

Is There A Mistake In Genesis 1:28?

“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth...”
Genesis 1:28

Did the **translators** make an error in our beloved **King James Bible** when they translated the Hebrew word *male'* **replenish** instead of **fill** in Genesis 1:28? To Adam and Eve God said, *“Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it...”*. The King James translators are criticized by many for their choice of words. Both *fill* and *replenish* are meanings carried by the Hebrew *male'*. The translators translated *male'* fill (or it's various forms) 230 times, and replenish seven times.

Some critics say that using **replenish** is incorrect because it doesn't make sense. Why would God tell Adam and Eve to refill the earth when it had never yet been filled?

Other critics say that replenish is erroneous because it has been used to teach the **“Gap Theory”**. The Gap Theory teaches that there was a gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 in which there was a pre-adamic race which was destroyed by a cataclysmic judgement. The Gap Theory was conceived in the early 1900's by some Bible teachers trying to reconcile Darwinism (science, falsely called) with the Bible and allow for ages in the millions of years. The Gap Theory is theologically impossible because you would have death and destruction before you would have the entrance of sin (Genesis 3: 1-7).

But why did the translators choose the word **replenish**? The reason is because of **death**. God knew that man would sin and that death would be the result (Genesis 2:17). The earth would be emptied as men died and would need to be **continually refilled** or replenished. Kind of like the waitress who needs to keep refilling my coffee cup as I empty it. After the flood, God repeated this command to Noah and family, *“Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth”* (Genesis 9:1).

God has **never revoked** this command to replenish the earth — because people are continually dying. Think of this: if everyone ceased to have children, the earth would be totally empty within 100 years! By the way, God also tells us what kind of people He wants the earth filled with: **a godly seed**. Malachi 3:15 tells us that God ordained that man and woman would become one flesh in marriage that *“He might seek a godly seed”*. Do you see now how the King James Bible has been right all along?

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