

Caring for Creation: God Provides Food for His Creatures

Gen 1:29-30 – And God said, "See, I have given you every herb [that] yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.³⁰ "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which [there is] life, [I have given] every green herb for food"; and it was so.

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What? – The Provision

- People
 - Herb yields seed
 - Tree whose fruit yields seed
- Animals
 - Every green herb
 - No preying in the animal kingdom; no meat-eaters or predators yet (similar to the curse-free kingdom: Is 11:6-8)
Isa 11:6-8 "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fawning together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den."
- Other Thoughts:
 - Fish?
 - Nothing is said of derivatives such as milk and honey
 - May not fully be the same as plants today (effects after the fall and the flood)

When? – The Period

- Following the creation and the blessing of the male/female on Day 6.
- This provision remains in effect today (though modified in Gen 9 and other places as progressively revealed in Scripture).
- (*How can the previous "blessings" be not in effect? We cannot pick & choose...*)
- This further indicates literal days of creation. Food for animals and people would make no sense thousands of years later.

Where? – The Place

- "on the face of all the earth"
- Implies the expected filling of the earth.
- Implies the original even-temperature pre-cursed earth with food all over the earth.

Why? – The Purpose

- God proceeded logically and progressive in His plan of creation days
- God supplies the needs of mankind (1:9-13, before humans are created), then assigns them afterward.
- God supplies the needs of the animals (Matt 6) before the animals are created, then defines them afterward.

How? – The Process

- God created the plants and the processes they follow (herbs and trees that grow and bear fruit).
- God required gathering or harvesting (not brought to us) – This was made more difficult after the fall (Gen 3:17-19).
 - Law required not harvesting corners of field (and no second passes) so poor could eat
 - People were responsible to work to gather their own food

4 Key "Food" Passages in Genesis 1-9

1. **CREATED (Prepared)** – Gen 1:9-13⁹ Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry [land] appear"; and it was so.¹⁰ And God called the dry [land] Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that [it was] good.¹¹ Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb [that] yields seed, [and] the fruit tree [that] yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed [is] in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb [that] yields seed according to its kind, and the tree [that] yields fruit, whose seed [is] in itself according to its kind. And God saw that [it] was good.¹³ So the evening and the morning were the third day.

2. **COMMUNICATED (Assigned)** – Gen 1:29-30 And God said, "See, I have given you every herb [that] yields seed which [is] on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.³⁰ "Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which [there is] life, [I have given] every green herb for food"; and it was so.

PLANTED – Gen 2:8-9 The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed. 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.

CONVINCED (Persuaded) – Gen 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree [was] good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make [one] wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

3. **CURSED (Complicated)** – Gen 3:17-19¹⁷ Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed [is] the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat [of] it All the days of your life.¹⁸ Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, And you shall eat the herb of the field.¹⁹ In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you [are], And to dust you shall return. *Cursing makes process of growing and harvesting more difficult.*

COMMANDED – Gen 6:21-22 "And you shall take for yourself of all food that is eaten, and you shall gather [it] to yourself; and it shall be food for you and for them."²² Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did.

4. **CHANGED (Broadened)** – Gen 9:1-6 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.² "And the fear of you and the dread of you shall be on every beast of the earth, on every bird of the air, on all that move [on] the earth, and on all the fish of the sea. They are given into your hand.³ "Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs.⁴ "But you shall not eat flesh with its life, [that is], its blood.⁵ "Surely for your lifeblood I will demand [a reckoning]; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man.⁶ "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed; For in the image of God He made man. *Expanded menu to include all living creatures except mankind.*