

Recap: Food in creation: a Biblical view of people in the world.

God's desire: land full of living things. Be fruitful and multiply.

God's chosen agent: humankind.

God's chosen means: people work the ground, to produce food, to feed themselves and the animals, so people and animals multiply and fill the land.

God plants a garden to kick things off.

⇒ **Land-ecology:** plants (food); living things (eat plants, 1:29–30); people produce the plants as food for the living things: 2:5. (Compare the water and sky which is self-filling: 1:20–21.)

⇒ Purpose of separation in the Bible:

Era:	<i>Genesis</i>	<i>Mosaic Covenant</i>	<i>New Covenant</i>
Source of blessing:	Garden sanctuary	Tabernacle sanctuary	Jesus
Agents of blessing:	Adam/people	Israel	Church
Recipients of blessing:	Living Things	Nations	World

Recap: Fall involves...

Hard for people to be fruitful (pain in childbirth)

People are violent (kill each other instead of giving birth; murder heinous; “make love not war”)

Animals and people violent towards each other. Reduces numbers rather than increases.

Hard for people to produce food: ground cursed and grows thistles.

People expelled from garden: no tree of life, no eternal life.

Recap: Does this shed light on Romans 8:18–23? Amplify the text.

Food in Genesis (II)

Meals in the plot of Genesis.

If that's how Genesis begins, you could expect eating to be an appropriate way of marking:

- The end of a period of work (it's the climax of work; it keeps going for more work).
- The end of a difficult time (because work is now toil).
- The end of a period of hostility (because harmonious feeding is what peace looked like).

And you could expect that refusing to eat, and especially to eat together means:

- "I refuse to consider this business closed," because
 - Eating is generally a fitting conclusion to something
 - One of the three above, in particular, hasn't happened.

Moses bears that out in the way he tells the story, e.g.:

Abraham won't eat 14:24

Rebekah c24:32-33, 54

Esau's birthright: 25:28-34

Stuck in a state of "not married to Rachel": 29:22-23.

Jacob & Esau: no meal.

Joseph in the pit: 37:25

Cupbearer/baker: 40:20

End of Genesis: no meal. (You could have guessed: told that Egyptians detest farmers, so not likely to be on side with God's plan for his people.)

Meals with God:

Noah's sacrifice.

Isaac & Abimelech 26:12, 25, 30.

Jacob & Laban 31:54-55.

To discuss:

The rest of the civilised world thinks that the English hate food; your meals are perfunctory; you take no pride in your cooking; you view eating as a nuisance; you wouldn't know a feast if it bit you on the nose. How should a foreigner notice that the church is not conforming to the pattern of the world around us in this area? Think of at least five ways.

Why the Lord's *Supper*? (Why not Lord's Art Gallery, Lord's Assembly, Lord's Memorial, Lord's Conflab, Lord's Lecture, Lord's Sacrifice, Lord's Fashion Parade or even Lord's Snack?)

To think about:

How does *your* work relate to God's creation project?