the evening of 10th day. “The shabbat of shabbats” from the Aramaic. Deny, humble, taken to mean fasting.	Lev 16:29-31 Lev 23:26-32
From the Prophets ... Proper fasting is defined as kindness to the poor, and doing justice. To forego eating but neglect these other matters is not pleasing to YHVH	Isa 58:1-14

CLOTHING

Not to wear clothing made of linen (flax) and wool woven together	Lev 19:19 Deut 22:11
Embroider fringes on garments, a line of blue thread, to remind you of the Commandments	Num 15:38-40
Place tassels on the corners of your cloak. ⁵	Deut 22:12. See also Matt 23:5
Women not to wear men's armour (as for war). Men not to wear women's garments (cross-dressing). These are abomination to GOD	Deut 22:5
From the Prophets ... Rend your heart and not your garments	Joel 2:13

PROPERTY – LANDS

Land ownership (all belongs to YHVH)	Exodus 19:5-6
Land not to be sold permanently for it belongs to YHVH, it can only be leased until next Jubilee	Lev 25:23
If any daughter inherits the land in a family, then she must marry within the tribe of her father to keep land within tribal inheritance.	Num 27:8 Num 36:1-13
Not to sell devoted property	Lev 27:28
Not redeem devoted land without specific statement of purpose	Lev 27:28
Do not move boundary markers. Curse for moving a boundary marker	Deut 19:14 Deut 27:17
Shmita years for the land and vineyards	Lev 25:1-7
Jubilees for the land and vineyards	Lev 25:8-12
GOD's provision in Shmita and Jubilee years	Lev 25:18-22

PROPERTY – AGRICULTURE

Not to sow your field with two kinds of seed ⁶	Lev 19:19
Not to sow two kinds of seed in your vineyard	Deut 22:9

⁵ see <http://www.karaite-korner.org/tzitzit.shtml>

⁶ This suggested to me numerous small plots and zero crop rotation. While it seems 'plain wrong' to modern farmers, the increases in their 'yields' due to rotation is exaggerated. 'Cover crops' on fixed plots, cut and laid wherever other fixed-crop plots need a 'boost', works well for my worms and ants.

Work six days, rest on Shabbat, even during plowing and harvest	Exod 34:21
Gleaning of fields and vineyards by the needy and strangers in the land	Lev 19:9-10, 23:22
Leaving a 'forgotten' or perhaps 'foregone' sheaf in the field, and more of vines and olive trees, for the alien, the fatherless and widows.	Deut 24:19-21
Allowing neighbours to eat directly from your fields, orchards and vineyards (though not to carry away in baskets except at gleanings)	Deut 23:24-25 Mark 2:23-28
Fruit trees - first three years the fruit is forbidden, the fourth year all the fruit is Holy, an offering of praise to YHVH. In the fifth and later years, you can enjoy but do not prune your tree in Shmita years.	Lev 19:23-25
Not to eat new grain or bread until you have brought an offering to GOD	Lev 23:14 (listed also under Food)
First sheaf & feast of weeks	Lev 23:9-21
Instances of a fire started, and damages due to burning out of control such as to burn stacked grain.	Exodus 22:5

ANIMALS

Vegetarian diet for all creatures, by Design. Many animals are fed something other than a vegetarian diet by misguided people. None of them were Designed so-called <i>carnivores</i> . That is only in reaction to impoverishing Garden morals adopted by humanity.	Gen 1:28-29
Not to breed together two kinds of cattle	Lev 19:19
Anything with testicles bruised or crushed or torn or cut cannot be used as an offering to YHVH. You shall not have such mutilation practices in your land.	Lev 22:24
Not to work the firstlings of cattle, or shear wool from the firstlings of flock as they are Holy offerings to YHVH.	Deut 15:19
As men redeem the firstborn son with five shekels silver, statutes also to redeem the firstborn males of your unclean animals, herd or flock	Exod 13:13; 34:20 Num 18:14-16
Not to plow with an ox and a donkey yoked together	Deut 22:10
Not to muzzle an ox that is working on the threshing floor	Deut 25:4
Put to death an ox if it gores a man or woman to death, additional related statutes.	Exodus 21:28-32
Slaughtering animals correctly, covering their blood with earth	Lev 17:10-14
Unloading a tired animal	Exodus 23:5
Returning a stray animal belonging to your neighbour	Exodus 23:4
Instances of theft or injuries to animals	Exod 21:33-22:4
Other instances of loss or damage to farm animals	Exodus 22:5-14

Do we understand why GOD Designed Man as HE did?⁷ In loving GOD with all your heart and soul, it should come as no surprise when you find your happiest moments are among green spaces. Your most complete fulfillment might well be found in Gardening with all your heart. The first Chapter of Genesis tells us YHVH made the greens as food for all creatures, not only for Man. We are all vegetarian by Design. Our ancient human father Adam was at peace with all the others, they were His neighbours. The need to till and keep the Garden for many kinds of baby offspring must have been a wonderful discovery by all of them. And what days we could have built into our human cultures of gardening for the sake of all creatures - had we only embraced that job instead of the path men started down at Bavel.

Today, from church pulpits, we hear of a war going on between good and evil; but what we see is mostly unbridled selfishness feeding on itself generation after generation with wider disparities among humanity as the decades go by. How about a sermon teaching that we are each meant to have a sensibly sized garden to feed our families with; and to plant plenty for the local birds and other creatures; and to allow the locals or strangers to eat freely when hungry from whatever we have planted? Is that too hard a message to get through to the

⁷ see Deuteronomy 6:4-5

people of today? Our Creator gave us a job – to be Gardeners. Is the message obsolete? Did countless lives in seminary studies miss this key point of healthy social organisation? Would nobody listen to such a sermon today? We need good food, clean water, shelter and companionship. We did not need the cities and industries that have now consumed agriculture as part of paycheck factory assets. We need justice and righteousness, not blatant exploitation and the slow strangulation of all our natural hopes by the greed of elites barely bridled by competition among themselves.

* * *

A mini-lesson in chemistry (1) – Today we know that taking care of our garden worm populations is a most excellent investment. Aside from aerating soils under no-till or low-till methods, they consume the remains of crops and exude the nutrients for plant growth in a form most easily taken up in season by growing plants.⁸ That happy balance has long existed by Design. Today, potassium -which is essential for plant health- is increasingly sought after for factory-made fertilizer formulations by nations with large populations to feed. It is sought mainly in the form of potash from Canada, Russia and Belarus who control more than 80% of known reserves. Unsurprisingly, it has become more politicized by the various elites of our day. Agro-industry plows deep and wide destroying the natural worm networks; it then adds increasingly expensive fertilizer, GM seeds and pesticides from other parts of the paycheck factory. The right solution was to take care of the worms. Be certain that worms are very sensitive and not easily re-settled. Isn't it already too late to turn back?

* * *

A Biofuels Bidding War? – There is already something of a bidding war between the driver of a big fat car and the man needing corn to feed his children. While it remains a *fantasy money* bidding war, who do you think is prevailing? And why might that be so? The construction of *bio-fuels* facilities has already been kicked into over-drive by over-priced oil from over-paid rights-holders and their manipulative *traders*. Do any of them truly care about the man needing corn for his children? The builders of other new facilities also seek to tap the *fantasy money* from drivers of big fat cars taking from the biomass pool to process butadiene needed for making tires.⁹ Thus, the paycheck factory is stealing from the future, calling its sources renewable without renewing them, pushing yet more biomass into non-food products.

* * *

Non-Food Plants? GOD made plants for food. Today, some companies are devising ways to convert what they call 'non-food' plants into energy, plastics and so forth. While it may be true that there are some local abundances,¹⁰ natural soil quality enhancement materials are heading for the digester or furnace in one part of the paycheck factory while another part of the paycheck factory offers factory-made fertilizers at a far higher social cost. I see this leading to a weakened garden with higher propensity to future famines. Time will tell.

* * *

A mini-lesson in chemistry (2) - Formic acid is naturally made by ants. Ants use trace formic acid to mark their own trails as they move about on stalks and flowers collecting food. Trace amounts are taken away from flowers unknowingly by the bees for whom it provides important protection in the hive against mites. The trace amounts remaining on the stalks act to promote fermentation at lower temperatures, preventing spoilage and preserving nutritional

⁸ Plant & Pest Advisory, Field and Forage Crops edition, 17.Jan.2002 on <http://www.rce.rutgers.edu/pubs/plantandpestadvisory/index.html>

⁹ see <http://www.biofuelsdigest.com> for this and similar stories. The decreasing supply of butadiene is known from many industry sources. It is also used for Nylon 6,6 and ABS. This is just one more increasingly expensive component in the pricing of such products.

¹⁰ http://www.globalenergyworld.com/news/5436/WELTEC_BIOPower_to_Heat_Swiss_Army.htm

value for the sake of cattle who feed on the stalks at leisure, even for months after harvest. And so the balance Designed for the Garden continued. In the early days of the industrial revolution, ants were destroyed *en masse* to provide formic acid for leather tanning, textile finishing and other industrial processes. Eventually, chemists did learn to synthesize it. Massive tracts of land are now deep plowed by mechanical means disturbing ant colonies year after year. The ants have suffered, and the trails of trace formic acid have diminished. Today, factory-made formic acid is used to treat agricultural silage for cattle and used in unnatural amounts by bee-keepers to protect hives.¹¹ The amounts naturally deposited by ants are being progressively replaced by an unreliable supply and application chain of the paycheck factory.

* * *

A mini-lesson in natural antibiotics – Garlic and onions contain several natural antibiotics that, taken together in food, will strengthen the body beforehand against many kinds of ailments. Even watermelon has traces of a natural antibiotic in the fruit and a higher concentration in the seeds. This is useful for the smaller mouths who do not favour sharp tastes like garlic and onion. The Garden has more to offer. Instead of natural right eating, we now have a sprawling pharmaceutical industry feeding a health care industry with isolated antibiotic components that do not fully solve the problems; multi-drug resistant strains of diseases are becoming more common. Right-eating has been replaced by medicine, another unreliable supply and application chain of the paycheck factory leaving trouble in its wake.

* * *

A mini-lesson in mosquito control – The mosquito does not like the oil of citronella grass (*Cymbopogon nardus*, *Cymbopogon winterianus*). Planting this around the house, placing bruised leaves under a bed, or burning oil in a lamp gives an effective guard against them entering and remaining in a home. At a pinch, placing a little of the oil on a damp cloth and setting that above a light bulb for a few minutes can also give effective diffusion and temporary protection. Today, noxious chemicals are sprayed for temporary mosquito control, and thus another unreliable supply and application chain of the paycheck factory has overcome good sense and polluted many a green space and given us stronger mosquito populations. How wise was that?

* * *

Agricultural education within the paycheck factory has become part of the problem. The National Academies Press promotes a mindset that is not about caring for worms and ants, and thereby caring for the plants and the bees. Professors want to continue getting their own paychecks by preparing young people for paycheck roles in “the evolving global food and agricultural enterprise”¹² Those words are from paycheck factory mindsets. Those students who move along to agro-industry and finance studies will be lured into *trading* of one sort or another; or into agglomerated investment in agro-processing facilities that leave most risks with the ‘farmers’, those least able to bear them and survive. Instead of agriculture being a vast refuge for people to return to as it was for millennia, the world garden has slowly been strangled. It is now part of paycheck factory assets in many places, with which elites destroy, misallocate or squander most everything in their path.

As the end of this Age approaches, such matters as Good Gardening in the original setting -for the good of all creatures; sharing with our neighbours- will not get the attention that I feel they deserve. Once the Day of Wrath is over, the many useful things Man has learned through many generations are apt to have been already lost. Alas, when men are scarcer than gold in those days,¹³ it will be too late to compile all the good things we presently know about Gardening; about the plants and their ways; about what the animals need for their own good health, and similar for our own children.

¹¹ see http://www.epa.gov/opppdpd1/biopesticides/ingredients/factsheets/factsheet_214900.htm

¹² refer to page 1 of NAP’s *Transforming Agricultural Education for a Changing World* available at <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/12602.html>

¹³ see Isaiah 13:9-13

Some of the twigs growing in my own garden are now, thankfully, taller than I am and not so many years away from bearing fruit for my older years. Along with good neighbours, we are working toward a paper library and communal reading room for all people of the area. I found a most excellent selection of self-help appropriate technology materials freely available on the internet and more worthy of financial support than most charitable work I have seen.¹⁴ One especially encouraging experience of using those materials for village libraries in rural Zambia is recounted on the site.¹⁵ I know other men who are translating some of those same materials to Hindi for village libraries among their most rural neighbours. As pleasing as it is to see such efforts, the ‘aid organisations’ seem uninterested in making themselves less necessary by promoting these documents freely; this leads me to see many such groups as part of the paycheck factory today instead of part of the solution.

Gardening with all your heart, though available to everyone, does not seem well favoured. It takes a degree of dedication to serving GOD and helping neighbours. Can we now stop supporting the rise of merchant elites or at least limit it, because they corrupt the political elites and so much else in this world. The world Olympic Games, which started as a backdrop to political dealings between the elites of Greek city-states, has become one inseparable from the prestige of elites of the modern nation-states; commercial exploitation attends all such large gatherings.¹⁶ Those elites revel in the best seats and bragging rights; they count upon the rush of nationalism engendered by such events to propel them all forward. In the end, each of us is responsible for the role we accept in supporting the continuation of elites and such forms of society. In the Judgment, who will be left standing? The elites of earth are given little chance.¹⁷ While I doubt most of us will miss them, that is no consolation for bearing any more the burden of them.

In Bhutan, the worldly gross product measures of GNP and GDP were met with the disdain that they rightly deserve. Bhutan now measures GNH, or Gross National Happiness.¹⁸ People have simpler lifestyles than most on earth today and, in my eyes, they are happier than most people for that very reason. When our societies so favour goods hard to obtain, then can good gardening ever emerge and survive among the nations? If, instead, we favoured good and righteous tasks for the Glory of GOD would that keep men away from the mischief of Babel? If we favour the annual festivals GOD ordained for Israel instead of the spring orgy and the olympics, won’t everyone then have something wholesomely non-commercial to look forward to a few times each year? Only right behaviour before GOD will lead happily to being blessed by the early rains and the late rains.¹⁹ Only right behaviour before GOD will lead happily to the blessings before the Shmita and Jubilee years.²⁰ We are HIS gardeners by Design. YHVH will reward and punish based upon how we responded to the many important Teachings HE gave to us. I am grateful to HIM that I can read; that I have understood the lesson of Babel; and that I find my feet upon a worthy path today.

a migrant labourer

*contemplating Gross National Happiness in Bhutan
July, 2012*

*** this posting is part of the book ...Delta... updated slightly for issue in 2015 with ... Three Briefs ...



This work is © non-commercial, share alike. For my fellow students, this is not to deter you. I request you to freely use and improve upon these writings as you pass along your own to others, without need to mention me. Find a way to leave me a message if you wish to at www.primeconcord.info.

¹⁴ [update] see www.cd3wd.info about a *.com site that was formerly hosted for free as a service to humanity. It was dropped when the assembler passed away in 2014. The (*.info) intends to restore.

¹⁵ [update] the PDF of a **Chinsali** (Zambia) experience, previously at cd3wd.com, is now available in a link from <http://www.cd3wd.info/about.html>

¹⁶ see <http://www.stratfor.com/sample/geopolitical-diary/olympics-and-nationalism>

¹⁷ see Matt 19:24 and mark 10:25. The Aramaic says it is easier for a “rope” to go through the eye of a needle, which is a more meaningful analogy to the serious problem the rich deserve to hold.

¹⁸ see <http://www.gnhc.gov.bt/>

¹⁹ see Joel 2:21-27

²⁰ see Leviticus 25:18-25