

CHAPEL, APRIL 1, 1932

Scripture reading: Verses 20-31, First Chapter Genesis

I read in your hearing this morning the story as recorded in the first chapter of Genesis. The second chapter is taken from a ~~slightly~~ different manuscript. This is the story of the creation through the sixth day, and running through this "God saw it was good". But after God had created man and given him dominion over <sup>the</sup> earth God looked over His whole creation and found it very good. The only time "very" good is used. God gave to human beings a command in this first chapter of Genesis that I sometimes think has been misinterpreted. When He created the other part of the physical life He told them to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth ~~and~~ subdue it. I wonder what that means. God gave man authority over everything He had created. Then He says he gave these things to man for man to use. Every plant of all kinds, all the animal kingdom except man, to be used by man for man's sustenance, for man's good. Then He told man to be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it. The first part of this has been done. Human beings have multiplied and replenished the earth. Now, that other part of the command "Subdue it." To me, all that science has revealed, all that man has sought out and discovered, all those laws that man has discovered, are carrying out that last part of the command to subdue the earth. The wonderful discoveries in medicine that have produced results that are marvelous are carrying out this command. All the inventions that have given us electricity, internal combustion engine, radio--I might enumerate a long list--are subduing the earth, carrying out God's command. There was a time when a person studying chemistry was banned by the Church because chemistry was called black art. All discoveries in chemistry are carrying out this command to subdue the earth. If we find God's laws and if we live right we are carrying out that command. By searching we find out a multitude of new things, make discovery after discovery. There is no conflict between religion and these



discoveries, if we see them in the light that Jehovah intended we should see them. The right concept makes one rejoice that he has a Heavenly Father such as we have.

There are a great many things we are doing that we shouldn't do, but all that knowledge has given to the world is only the fulfilment of this great command given by Jehovah to human beings when they were first created. If we could just realize that it would take out of our lives many a heartburn caused by the fear that we are doing something Jehovah wouldn't have us do. Delving into the laws of God, trying to find the truth, is only an endeavor on the part of human beings to subdue the earth. And that is one of the commands given to human beings.