



JESUS & THE SOUL

The Small Rebellion of Roots

10.26.2025

Genesis 1:9-13; 24-31

Dave Lomas

Genesis 1:9-13; 24-31

And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day.

And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”

Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so.

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

“All lasting human cultures in history have been rooted. That is to say, they have been tied down by, and to, things more solid, timeless and lasting than the day-to-day processes of their functioning or the personal desires of the individuals who inhabit them. Some of those solid things are human creations: cultural traditions, a sense of lineage and ancestry, ceremonies designed for worship or initiation. Others are non-human: the natural world in which those cultures dwell, or the divine force that they—always, without fail—worship and communicate with in some form... We need these roots. We need a sense of belonging to something that is bigger than us, across space and time, and we underestimate that need at our peril. A rootless society is like a society with no sacred order: it is adrift, and open to capture by dangerous forces.”

- Paul Kingsnorth

“...we long to praise you. You arouse us so that praising you may bring us joy, because you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you.”

- Augustine, *Confessions I*

“We need these roots. We need a sense of belonging to something that is bigger than us, across space and time, and we underestimate that need at our peril. A rootless society is like a society with no sacred order: it is adrift, and open to capture by dangerous forces.”

- Paul Kingsnorth

How can I begin to live a life of meaning?

Mark 12:29-31

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Rootedness as a Rebellion against the current cultural order.

“The twentieth century will be remembered as an age of wondrous creativity, when Americans voluntarily shattered their lives into distant and dissonant fragments. America’s industries learned how to assemble atomic bombs, airplanes, iPads and the genetic codes of life itself in the same era that American society disassembled the ancient overlap of family, food, faith and the field of work. Americans reached for the stars as they withered their roots, inhabited space but lost any sense of place.”

- David Janzen

“The failure of an urban promise: That promise concerned human persons who could lead detached, unrooted lives of endless choice and no commitment. It was glamorized around the virtues of mobility and anonymity that seemed so full of promise for freedom and self-actualization. But it has failed...It is now clear that a sense of place is a human hunger that urban promise has not met...It is rootlessness and not meaninglessness that characterizes the current crisis.”

- Walter Brueggemann, *The Land*

“To be rooted is perhaps the most important and least recognized need of the human soul. It is one of the hardest to define. A human being has roots by virtue of his real, active and natural participation in the life of a community which preserves in

living shape certain particular treasures of the past and certain particular expectations of the future...Every human being needs to have multiple roots. It is necessary for him to draw wellnigh the whole of his moral, intellectual and spiritual life by way of the environment of which he forms a natural part.”

- Simone Weil, The Need for Roots

People are like trees

Day 1: Light

Day 2: Vault [Water and Sky]

Day 3: Land

Day 3 [Bonus]: Trees that have seed and bear fruit

Day 4: Sun, Moon, Stars

Day 5: Swimming things and flying things

Day 6: Land Animals

Day 6 [Bonus]: Humans that have seed and bear fruit

The Creation Days of Genesis 1 [Mapping]

Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked

or stand in the way that sinners take

or sit in the company of mockers,

but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,

and who meditates on his law day and night.

That person is like a tree planted [rooted] by streams of water,

which yields its fruit in season

and whose leaf does not wither—

whatever they do prospers.

Jeremiah 17:8

“They will be like a tree planted by the water

that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”

Psalm 92:12-14

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
planted in the house of the LORD,
they will flourish in the courts of our God.
They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green.

Day 6: Humans that have
seed and bear fruit

Day 3: Trees that have
seed and bear fruit

Genesis 11:31-12:1

Terah took his son Abram, his grandson Lot son of Haran, and his daughter-in-law Sarai, the wife of his son Abram, and together they set out from Ur of the Chaldeans to go to Canaan. But when they came to Harran, they settled there.

Terah lived 205 years, and he died in Harran.

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”

To grow roots you need a prayer, a people, place, and a past.