



Sermon – January 23, 2022
Phillip Bethancourt

Verses Covered This Week

Genesis 1:14 - 31

Colossians 1:15

Hebrews 1:3

As you grab a seat, let me invite you to open your Bibles with me back to Genesis chapter 1. Genesis 1. And if you're a guest with us this morning, whether in the room or joining us online, welcome home. We're coming to the first chapter of the Bible because it sets the stage for the entire storyline of Scripture. Which feeds right in to what's been happening in the life of our church this weekend. This weekend, this morning, is the culmination and the conclusion of our men's retreat here at Central. And if you've been with us all weekend at the men's retreat guys, let me know if you've had a good time this weekend. Yeah! That's right! So we've loved going deep together, talking about the three temptations every man faces; our appetites, our approval, our ambition. The way that we seek the satisfaction and significance and success that we crave through ways that are outside of God's design. And what's incredible about Genesis 1 is it gives us a glimpse of what that good design looks like. Now before we dive into the text, I just want you to know that during the response time this morning, I want to challenge you to come and join me down here at the steps to pray. And the reason for that is because this chapter, this section of Genesis 1 gives us a picture of what our lives as humans, as people, as followers of Jesus should look like. And I want us to challenge, be challenged in response to that. To come here and pray to God exactly what we just sang. Here am I. Take all of me. I surrender to this design. For you guys that have been with us all weekend in the men's retreat, I want to especially challenge you to lead the way during that response time to come join me at the steps to pray.

Now let's follow along. Genesis chapter 1. Let's start in verse 14.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶And God made the two great lights – the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night – and the stars. ¹⁷And God set them in the expanse of the heavens

to give light on the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

Let's pray together.

Father, as we come to Your word, we know that You are the light of the world. You are the one who shines in the darkness and we pray even now as we come to Your word that by the power of Your Spirit You will shine that light in our hearts. And it will expose the darkness in our life and set us free to follow You in the way that You've called us to. And we pray this in Christ's name. Amen.

Back a couple of years ago when the Lord was bringing Cami and I to be here at Central, for me to serve as pastor, one of the first things we had to do was to find a house in Bryan/College Station. And we looked all over town at different options. And there was one house we had heard about that we were interested in seeing. And we drove over to a great neighborhood. And when we pulled up to the drive, the driveway, it had that perfect curb appeal. It looked amazing from the outside. And as we walked through it, we knew, we could tell that this was a house that was still in the progress of being finished. You could walk in and you could see that there were portions where tile had been laid on the floor, but then other rooms were still concrete. You walked into the bathrooms and the bathroom showers had been tiled on the walls but there was no glass or shower curtain to protect from the water getting out of the tub. Or when we walked upstairs, the whole upstairs was kind of a mess. It was still unfinished. The toilet was still sitting in the box. It hadn't yet been installed. There was still wiring that was hanging out of the walls that hadn't been put away. And what you're probably thinking as you hear this description is we were walking through a home that was a new construction. But that wasn't the case. This was supposed to be someone's dream home, a husband and a wife who were building their future together. But as the construction progress, process went on, the entire thing fell apart. Their marriage fell apart and they divorced. The money ran out and the project couldn't be completed. And so the wife from this family had spent the last several years living in an unfinished home. Concrete floors, no shower curtain in the shower, wires exposed from the wall. Lived in that circumstance in an unfinished construction project. You see, it's not just enough to form the construction and the frame the construction, a construction project isn't complete until it is filled and it is finished. You have to form then frame then fill then finish. And that's precisely what we see coming to a culmination here at the end of Genesis 1. If you remember, last week we talked about the way that God forms and fills the created universe. He speaks it into existence. He brings it into reality. And in the first couple days of creation, He frames out what this created kingdom would look like. And now what we're going to find here in verses 14 and onward is that God fills and He finishes that creation. Because a construction project is not fully realized, fully complete, until it is filled and it is finished. And as we look at this reality, what we're going to notice is as we finish Genesis 1, we're going to see three things that need to be true of us as we experience the created kingdom that God fills and finishes in this text.

And you'll notice the first one back in verse 14 where we began. It calls us to remember the provision of God. To remember the provision of God. So think about what's happening in the text. We saw last week on day 1 God says, "Let there be light." Day 2: "Let there be limits." Day 3: "Let there be land." And now days 4 through 6, God is declaring, "Let there be life."

There's a provision that is going on for the kingdom of God. And what we notice here in verse 14 is God is providing life in the heavens. That's why it says there in verse 14, let the lights be and expanse in the heavens to separate the day from the night and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and for years. God creates the sun, the moon, the stars. And you'll notice, look back in verse 14, he calls them signs. They're glimpses of glory in the heavenly places. That's why the psalmist in Psalm 19:1 tells us, the heavens are declaring the glory of God. They give us this picture of life in the heavenly places. But I want you to notice how he goes on now. Pick up with me in verse 20. We see also that God fills the created kingdom in verses 5 and 6 by giving us life in the seas, the skies, and on the land. So notice how it goes on. Verse 20.

²⁰And God said, "Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens." ²¹So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²²And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." ²³And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. ²⁴And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds – livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds." And it was so. ²⁵And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

So notice what's taking place here. Days 5 and 6. God creates life in the seas, in the skies, and on the land. And as He does that, He establishes and fills the created order with the creatures that we see all around us. And the creativity of God is on display. I mean, if you think about it, God could have created a bland universe. A boring earth. Without much variety or depth or variation. But I want you to notice up on the screen just a small glimpse of the types of animals we find in this created kingdom that day 5 and 6 speaks about. These animals, these sea creatures, these birds, majestic in their appearance. Unique in their design. You'll notice the one that's there in the middle. That might be my favorite of the group. It's called the Mantis Shrimp. Have you ever heard of it? This thing is like the most aggressive sea creature, pound for pound, you ever come across. It's like the Floyd Mayweather of sea creatures. It packs a punch. It can move at a speed of up to 51 miles per hour. It kills its prey by punching them. And the punch moves with such acceleration that it moves its, its punching appendages, I don't even know if its got arms. I don't know what you call those things. When it punches, it moves at the speed of a 22 caliber bullet stunning its prey. Its eyes are so unique. Our eyes can see three types of colors. It can see 12. God has designed this thing uniquely to display His glory. And that's true of every thing that is spoken of here in verse 5, in days 5 and 6. That each time we get a glimpse of the creation, this animal kingdom, we are seeing a sign of what God has done. Just think about it. The power of the lion. The height of the giraffe. The size of the whale. The colors of the peacock. The grace of the eagle. The loyalty of the dog. Every creature in creation. I don't know, maybe not the cat. Those might have come after the fall. But every other creature in creation is displaying the glory of God. It's declaring this reality. And the text tells us here that it is good. And this creation that God fills with these living creatures is intended to be a world worthy of the presence of humanity. But that's not why alone that it is created with such majesty because the world wasn't just created to be a creation worthy of the presence of humanity; it was created to be a temple worthy of the presence of God Himself. God

creates the universe and fills it with His presence. It is, in a sense, the temple of God. Because what is the temple? It's the place where God dwells. And so as Genesis unpacks this creation and it speaks of the universe and Eden, it's as if Eden is the holy of holies of that temple. It is as if it is the throne room of the kingdom of God. God creates the world with such majesty because He is going to take up residence in it. That's the picture we see here. And as we look at that creation, what we find is that the Bible shows us over and over again that God uses the created order around us to spur us on in our walk with Jesus Christ.

So think about it. Remember back in the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus is preaching to the multitudes. And He calls them, do not be anxious about tomorrow. You remember that part? And what does He appeal to? Why should You not be anxious? He appeals to two things: the flowers of the field and the birds of the sky. He says to us, that if God provides for them, if God cares for the creation, if God meets the needs of these animals who are here today, gone tomorrow, these flowers that will bloom and then wilt. If He will provide for them, you can trust Him to provide for you. I don't know what season of life you're in right now. The hardships you're facing. The trials you're encountering. The sin you're wrestling with. The temptation you are resisting. But every time you see that animal, every time you see that sprouting flower, it is a reminder that God is enough for whatever you're facing in this moment. You see, when we look at this text, there's such temptation to find ourselves gravitating to day 6. After all, that's when humans come on the scene. We want to fast forward to the next few verses we're about to get to. But we will miss what God is doing. He is laying the groundwork. He is establishing the framework. He is preparing the way for the capstone of His creation. And that's what we're going to see beginning in verse 26 with the second reality I want us to capture in this text. We don't just remember the provision of God. What we see second is we must reflect the image of God. So notice how it speaks to this in verse 26. Here's what it says:

²⁶The God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Now here we are, day 6. It marks the high point of God's creation. He creates humanity. And how does He create them? He tells us there He creates them in His image. So what does it mean to be created in the image of God? My wife was cleaning out some cabinets in our house not long ago and she came across some old things tucked in the back of one of the drawers. And one of the things she pulled out was an ultrasound picture of one of our children. You've seen them before, right? That first glimpse of the new life in the womb. And then after that child is born, what'll happen is those doting parents will snap those first pictures and text them out to family and friends. And what'll happen is when you see that child for the first time, you're examining the image to figure out which of the parents do they look like the most. Do they favor mother or father? Because every child is a picture of their parents. Every child, in a sense, is an image of their father. And that's what Genesis 1 is speaking of here for you and for me. That humans who are created in the image of God are a picture of our father here on earth. And so how do we see that image on display? How are we to reflect it in our lives? Well, when we look back here we see four different ways that we can reflect the image of God in our life.

The first one, you'll notice there, is that we should reflect the image of God in our character. So that's why verse 26 says to us:

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image,

In other words, we're designed to reflect who God is and what He's like. We put His character on display as we live out our Christian lives faithfully. Number 2, we reflect God's image through our convictions. So look back at verse 26. That's where it says, and after our likeness. In other words, we were designed to reflect what God thinks and what He does. When we hold firm to beliefs that reflect God's design for the world, we are imaging Him. We are reflecting Him. We are representing Him to a world that is often hostile to those exact same beliefs. It goes on in verse 26 to reveal a third reality. That we should reflect the image of God in our calling. That's why it says there, let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. We are designed to reflect why God created us and what He calls us to do. That's why every one of you find yourself over and over again filled with a sense of restlessness, a sense of longing, a sense of craving purpose, a sense of searching for meaning. You're not going to find that in the animal kingdom. The cows in your pasture are not pondering the meaning of life. But so often we are. And it's because God has imbedded a calling in our lives to reflect why it is He's called us to this world.

Which brings us to a fourth reality here. We must reflect the image of God through community. So if you'll look back at the beginning of the text in verse 26 it says: then God said, "Let us make man." And now fast forward to verse 27.

²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

So notice, there is something different here in the text. Each step of the way, all six days, what you find is it says over and over again, let there be this, let there be that, let there be this, let there be that. But look at verse 26. It's not there. Instead, what it says is, let us. Even right here in the first pages of the Bible, you get a sense of the community reality of God that He is one in nature, three in person. Living in community together. Let us make man in our image. And when He makes them, He makes the male and female. What's it mean? We are designed to reflect the image of God best when we live deeply in community. That when you and I have depth of relationship, depth of friendship, it is a picture of the triune God of the universe that created you and me. It is a picture of the calling here in 1:27 to make male and female in His image. That's why it's so painful when those relationships rupture. When those friendships fracture. Because we know that we are created for community. We long for that reality. And for you men that have been with us all weekend, you need to see the way that this call to reflect the image of God is speaking right to the heart of the temptations that satan seeks to bring in every one our lives. So we've been talking about the three temptations everyone faces all weekend. And what we've seen is that in our appetites, it's our temptation to seek satisfaction outside of God's design. Our desire for approval is to seek significance outside of God's design. Our ambition is to seek success outside of God's design. And each one of those temptations is desire to fracture the design that God is speaking of here. Think about it. Look at this reality. Our appetites tempt us to compromise our character. Our desire for approval tempts us to

compromise our convictions. Our ambition tempts us to compromise our calling. Satan works at each level to rupture the image of God that we are called to display. But when we speak of this reality, the image of God, it's not enough just to focus here in Genesis 1. We need to see what the whole Scripture has to say about it. And that is going to point our direction to the New Testament where you'll see a couple of passages up on the screen. The first one from Colossians 1:15. We looked at the verses following this last week in 16 and 17, the way that Jesus creates all things. But before Paul speaks to that, here's what Colossians 1:15 says about Jesus Himself.

¹⁵He is the image of God.

And now look also at Hebrews 1:3 where again speaking of Jesus here's the way the author of Hebrews talks about Him.

³Jesus, He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and he upholds the universe by the power of his word.

What's the significance of that? What we find in Scripture is that, yes, we are created in the image of God but Jesus is the image of God. We are in the image; He is the image. He is the standard-bearer. He is the prototype. He is the standard. He is the one that we are designed to orient our lives around. He's the one who Adam is patterned after in the garden. He is the one who's going to make all things new because of the sin that has fractured that image in each one of our lives. So if you want to know what it looks like to reflect the image of God in your life, it means you seek to look more like Jesus. He is that image. He's the one that puts it on display. And when we recognize that reality, that Jesus is the image of God, that we are made in the image of God. In fact, every person in this universe is created in God's image it has all sorts of implications for our life. Just think about a few of them. The fact that everyone is made in the image of God has all sorts of implications for the way we view the unborn and stand for the sanctity of life. So just this past Friday, a couple days ago, thousands of people were gathered in Washington, D.C. for the 49th annual march for life. And I'm hoping next year we can take a group from Central to Washington, D.C. January 20th, if you want to write the date down already, I've got it on my calendar, we're going to D.C. and we're going to gather with hundreds of thousands of people from around our country to stand for life on the 50th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. And the reason that we stand for life from womb to tomb is because every life, even the smallest, has been made in the image of God. This reality though doesn't just speak to the unborn. It speaks even to things like our parenting. So in just a couple weeks for you parents, we're hosting a parenting conference where on Sunday morning in the sermon I will be preaching through Genesis 2 on marriage and parenting. And then during the life group hour, we'll stay in here and have a man named Johnnie Duran from Southwestern Seminary equipping us during life groups and then again that Sunday night at 5:00 while Awana and Zeal are going on. We want you to be strengthened in your parenting. And part of the reason is what we find here in this passage. Everyone is made in the image of God, and parents, that includes your children. Now here's what that means. The way you see them is not contingent on the way they see you. The way you treat them is not contingent on the way they treat you. The way you care for them is not contingent on the way they care for you. And I see some kids elbowing their parents right now. Those children are made in the image of God. The Bible tells us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and that includes the little neighbors that live just a few steps down from you in the next room over in your house. The image of God in every person shapes even our

parenting. The image of God shapes our community engagement. That's why after the service is over today, I want to invite you to walk out into the foyer, through these doors, and you can go over and grab one of our encouragement cards that we do every semester for the staff and administration at Mary Branch Elementary School. We've embraced this school to invest in them because we believe every person, including those that are Mary Branch, are made in God's image. And we want to see their lives strengthened and encouraged through the written word. We're going to be doing that over the next two weeks. We could go on and on and on with all the ways that this image of God and the call to reflect it shapes our lives. It touches everything. Because this is at the core of who God has called us to be. To reflect His image in this created world.

But I want you to notice that this passage ends with another reality we are called to. We're going to notice beginning in verse 28 that He also tells us, not just that we must reflect the image of God but now, number 3, we are called to rule with the authority of God. And I want you to see what that rulership looks like down in verse 28 through the end of the chapter when it said:

²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

So what we find here, God calls us not just to reflect His image but to rule with His authority. In other words, He speaks to our identity and then He gives us instructions. But imbedded right between them is a blessing. Do you see that at the beginning of verse 28? It says, and God blessed them. That theme of blessing is going to show up all the way through our study of Genesis. In fact, the term blessing occurs more here than in any other book of the Bible. Over 80 times it appears there. And right here at the start of this story, what we find is that the blessing is the foundation for the mission. That God gives us an identity. He gives us a blessing and then He gives us a mission. And what is that mission? That we are called to rule with the authority of God. And that shows up in several ways here. If you'll look back at verse 28 you're going to find first that we need to rule with authority as we build the family of God. That's why it says, and God said to them, be fruitful and multiply. Think about something. God creates the entire universe, days 1 to 6. He puts the creatures in the sea and in the heavens and on the land. It tells us He fills the earth. But notice, He only makes two humans. And He gives them a command, and instruction, to be fruitful and multiply. That one of the ways that they image and reflect God is by creating the next generation. We reflect the creator through our procreation. That's the picture that we find here. And what's significant about that reality? Well, this morning we had the chance to enjoy Jack Thweatt leading worship for us. Jack, as you know, has been with us before. He's the director of worship at Breakaway. He came through our church. But we weren't planning to have Jack with us this morning. We had another worship leader lined up and we got a call on Friday that he had come down with COVID. And so I reached out to Jack. Said, "Hey, could you help us?" I knew that Jack wasn't planning to be

anywhere leading worship this week because his wife and him had just had their first child last month and he was trying to lay low through January. So Jack, we're really grateful for you stepping in. But why do I mention that? Because when Jack was in the room with his wife at the delivery of that baby, you remember that, if you've had a child? That first child that was born, that first time you laid eyes on them. That first breath, that first cry that was made. It grips you. It captivates you. And each time that takes place throughout human history, we see another instance of this command coming true. To be fruitful and multiply. That's why God calls us as believers to love the next generation. To raise up the next generation. To invest in the next generation. We're surrounded in a culture that diminishes childhood. That sees children more as a burden to be endured than a blessing to be enjoyed. But we find here a different picture. A call to reproduction. A call to creating the next generation. And I imagine as some of you hear that reality, it may fill you with discouragement this morning. Because you want to be a part of seeing that come true. You want to raise a family but you're stuck in singleness for longer than you want. Or you're grappling with infertility that you've prayed over for years with no breakthrough. Or you had a family in the past and it all fell apart and you're not sure if it will ever happen again. What does a command like this mean for you in this moment? Well, what we need to see here is that the call to be fruitful and multiply doesn't just have a physical dimension to it but a spiritual dimension as well. That the call to be fruitful and multiply is a call in essence to make disciples. And that's exactly what we see happening in the life of Jesus. The God/Man Himself who never married. Who never had kids and yet was the ultimate fulfillment of this reality. And how do we know that? Think about it. Think about verses like John 15:5 where Jesus says to us, "I am the vine, you are the branches." He who abides in Me and I in them, they will do what? Bear much fruit. Be fruitful and multiply. So there's a sense in which the great commission, the call to make disciples, is the ultimate culmination of this command right here, to rule in order to build the family of God. And all of us, regardless of where you find yourself in life, can join in that mission together.

But there's another part to the mission here. I don't want you to miss it. It goes there at the latter half of verse 28. We also need to rule with authority as we build the kingdom of God. And that's why it says there in verse 28, and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth. Now what does it mean to subdue and have dominion? Well, there's this interesting thing that you might miss in the text. Back in the cultural time period when the Bible was written, it was a common reality that cultures believed that the king was the only one who reflected the image of that community's god. That the king was the liaison between their god and them. That the king was the reflection of that god. And there's this sense here, this picture here, of the same reality in Genesis 1. That each one of us, made in God's image, have a royal reality to our life. That we are called to be kings and queens of the universe, rulers of the created order, vice-regents acting on behalf of the God of the universe to take dominion, to subdue, to order, to bring stability in the midst of chaos. And that's why we see the total scope of this calling in verse 30. Look at the end of it. It says:

[Everything that has the breath of life I have given every green plant for food and it was so.](#)

Every plant, every tree, every beast, every bird. In other words, Genesis 1 is calling us to invest all of us in all that is around us for the sake of the kingdom of God. You and I don't often talk in

categories of subduing the earth, of taking dominion. So what in the world does that mean? Does that mean there's some part of your life that you've been missing all along and you must start doing it now in order to fulfil this calling in Genesis 1? No. As a matter of fact, this call to take dominion, this call to subdue is less focused on what you do than why you do it. It's talking about not as much what you do with your hands, but what you do with your heart. And what it's showing us there is that we are called to do every day things for the glory of God and the good of creation. When it calls us to take dominion here, it's speaking to the things that you're normally doing in your life. To do them for the glory of God and the good of creation. I mean just the basic things of life. Every time you clean a car or build a house or change a diaper or harvest a deer or tend a garden, repair an air conditioner, serve at a restaurant, complete homework, please that band aid on. Every time you teach a class or walk a dog or lead a team, it's an opportunity to do exactly what this is telling us to do. To take dominion, to rule, to reign, to subdue, to put the glory of God on display for the good of creation in your life. And that's why this text ends by showing us the culmination of this sixth day. You'll look back at verse 31 and see the way that it speaks about it.

³¹And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

Every other day of creation, days 1 through 5, it says over and over again, and God saw that it was good. It was good. It was good. It was good. It was good. Now day 6, it was very good. The highpoint of God's creation leads to the high point of God's glory and His enjoyment of that creation. He says, it is very good. And when we look around the world around us, we see a total disconnect between what God is saying then and what we experience now. Because at the end of day 6, what we find is that it was a world where there was no pain, no suffering, no anxiety, no hardship, no brokenness. And yet we look at the world around us and we see those realities everywhere, don't we? Why? It's because the creation didn't stay very good for very long. What we'll find as we journey through the book in Genesis 3, when Adam and Eve turn away from God and they fall into sin, that fall leads to a curse of creation. That curse leads to a corruption of the world around us and even of our own hearts. And we see a great reversal taking place where rather than man take dominion over the creation, the creation now takes dominion over us. The servant rules and reigns so that each one of us outside of Christ no longer fully reflect the image of God. In fact, we reflect our father the devil, as Jesus tells us, outside of Christ. But Jesus changes everything. Think about the way that Jesus changes everything. When He comes to this earth, when He takes on flesh, when He lives that perfect life and dies the death that you and I deserve. And as He goes to the cross, He is raised from the grave. He ascends into heaven and by that reality, it changes everything. He restores the image of God in each one of us. He recovers the mission of God in each one of us and He calls us to live out that reality in the way that we remember the provision of God, we reflect the image of God, and we rule with the authority of God.

Let's close in prayer this morning.

Father, as we turn our hearts to You, hearts that are prone to wander, hearts that are prone to look out for our own interests, hearts that are prone to seek our own desires rather than what You desire for us, Lord. We come to this text in surrender. We lay our lives at Your feet longing to live this reality out. Longing to live in Your design. Longing to reflect Your image. Longing to embody Your rule. And I pray that we'd be the kind of church that would do exactly that. That

You would set us free from the things of this world and You would strengthen us to live out the way You have designed us to live as we lead in Your creation kingdom. We pray all these things in Jesus name. Amen.