

Created in God's Image

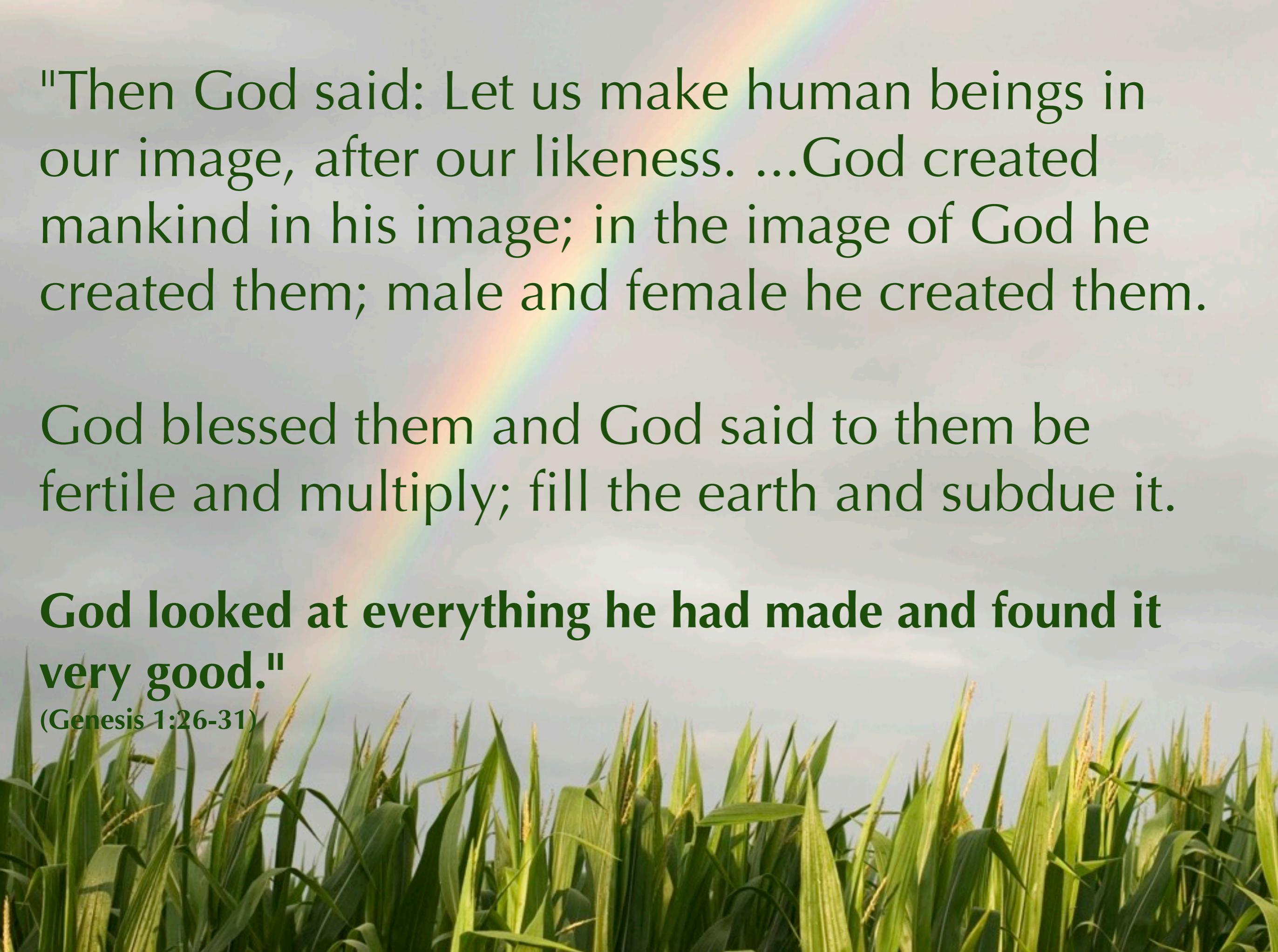
Called as Disciples and Stewards

"Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. ...God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and God said to them be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.

God looked at everything he had made and found it very good."

(Genesis 1:26-31)

A photograph of a cornfield with tall green stalks and tassels. The background is a bright, overcast sky with a faint rainbow visible in the upper center.

Jesus Announces the Kingdom



The kingdom or reign of God is at hand, and is yet to be fully realized

Reign and Rein

God at the center



Jesus' Call to Discipleship

The initiative is on the side of Jesus

The call is to follow Jesus

Discipleship means empowerment for mission

“to catch people alive”



Jesus' Call to Discipleship

The call demands response

leave the known for the unknown --
conversion

The call includes the cross

STEWARDS IN COMMUNITY



- They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers
 - Acts 2: 42ff
- As each one has a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace
 - 1 Peter 4:10

Principle Biblical Themes of Stewardship

- All we are and have is God's; we are caretakers
- Gratitude
- Generosity
- Responsibility
- Care for others and for creation as reflections of God's image
- Covenant
- God at the center
- The kingdom, reign, of God is at hand, within us, not yet fully realized
- Self-giving in imitation and recognition of Jesus' total self-emptying
- Sacrifice
- Baptized into Christ, Priest, Prophet, King
- Called into Discipleship
- Vocation

The Image of a Steward



- Parable of the talents
 - Matt 25: 14:30
- Faithful and prudent steward
 - Luke 12: 42ff
- Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also
 - Matt 6:21
- Rich young man
 - Matt 19:22
- There is no one who has given...
 - Mk 10: 29-30

Disciples as Stewards

- Stewards are trustworthy
 - 1 Cor 4:2
- We are God's co-workers
 - 1 Cor 3:9
- Serve one another through love
 - Gal 5:13-6:2
- Faith, if it does not have works, is dead
 - Jas 2:15
- God loves a cheerful giver
 - 2 Cor 9: 6-7



Stewards in Community

- They devoted themselves
 - Acts 2: 42ff
- Seek to have an abundance for building up the church
 - 1 Cor 14: 12
- As each one has a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace
 - 1 Peter 4:10



THOSE WHO ARE A PART OF ME



- “To make the Church the home and the school of communion: that is the great challenge facing us in the millennium which is now beginning, if we wish to be faithful to God’s plan and respond to the world’s deepest yearnings.”
 - (Pope John Paul II, 2000)

LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

- The disciples found they belonged with Jesus and quickly came to draw others to the Lord as a result.
- In what ways does belonging to Christ make a difference in your life?
- What does belonging to Christ call you to be or to do?

