

Biblical Permaculture

Old Title: Permaculture – A SHRB&C Argument

Not Done

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Introduction

As a sovereign / priests, I like to express what I do in the context of my Strongly Held Religious Beliefs and Convictions (SHRB&C). The goal of this article is to make a Torah based midrash of what has been coined “Permaculture”.^A

Lately I’ve become greatly fascinated with permaculture and I perceive that the adoption of this life style to be so huge and impactful on one’s life style that it demands a “Torah Reality Check” before I go forward. Combining my ideas on a Torah Gated Community, another hugely impactful life changer, with permaculture is bigley huge

Justifying Permaculture from a Biblical Perspective

I would feel a lot more comfortable on a topic that is important to me if I can see parallels in scripture, asking relevant and thought provoking questions seems prudent.

Mission Statement

^A <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permaculture>

Gen 1-4: A case for biblical permaculture - A midrash

Outline

Gen 1 God creates heaven, earth, plants, animals a man named Adom

- 01-02 God creates heaven and earth;
- 03-05 the light;
- 06-08 the firmament...
- 09-13 separates the dry land;
- 14-19 forms the sun, moon, and stars;
- 20-23 fishes and fowls;
- 24-25 cattle, wild beasts, and creeping things;
- 26-28 creates man in his own image, blesses him;
- 29-31 grants the fruits of the earth for food.

Gen 2 Adam and Eve's Beginning in the garden of Eden

- 01-03 The first Sabbath.
- 04-07 Further details concerning the manner of creation.

- 08-14 The planting of the garden of Eden, and its situation;
- 15-17 man is placed in it; and the tree of knowledge forbidden.
- 18-20 The animals are named by Adam.
- 21-25 The making of woman, and the institution of marriage.

Gen 3 Adam and Eve's sin and expulsion from the Garden

- 01-05 The serpent deceives Eve.
- 06-07 Both she and Adam transgress the divine command, and fall into sin.
- 08-13 God arraigns them.
- 14-14 The serpent is cursed.
- 15-15 The promised seed.
- 16-20 The punishment of mankind.
- 21-21 Their first clothing.
- 22-24 Their expulsion from paradise.

The first chapter of Genesis is about the creation, then we have this verse in Gen chapter 2...

Gen 2:8-9 | God plants the garden of Eden and puts Adam there

⁸ And YHVH God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground made YHVH God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

The four (five) rivers^B

Gen 2:15-17 | Adam is commanded to work the garden and *shomer* it; fruit instructions given

¹⁵ And YHVH God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. ¹⁶ And YHVH God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷ But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

So chapter three goes on to explain the deception and how Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit which, ultimately, causes them to be expelled from the Garden.

^B This sidebar story about the rivers seems excessively long which one might wonder why? First thoughts are that the (unnamed river, shall we call it the "Eden River"?) feeds the garden and from there it splits into 4 rivers, giving us, if you will 5 rivers. My sod/midrash on this is that there are 5 books of the Torah and the root of Torah ^{H8451} is *yarah*. The first definition for Strong's regarding this word ^{H3384} is "A primitive root; properly **to flow as water (that is, to rain)**..." see Word-Study-Jurisdiction-Torah-Author-In-Rem-In-Personam, article #??? (ToDo: maybe I have a better word study / article for this).

Gen 3:17-19 | Adam's Judgment/Sentence, the ground is cursed.

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Gen 3:24 | Adam driven out

²⁴ So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Adam was created outside of the garden and then placed into the garden (Gen 2:7-8, Gen 2:15), now he is being removed out of the garden because he has sinned/transgressed, he will further return to what he was which is dust Gen 3:19 i.e. his death sentence.

Thesis

Permaculture has a great story to be told from the scripture, especially those found in these three chapters^C

ToDo: excerpts from chapter 4 need to be added as well.

In these pivotal and foundational chapters the topic of the garden / orchard and Man's involvement in it (via gardening) is loud and clear. That's man's beginning and what weighs heavy on man's psyche is his eternal yearning to get back to this awesome garden (ToDo link to Paradise article).

My point is, why not describe Permaculture from this context → Biblical Permaculture. Why not get religious and dogmatic about it.

^C Gen chapter 4 speaks of this as to a degree. E.g Cain was a tiller of the (cursed) ground from which an offering where as Abel's was from the flock.

Resource

Gen 3:17 - Ground Cursed ^D

And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed *is* the ground for thy sake

בְּעִבּוֹרְךָ ^{ba-'a-vu-Re-cha}; ^E in sorrow בְּעִצְבוֹן ^{be-'itz-tza-Von} ^F shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

And unto Adam וּלְאָדָם ^{ul-'a-Dam} he said, אָמַר ^{'a-Mar}, Because כִּי ^{ki-} thou hast hearkened שָׁמַעְתָּ ^{sha-ma-Ta} unto the voice לְקוֹל ^{le-Kol} of thy wife, אִשְׁתְּךָ ^{'ish-te-Cha} and hast eaten וַתֹּאכַל ^{vat-To-chal} of מֵן ^{min-} the tree, הָעֵץ ^{ha-'Etz}, of which אֲשֶׁר ^{'a-Sher} I commanded צִוִּיתִיךָ ^{tziv-vi-Ti-cha} thee, saying, לֵאמֹר ^{le-Mor}, Thou shalt not לֹא ^{lo} eat תֹּאכַל ^{to-Chal} of מִמֶּנּוּ ^{mi-Men-nu}; it: cursed אָרוּרָה ^{'a-ru-Rah} is ^{Ho} the ground הָאֲדָמָה ^{ha-'a-da-Mah} for thy sake; בְּעִבּוֹרְךָ ^{ba-'a-vu-Re-cha}, in sorrow בְּעִצְבוֹן ^{be-'itz-tza-Von} shalt thou eat תֹּאכַלְנָה ^{to-cha-Len-nah}, of ^{Ho}it all כָּל ^{kol} the days יְמֵי ^{ye-Mei} of thy life; חַיֵּיךָ ^{chai-Yei-cha}.

JKM: What does "cursed is the ground for your sake" mean? Thinking from a "permaculture" perspective that advocates e.g. , "no till", is the ground cursed because God made it so? Is God the causal factor or is the causal factor on Adam? The LEB translation says "the ground *shall be* cursed on your **account**."

Theory: Did God actually curse the ground or did Adam, after following the instructions not from the tree of life, but rather the tree of the knowledge of good and evil make (cause) the ground to be cursed. The theory is that by continuing to practice non-permaculture practices, he caused the ground to be a curse for him.

I like the latter conclusion. In support of that argument, because God delegated the responsibility of gardening the garden to the gardener with instruction to guard it, Elohim could not take that back (this assumes that the same responsibility that delegated to Adam would be applicable to the land outside the Garden of Eden.

The following verse may detract from my conclusions.

...

^D From Gen-03-17-19-the-ground-is-cursed-on-your-account, article #???

^E **H5668** A word serving as a preposition or conjunction. Its basic meanings are as a preposition, because, for the sake of, on account of (Gen 3:17; Gen 8:21; Gen 12:13, Gen 12:16; Exo 9:16; Mic 2:10); as a conjunction, so that, in order that, with a following infinitive or imperfect form of the verb (Gen 21:30; Gen 27:4, Gen 27:10; Exo 9:14; Exo 19:9; 2Sa 10:3; 2Sa 12:21; Psa 105:45). It indicates the price for something and is placed in front of that item (Amo 2:6). Source WordStudy®.

^F H6093 KJC: 3 sorrow: Gen 3:16-17 (2); toil: Gen 5:29

A masculine noun meaning pain, toil. This noun is derived from the verb 'āšab ^{H6087 KJC:17} and occurs three times in Genesis, relating to the curse that God placed on fallen humanity. To the woman, God stated that she would have pain and toil during childbirth (Gen 3:16). To the man, God stated that he would have pain and toil in working the ground to produce food (Gen 3:17; Gen 5:29).

Eze 36:34-38 (context) G

And the desolate land ^H shall be tilled תַעֲבֹד *te-'a-Ved*; whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. ³⁵
And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden קִנְיָן *ke-gan-* of Eden יְדֵן *'E-den*; ^I and the waste and desolate and ruined cities *are become* fenced, *and* are inhabited.

From Righteous-Moral-Virtue-and-Ethic

1. I really like Permaculture, and there is a lot of people who talk about the “ethic” of it and how it’s very important. It’s my understanding that the source of much of this is, frankly, pagan. So it would be interesting to compare and contrast the Ethic of Permaculture with the Righteousness of Permaculture

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<https://www.youtube.com/user/artfullywandering/videos>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3xNjgRBEOM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQE8dJUA7E>

+kazuza9 Our farm is in Concho of the White Mountains of Arizona. We are also working on converting a golf course into a community based around farming, gardening, and value adding to what we grow to support a grocer and a farm to fork. We aren't yet ready to divide the former holes into 2, 5, and 10 acre intensive mini farms, but we are getting there. As for water, there is a spring on the property that fills our local lake and it is of excellent quality.

This page is a place to put my thoughts on Permaculture coming from a Torah perspective and implemented with a Torah Gated Community.

^G **ToDo:** See article ???

^H In Mark Twain’s book “**Innocents Abroad**”, states that the land of Israel was a desolation, devoid of people. Mt. Tabor "stands solitary .. [in a] silent plain .. a desolation .. we never saw a human being on the whole route .. hardly a tree or shrub anywhere. Even the olive tree and the cactus, those fast friends of a worthless soil, had almost deserted the country" [Wikipedia](#). More quotes “Of all the lands there are for dismal scenery, I think Palestine must be the prince... **Can the curse of the Deity beautify a land?** “Palestine sits in sackcloth and ashes. Over it broods the spell of a curse that has withered its fields and fettered its energies.”

^I Sounds like someone was thinking and wisely they employed Biblical Permaculture. See also Eze 36:29-30.